

La Trobe's Collaborative Approach to Digital Research: its business as usual

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ABSTRACT

Digital Research at La Trobe is about enabling and accelerating research programs through the use of computing and information technologies. Digital technologies, of varying degrees of complexity, are integral to the conduct of research across all disciplines. However, particularly for a smaller university, it's not easy to support the full spectrum of research needs when there are competing budgetary priorities.

La Trobe has taken a collaborative approach to Digital Research with the Office of the DVC(R), the Library and ICT divisions working together to support the research community. La Trobe's Digital Research Strategy has been implemented to meet the needs of researchers and its objective is to provide researchers with the tools and support they require to maximise their research performance. The goals of the strategy entail engagement and building trust within the research community, building researcher expertise to enable independence, proactive support for researchers and, proper management and curation of research data.

The outcomes from the strategy include a multi-divisional Digital Research Team and research support teams in each of the divisions, an integrated website and services catalogue with referral mechanisms with the aim to ensure that all services are seamlessly connected between the different organisational divisions, a successful Digital Research Training program and a data management policy and procedure with enterprise data management system and tools to support the policy. A partnership model has also been implemented to deliver a range of services and support e.g. research collaborations to deliver a Data Analytics service, and membership of Intersect Australia Ltd to support HPC, training and storage solutions.

This presentation will highlight some of the outcomes of the implementation of the strategy and discuss challenges and future plans to make Digital Research support more tangible, proactive and increase researcher engagement.