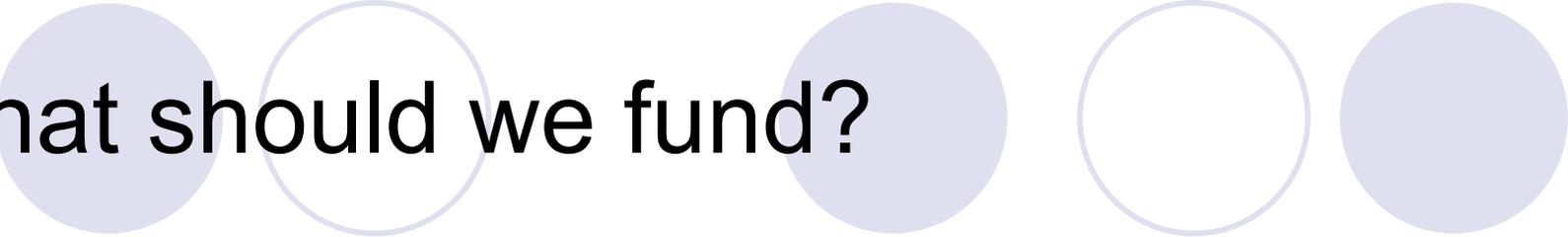


Research Information Infrastructure Policy Framework and Rationale

APSR Colloquium on Sustainable
Repositories

Why is the Australian Government interested?

- Some \$5b is expended annually by the Government on research and development
- Government has become increasingly convinced that high quality research results depend on the existence of an appropriate infrastructure
 - and that a high quality electronic infrastructure is an indispensable precondition for carrying out high end research



What should we fund?

- The issue at the moment is not whether or not to provide funds for infrastructure
- NCRIS will provide \$100m a year for five years from 2006
- The question is what is the importance of facilitating access to electronically held information
 - compared with bandwidth/compute capacity
 - and with large project infrastructure investment



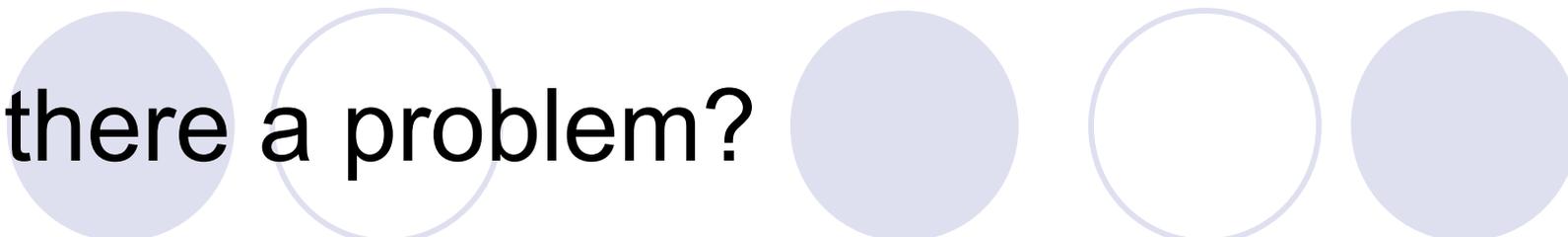
Data, data everywhere, but can we drink?

- Massive amounts of data exist in electronic form
- We face major opportunities and threats
- One threat is the very real fragility of electronic data
- The opportunity is the chance to really connect information
- Within a web services world we can do things which were previously just too hard
 - but it is still not easy

What's happening?

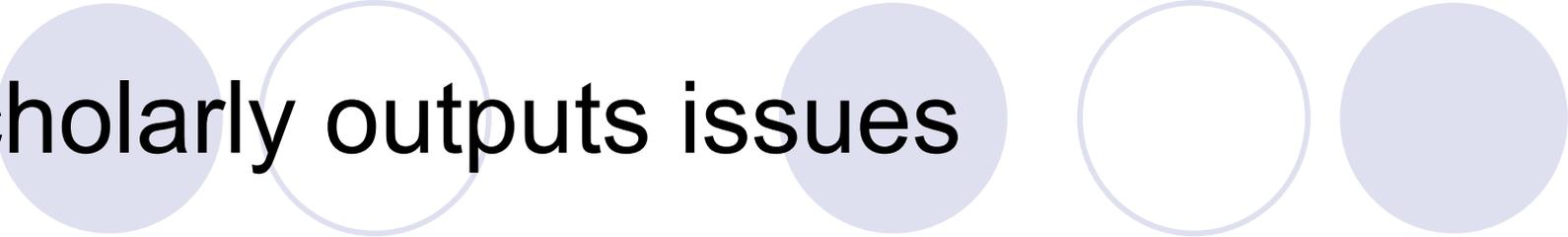


- Access to major data sets
- Handling data outputs from large research instruments
- Connecting up large numbers of disparate data holdings
 - oceans, geoscience, water, clinical
- Getting better access to highly processed data
 - articles and pre-publication outputs



Is there a problem?

- A large number of initiatives are in play
- They can be discipline/subject matter based or problem based
- Are the players talking to each other?
 - Are the librarians and grid people talking?
- Are we building multiple unique solutions to universal interoperability?
- Are there common problem spaces and potential common solutions?



Scholarly outputs issues

- The cost of access to electronic publications
- New methods of scholarly publication
- Scholarly impact occurring before formal publication
- Role of institutional/discipline repositories
- How to populate repositories



Administrative data issues

- DEST is already moving to collect a large amount of student/course data via web services
- By early next year we will have a good idea on the data needed for a Research Quality Exercise
- This will include a lot of metadata about research publications of a kind which could be captured in an institutional research repository
- It will also include data sitting inside an institutional MIS
- Are there synergies with scholarly publication issues?

Some references to DEST positions and work underway

- http://www.bakercyberlawcentre.org/unlocking-ip/s1_speakers.html#arthur
- <http://www.humanities.org.au/Events/NSCF/PreviousRTs/NSCFRT18/RT18Programme.htm>
- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/e_research_consult/e_research_coord_committee.htm
- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/ncris/default.htm
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- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/research_quality_framework/default.htm