Research progress and challenges in Australian university libraries

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OCLC Research Library Partnership Meeting #orlp
overview
- the big picture
- library progress
- library challenges
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
AUSTRALIA’S CHANGING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
AUSTRALIA’S CHANGING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Review of Research Funding and Policy (Watt Review)
- Innovation Statement
- Research Assessment Changes
- Excellence in Research for Australia (2015)
Australia is the 7th most represented country in the 2015 THE rankings – 22 institution's in top 400

3.9% of the world’s research output (0.3% of the world’s population).

International education 3rd largest export

Source: Universities Australia, Higher Education Facts and Figures, November 2015
In 1995, Australia’s investment in tertiary education was above the OECD average and the 8th highest overall. By 2011 it was below the OECD average and 12th highest overall.

Source: Universities Australia, Higher Education Facts and Figures, November 2015

...Australia also ranks poorly in new-to-the-world innovation ranking second last of 17 OECD countries on new-to-the-world innovation.

Source: Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements for Higher Education Issues Paper, August 2015
The current Australian university model — a broad-based teaching and research institution, with a large base of assets and back office — will prove unviable in all but a few cases...

Ernst and Young (2012) University of the Future: A thousand year old industry on the cusp of change
RESEARCH ASSESSMENT
RANKINGS AND REPUTATION
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<th><strong>UNIVERSITY RANKING SYSTEMS</strong></th>
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HOW WILL THE FOCUS ON INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AFFECT REPUTATION OF AUSTRALIA’S UNIVERSITIES?
The overarching aim of the ARC's Policy is to ensure that the findings of publicly funded research are made available to the wider public as soon as possible. Both the research community and the public gain from knowledge derived from ARC funded research, and both wish to derive maximum benefit from these outputs.

--Australian Research Council Media Release on Open Access
26 March 2013
HAVE OPEN ACCESS MANDATES INCREASED VISIBILITY OF AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH?
PROGRESS IN THE LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT
Institutional Repositories
Providing open access to Australian university publication outputs and assist researchers comply with federal funder open access mandates.

Publishing
An extension of institutional repositories, Australian university libraries have made a significant contribution to scholarly publishing via e-presses with over 3.4 million downloads this year*.

Research Data
Australian universities have populated the Australian Research Data Commons with 100,000 data collections#.

Impact Measurement
Libraries offer a variety of services to assist researchers assess and describe their research impact.

Research Assessment
Some Libraries manage the collection of publications for HERDC and ERA.

Research Training
Australian Libraries play a major role in training of Australia’s researchers in a variety of areas.

*Source: CAUL Library Publishing Advisory Committee  
#Source: Australian National Data Service
THE IMPACT OF AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

647,258
Full-text items

52%
Open Access

32,486,922
Items Accessed

*Source: 2014 CAUL Statistical Overview
‘How dependent would you say you are on your university library for research you conduct?’

Response scale:
10 point scale, 10 = ‘Extremely dependent’ and 1 = ‘Not at all dependent’;
Percent of respondents rating each item as ‘extremely dependent’ (8-10 on a 10-point scale)
How important is it to you that your university library provides each of the functions below or serves in the capacity listed below?

- The library serves as a starting point or ‘gateway’ for locating information for my research (‘gateway’ role)
- The library pays for resources I need, from academic journals to books to electronic databases (‘buyer’ role)
- The library serves as a repository of resources - in other words, it archives, preserves, and keeps track of resources (‘archive’ role)
- The library supports and facilitates my teaching activities (‘teaching’ role)
- The library provides active support that helps to increase the productivity of my research and scholarship (‘research’ role)
- The library helps undergraduates develop research, critical analysis, and information literacy skills (‘information literacy’ role)

Response scale: 6 point scale, 6 = ‘Extremely important’ and 1 = ‘Not at all important’; Percent of respondents rating each item as ‘extremely important’ (5-6 on a 6-point scale)

Note: Though Go8 participants were asked to rank the library’s information literacy role for undergraduates, post graduates and higher degree students, participants from the US And UK were only asked about undergraduates.
...Australian university libraries see themselves as genuine partners in research...this was not an attitude I had ever met in such explicitness in Europe. Australian librarians are more than just casual fellow-travellers of researchers; they see themselves as powerful allies, eager to contribute to the research excellence of their university...As a rather cynical and sober European, I found this healthy self-confidence of Australian librarians both refreshing and fascinating.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD
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<th>Changing Policy Environment</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Many Priorities</th>
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<td>The Federal Government Innovation Agenda, Funding Uncertainty and Future of Research Assessment.</td>
<td>Efficency drivers, internal reviews and steep decline of Australian currency means we need to do more with less.</td>
<td>Research, education, student experience, community engagement. The Library must demonstrate impact and value to all areas of strategic importance.</td>
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<th>Partnership</th>
<th>Skills Profile</th>
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<td>We need to keep developing our infrastructure services. Project funding only goes so far – we need sustainable initiatives.</td>
<td>For the most effective outcomes we need to work with Research Offices, IT, Information Management, Researchers</td>
<td>Do we have the right people with the right skills to continue our success into the future?</td>
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INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES & THEIR PLACE IN THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION LANDSCAPE

in a phase of
HEIGHTENED ACCELERATION

WHERE IS INNOVATION IN THE ECO SYSTEM?

Submitted
Preprint
BioRxiv
F1000 Research

AOASG

Accepted
Pre-print
Published

OA definitions
Cross linking
SOFTWARE

machine CC & human readable licenses

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Unique author ID
Sub-article ID

article versioning
tools for reproducibility

IF REPOSITORIES DON'T INNOVATE & ARE NOT RESPONSIVE
THEY WILL BECOME IRRELEVANT
WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH REPOSITORIES?
Special thanks to all the people who enabled re-use of their content:

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- Go8 Ithaka Survey results courtesy of Philip Kent and Ithaka
- Sketchnote from 2015 CAUL Research Repositories Community Days courtesy of Katie Mills

Reports and articles referred to:

- Universities Australia Keep it Clever Policy Statement
- Universities Australia Higher Education Facts and Figures November 2015
- Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements for Higher Education Issues Paper, August 2015
- Ernst and Young (2012) University of the Future: A thousand year old industry on the cusp of change
- Harvard Business Review For better presentations start with a villain
- Council of Australian University Librarians Statistical Overview