

BoF | The next ten years

Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure 2023-32

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Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure 2023-32

Why

Opportunity
Technological
Coordination

Scope

Assets
Systems
Rules
Skills

Who

Academy
Partners
Sector

How

23 submissions
89 Experts
Steering Group
Project team

Content

Vision
Steps
Asks
Case

Audience

Commonwealth
Institutions
Res. Community



The next ten years

Hybrid vehicles,
transformations, and
asking for the right stuff

Loud and clear

WHY

Social sciences matter

Right infrastructure = **Transformative potential**

WHAT

Vision: Accessible, interoperable, FAIR...

Achieved through: collection, curation, preservation, analysis, software, standards...



The wall

Benefits exceed the project
Must work after the project

Funding. Time. Careers

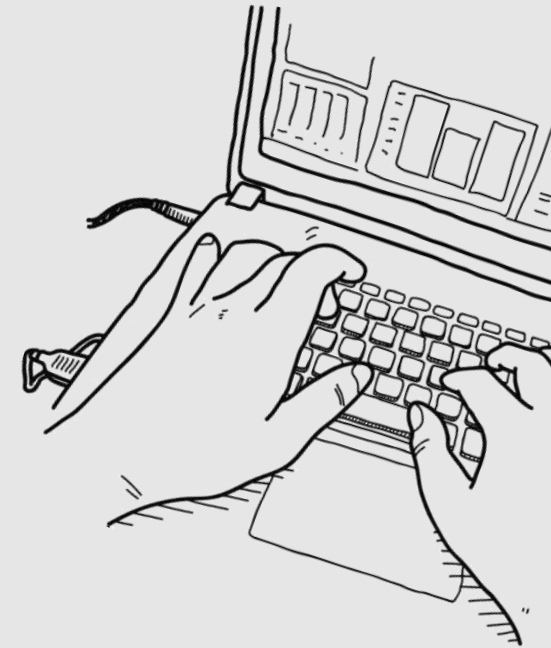


If I could just **link**
these data with...

We're going to **need a**
vocabulary for this...



This would make a
great **dashboard!**



This code fills a huge
software gap in...

The wall

Traditional project	eResearch
Question	Many/Reuse
Publication	Not required
Data/Analysis mid-cycle	Before/during/after/outside

Wants don't fit the traditional research project model

Decadal plan: Some obvious gaps in facilities (e.g., compute)
Day-to-day, ceiling/wall is project-centric ecosystem

Getting clear on the ask

Ask defines strategy

Incremental

Modernise the traditional
research project

| OR
|

Transformational

Something else entirely

Getting clear on the ask

Assets

Standards

New NCRIS

Catalogue/directory

Training

...

Getting clear on the ask

Assets – *From projects, for projects*

Standards – *Applied in projects*

New NCRIS – *Speed/amplify projects*

Catalogue/directory – *Find assets for projects*

Training – *Skills for projects*

...

Under this logic, the Decadal Plan:

Infrastructure as a means to modernise the traditional project

Getting clear on the ask

Assets

Standards

NCRIS

Catalogue/directory

Training



Low real demand for new
Low use of existing

Can get grants and citations without it
Makes projects hard work/slow

Incremental > Building the hybrid

Modernising the traditional project = Putting an electric engine into a traditional vehicle (building the hybrid)

(1) Hybrid doesn't bring out the best of electric (speed, range, smart) -
Working in confines of traditional projects **always a compromise**

(2) Incremental change **doesn't end in transformation**

Aiming for transformation

Aside the hybrid, go all-electric

Projects aside... for now

Aim for performance (speed, range, smart features)

Fanciest assets and tools

Tackle national priorities, Direct impact (no paper)


Build the charging network

Decadal plan = Infrastructure for next-gen eResearch outputs

How about...?

Charging network for electric

ARC Grants for [data, software, training...] to tackle national/res priorities

ARC CoEs (challenge-focus)  unabashedly digital

We've done it before...

La Trobe eResearchers (1980s) modernised content analysis - NVIVO

eResearchers + Dept Home Affairs changed gov collection of demographics

eResearchers in ABS have been investing in linked assets - MADIP/PLIDA

AURIN, PHRN

... Just not in Universities!

Isn't this what NCRIS are for?

Moving the dial in a few organisations, disciplines, people... no transformation

Close

The wall we're hitting is the project-centric model

Modernising the project doesn't lead to the imagined transformation, in the same way many hybrids don't lead to fleet of full-electric

Traditional view for role of NCRIS has worked well, but long-term no transformation

Projects will be... In the meantime, let's build us a Tesla.

Questions

What would be the impacts of having grants for large eResearch projects in Universities?

If we could do these things in Universities, what would be the best role for NCRIS?

Coda | A bigger call

Data and analysis – for questions/projects

Data and analysis - everybody's business

AI – Better at answering questions and writing?

Bigger call for research to support people out there:

- right data
- right questions
- right analysis methods/tools

Publications ok, but bigger role for the research organisation