

# Exploring the Uptake of Digital Research Infrastructure

eResearch  
Australasia

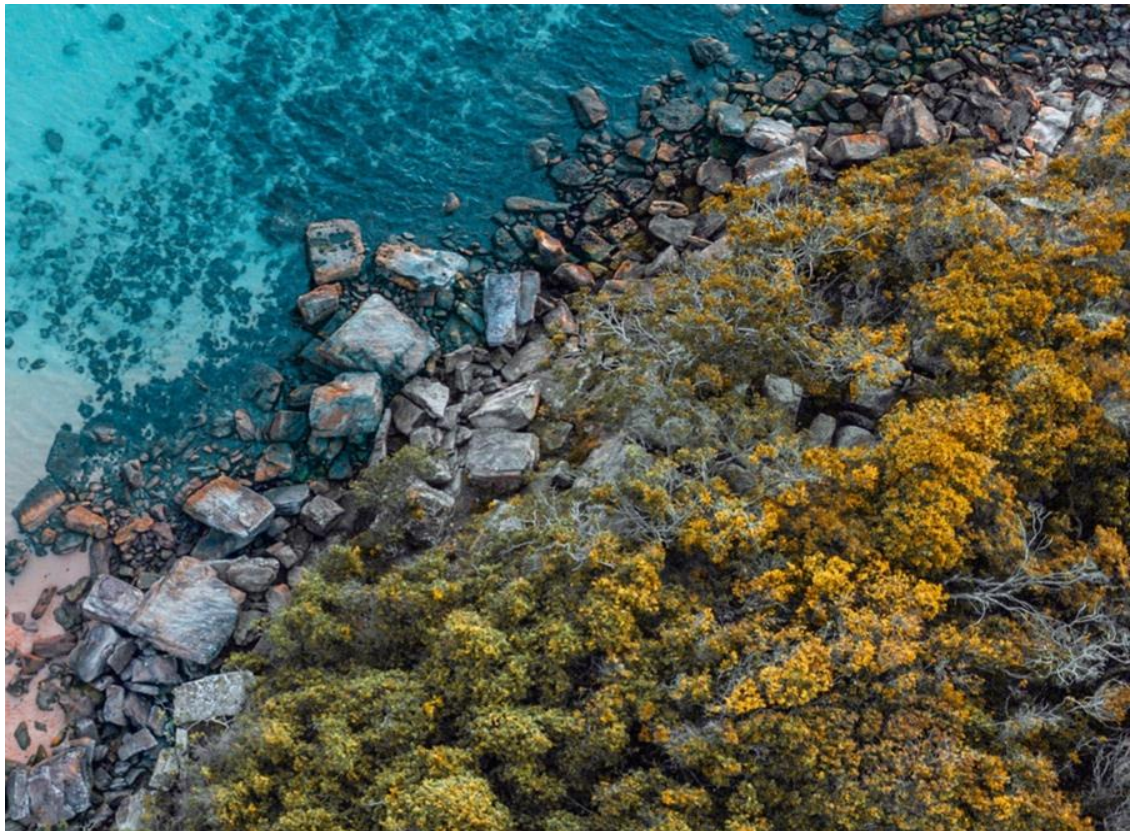
31 Oct 24

## PRESENTED BY

Stefanie Kethers  
Liv Shanahan  
Kylie Black  
Mingfang Wu

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and we pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.



# Agenda

- Welcome and Group background
- Setting the scene:
  - Elina Griniece, Principal Researcher, EFIS Centre
  - Kylie Morrow, Digital Content Creator, Atlas of Living Australia
  - Natalia Bateman, summary from Tuesday BoF, 'Revealing the invisible: the challenge of measuring and communicating the impact of research infrastructures'
- Discussion and information sharing
  - What indicators does your organisation use to measure and understand the uptake of DRI?
  - What have you learned?
- Wrap-up and next steps

# Background to this Group

BoF session Research Data Alliance (RDA) Plenary 21 and Interest Group session at RDA Plenary 22 - interest in establishing an RDA group. “[Uptake of Digital Research Infrastructure IG](#)”, on this topic.

Research infrastructure uptake, in particular how to define, capture, measure and evaluate the uptake, is of interest to many stakeholders (including researchers, funders, policy advocates) across the digital research system.

Key questions we are interested in include:

- How should we define “uptake” and “Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI)”?
- How can uptake be evaluated / assessed in a meaningful way?
- What are the different stakeholders’ needs when it comes to documenting / reporting on uptake?
- How can we balance these needs?

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>

# ARDC perspective & what's happening elsewhere

- ARDC impact framework including frameworks for RDCs and monitoring outcomes
- Understanding 'uptake' of DRI (awareness, adoption, knowledge, skills -> policy, research translation, impact)
- Developing KPIs around usage, users and 'uptake'

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>



Elina Griniece

Principal Researcher  
European Future Innovation System Centre,  
Belgium

Exploring policy impacts of Research  
Infrastructures

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>

# RDA\_Recording

2024-10-29 17:08 UTC

Recorded by

Elina Griniece

Organized by

Elina Griniece



Kylie Morrow

Digital Content Creator  
Atlas of Living Australia

Measuring uptake and impact of the  
Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>

# Measuring uptake & impact of the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)

**Kylie Morrow** (she/her)  
Digital Content Coordinator



Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)  
Photo Credit Leo NatureMapr CC BY NC



Thorny Devil (*Moloch horridus*)  
Photo Credit John Sullivan CC BY NC



Clownfish (*Amphiprion biaculeatus*)  
Photo Credit Maryanne Wirkkane CC BY NC



The Atlas of Living Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay respect to the past and present Elders of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We honour and celebrate the spiritual, cultural and customary connections to Country and the biodiversity that forms part of that Country.

# ALA overview

## Australia's national biodiversity data infrastructure

Our mission is to:

- Support research, conservation and decision-making on Australia's biodiversity

We do this by **aggregating data** and **providing it openly**



# Tracking uptake & impact

We measure **use, uptake, impact** and **user satisfaction** in a variety of ways – quantitatively and qualitatively.

ALA systems and tools:

**Website analytics**  
e.g. views, bounce rate

**User affiliation**  
(self-report)

**No. of registered users**  
(147,000+)

**Data downloads & 'reason'**  
(self-report)

Research impact tracking:

**ALA Literature Tracker**

Directly from users:

**Direct feedback**  
e.g. trainings, stakeholders

**User support tickets & User (UX) testing**

**Annual User Satisfaction Survey**



Velvet Worm (*Diemenipatus taiti*)  
Photo Credit Gonzalo Giribet CC BY NC

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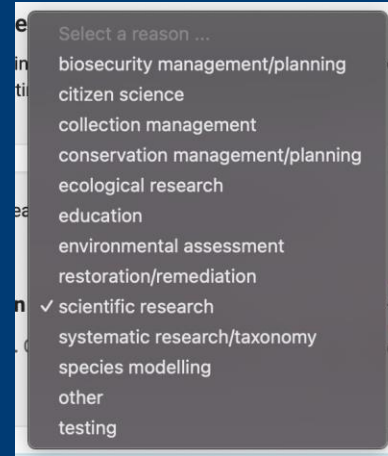
**Annual User Satisfaction Survey**



Velvet Worm (*Diemenipatus taiti*)  
Photo Credit Gonzalo Giribet CC BY NC

# 1. Download metrics

## Download reasons (self-report)



Select a reason ...

- biosecurity management/planning
- citizen science
- collection management
- conservation management/planning
- ecological research
- education
- environmental assessment
- restoration/remediation
- ✓ scientific research
- systematic research/taxonomy
- species modelling
- other
- testing

### Step 2

Select your download reason and then click the "Next" button.



**\*Industry/application**

scientific research



This field is mandatory. Choose the best "use type" from the drop-down menu above.

NEXT >

# 1. Downlo

## Download reasons

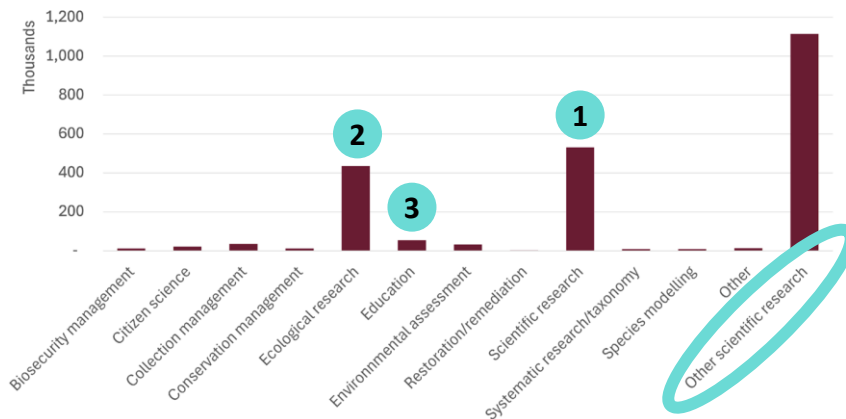
Top reasons:

1. Scientific research  
(including 'other')

2. Ecological research

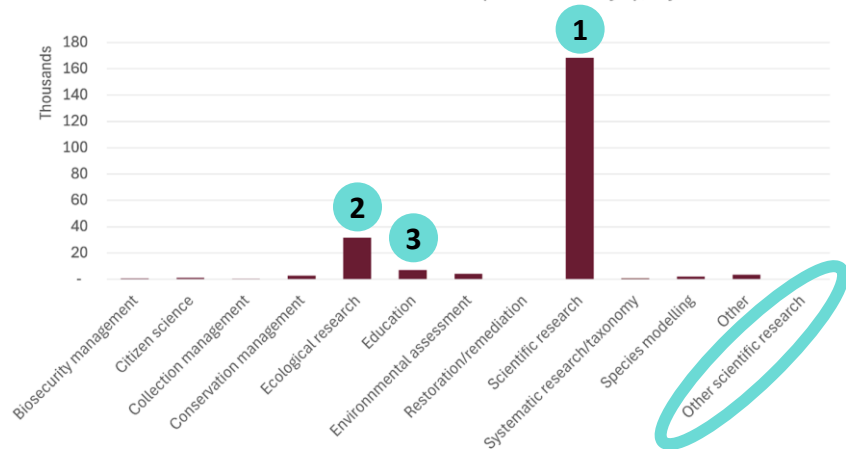
3. Education

Download events from the ALA, by reason



Since 2012

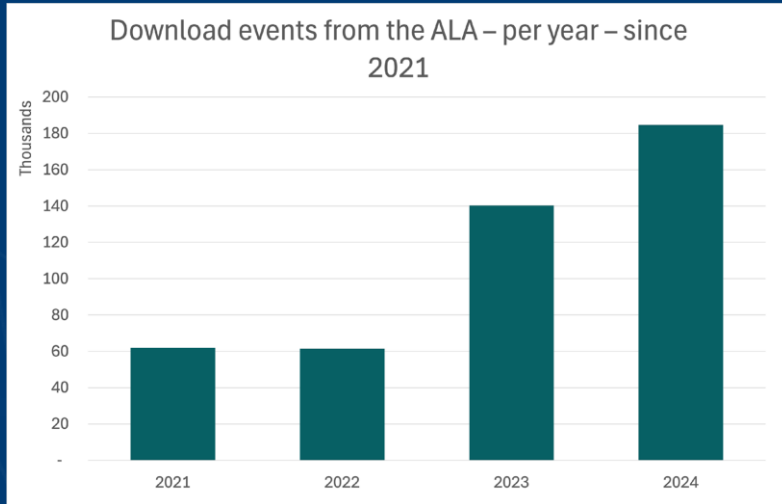
Download events from the ALA (last 365 days), by reason



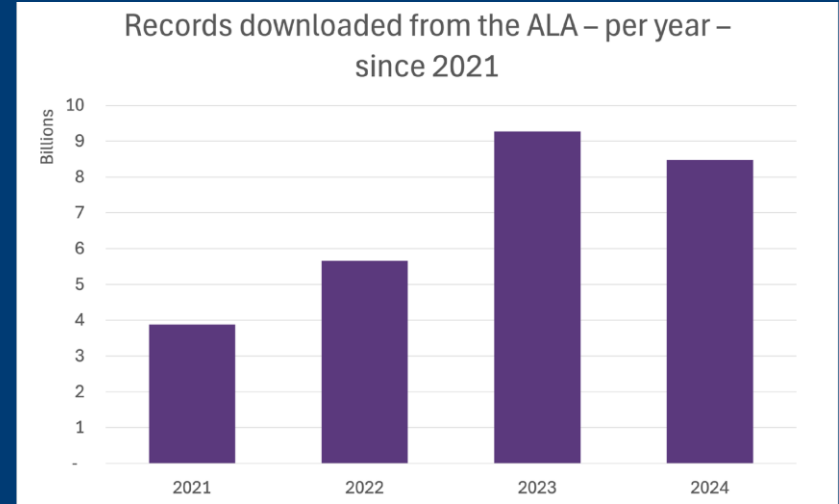
Last 365 days  
(Oct 25 2023 –  
Oct 24 2024)

# 1. Download metrics

## Download events and occurrence records



**Download events**  
increasing each year



**Occurrence records downloaded**  
increasing each year (2024 on track)

# 2. Literature Tracker

## For citations and mentions of the ALA

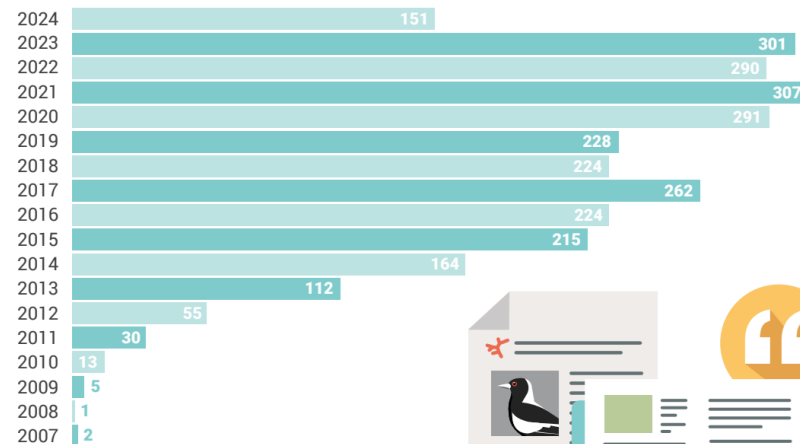
- Powered by **automated word searches** for key terms (e.g. ALA, Atlas of Living Australia, our data DOI 10.26) from Google Scholar, ProQuest, etc.
- Results emailed to ALA Science team, categorised and tagged



The screenshot shows the 'Citations' page on the ALA Labs website. The page title is 'Citations' with the subtitle 'Papers that mention or cite the ALA'. There is a search bar at the top right. Below the search bar is a table with columns for Authors, Year, Title, and Journal. The table contains four rows of citation data.

Authors	Year	Title	Journal
M Mackenzie, N Davey, J Burghardt, M. Haines	2024	A report of sea cucumbers collected on the first dedicated deep-sea biological survey of Australia's Indian Ocean Territories around Christmas and Cooco (Keeling) Islands. (Schwedermaia, Holothuridae)	Memoria of Museum Victoria
S Jarman et al.	2024	Research horizons for invasive marine species detection with eDNA/mRNA	Biological Invasions
C Bragard et al.	2024	Pest categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae on non-contiguous hosts	EFSA Journal

Annual number of journal articles citing the ALA\*



\* This data uses a calendar year reporting period. Note data for 2024 is from January 2024 to June 2024, while other years are complete calendar years (Jan – Dec).



# Challenges & insights

Downloads, Literature and User Satisfaction –

Bringing together different types of data for a holistic view of ALA impact and uptake

*There are both wins and challenges!*

- Consistency / replication / standardisation
- Availability – wider team vs. API vs. DB/limited auth
- Qualitative data – categorising, over time
- Management/storage, discoverability, sharing



Yellow-footed Antechinus  
(*Antechinus flavipes*)  
Photo Credit Martin  
Stokes  
CC BY NC



Dainty Green Tree Frog (*Ranoidea gracilentata*)  
Photo Credit Nick Lambert CC BY NC



**Atlas of Living Australia**  
ala.org.au

## **Kylie Morrow (she/her)**

Digital Content Coordinator  
ALA Systems Team  
[kylie.morrow@csiro.au](mailto:kylie.morrow@csiro.au)

## **Acknowledgements & thanks:**

Sathish Sathya Moorthy  
Nick dos Remedios  
Olivia Torresan  
Adam Collins

## **ALA API Docs Portal:**



## **ALA Dashboard:**



## **ALA Literature Tracker:**





# Natalia Bateman

Outreach and Engagement Manager  
ACCESS-NRI: Australia's Climate Simulator

Summary from Tuesday BoF  
'Revealing the invisible: the challenge of  
measuring and communicating the impact of  
research infrastructures'

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>

# Revealing the invisible

The challenge of measuring and communicating  
the impact of research infrastructures

Birds of a Feather - eResearch Australasia 2024



Australian  
**BioCommons**



# Discussion sessions on Impact:

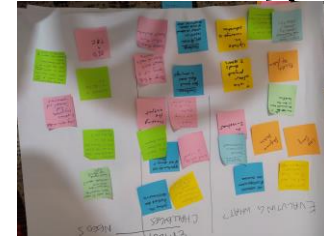
## Measuring



## Communicating



## Evaluating



What are you measuring/  
communicating, evaluating?

Computing facility, Data Storage

Findability, publications enabled by  
our infrastructure, efficiencies and  
productivity, users, Downstream use

Federal & state based use, media  
mentions, website,

What were the challenges?

Knowing who accessed our data,  
system integration, skills in  
storytelling, finding time and  
resources,

What do I wish for in the  
future?

Remove the duplication of reporting,  
make it easy to for researchers to  
report / acknowledge.

Story telling, needs more funding to  
make it more productive for  
researchers to engage.

Persistent identifier



# Question 1: What indicators do you use?

Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) | use code **3364 5111**

## Instructions

Go to  
**[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)**

Enter the code

**3364 5111**



Or use QR code

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>

## Question 2: What have you learned?

Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) | use code **3364 5111**

### Instructions

Go to  
**[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)**

Enter the code

**3364 5111**



Or use QR code

Session notes: <https://t.ly/Tx660>

## Wrap-up and next steps

- Join the RDA Interest Group here: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/uptake-digital-research-infrastructure-ig/>
  - You need to be logged in to the [rd-alliance.org](https://www.rd-alliance.org/) website to join the IG
  - This group is in the process of being endorsed by the RDA.
- Email Stefanie ([Stefanie.Kethers@ardc.edu.au](mailto:Stefanie.Kethers@ardc.edu.au)), Liv ([Liv.Shanahan@ardc.edu.au](mailto:Liv.Shanahan@ardc.edu.au)) or Kylie ([Kylie.Black@ardc.edu.au](mailto:Kylie.Black@ardc.edu.au)) if you are interested in becoming a co-chair of this group
- Local (Australian) follow-up to pursue this topic?



Thank you very much for contributing to this session!

Contact us at:

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# INTERNATIONAL DATA WEEK

**13-16 October 2025**  
**Brisbane, Australia**



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