National Research Infrastructure – Funder, Service Provider, or Partner?

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Alignment to support “a more integrated, coherent and reliable system to deal with the various needs of data-intensive, cross-disciplinary and global collaborative research.”

Who do we engage with?

- 38 Universities and CSIRO and publicly funded research organisations (PFROs); State and National
- Research data producing and aggregating facilities, including other NCRIS Facilities
- Storage node operators
- Medical Research Institutes (MRI’s)
- Cooperative Research Centres (CRC’s)
- Funders (ARC & NHMRC), Publishers, etc.
Who & how have we engaged?

Credit: Vicki Young
Funded Projects

What did the ‘Partners’ think?

- Very satisfied in 2015 - 93% with the support we provided, 87% with our services, and 80% with the lightweight approach we took with project administration.

- However, comments reported issues with time constraints/delays, metadata, ‘Open’, technical, communication & collaboration, project management and governance, and external challenges.
What did we change?

- Introduced ANDS staff into the project early on to help build trust and rapport
- ANDS outreach lead embedded into the project team
- Regular contact between ANDS and project lead or team
- Reduced compliance and paperwork – lightweight contract and reporting
- ANDS involved in the Governance framework and Steering Committee
- Actively involved the Library into the project
- Involved the key areas responsible for research data at the institution into the discussions and project
- Kept – Strategic discussion with the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research
What did the ‘Partners’ think?

- 2017 - Process and timeframes 74% positive; worked well, beneficial, helpful, good balance, really good, agile, process was great, straight forward, seamless, clear, smooth process, and flexible.

- ANDS input and expertise accessed by 82% and a positive experience; good, very good, helpful, great, and useful.

- General comments were positive indicating ANDS being perceived as a trusted and valued project partner.
Some of the feedback...

- Give and take from ANDS - reporting flexibility much appreciated
- Project ran really well, only good surprises, new opportunities
- New and different experience, much more hands on from Funder - strong buy-in from ANDS - realized that ANDS weren’t just trying to check up
- Talking about data workflow was not something we had thought about as necessary, but was really useful
ANDS/RDS/Nectar Partnership Strategy

- Agreement on shared goals
- Shared decision making
- Shared responsibility
- Shared risks & rewards
- Mutual confidence & cooperation
Digital Data and eResearch Platforms

All areas of research are increasingly dependent on data and eResearch infrastructure. Through national, state and institutional investments over the past decade, Australia has built an internationally competitive eResearch system. Consolidating the gains of the past decade through the creation of an Australian Research Data Cloud will deliver a more integrated, coherent and reliable system to meet the needs of data-intensive, cross-disciplinary and global collaborative research.

https://docs.education.gov.au/node/43736
Funder, Service Provider, or Partner?

- A bit of all three
- Depends who you ask
- Depends on the need
- Relationships oscillate
- Trust & continuity important

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