Roles for eResearch

Birds of a Feather Session

Nicholas May
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
nicholas.may@rmit.edu.au
@eResEngineer
Overview

Introduction:
- Problem & Goals

Approach:
- Categories
- Discovery
- Organization
- Consolidation
Introduction: eResearch

- eResearch is the application of advanced computing and information & communication technologies across the research lifecycle.

- eResearch Services reduce the burden of technology adoption for researchers by exploring, developing, disseminating, and supporting appropriate solutions.
Introduction: !eResearch

- eResearch is not:
  - The execution, management and governance of research.
  - The traditional librarian services.
  - The enterprise ICT Roles, (as defined by the ACS*).
Introduction: The eResearch Industry

- Position descriptions of roles are not consistent.
- Causes issues with recruitment and career development.
- Need to:
  a) Determine scope of eResearch roles.
  b) Identify common eResearch roles.
  c) Describe associated skills.
Introduction: Role Titles

- A variety of role titles have been collected from:
  - FAVeR – https://faver.edu.au/

Unique role titles collected:

- 180

- Including: eResearch, Research, IT, Library, Compound Titles.
Goals

Collaborate to perform a **Role Modelling** session.

- Discovery: classify by category.
- Organize: arrange within category.
- Consolidate: label groups and relations.

Resulting set of common roles and their relations that can be used for the identification of skills.
Role Categories - Services

These are the services that eResearch personnel provide to researchers, thus enhancing the research value chain.
Role Categories - Services

Advise: researchers about appropriate technology solutions.

Develop: bespoke research technology solutions.

Deploy: and enhance research technologies.

Support: reference deployments of research technologies.

Train: researchers in the use of research technologies.

Promote: and share research technology and activities.
Role Categories - Questions

Discovery
• Does this role provide a service to researchers?
• Is that service with the bounds of eResearch?
• What is the principle service for this role?

Organization
• Are these roles related by skills?
• Are these roles related by experience?
• How closely are these role related?

Consolidation
• Can we replace a group of roles with a single role title?
• Do we need to split a role into two, or more, role titles?
• Can we put a label on a relation?
**Discovery**

15 mins

For each card:
- Ask the questions to decide which *service* is the primary category for the role.
- Discarded cards can be placed in the 'Not eResearch' pile.
- Place the card on the appropriate service.
- Once placed, cards cannot be removed.

---

**Organization**

15 mins

For each Service:
- Aggregate cards into groups by *common skills*.
- Position groups of cards by their experience.
- Draw lines between groups of cards to indicate *relations*.

---

**Consolidation**

15 mins

For each group of cards:
- Replace cards that cover the same role with a new card that has a *common title*, and note the numbers of the cards it replaces.
- Replace cards that cover multiple roles with *new titles*, and include the number of the card they replace.
- Label relations with an appropriate title.
Any Questions?

- **eResearch** is the application of advanced computing and information & communication technologies across the research lifecycle.

- **eResearch Services** reduce the burden of technology adoption for researchers by exploring, developing, disseminating, and supporting appropriate solutions.