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Collaborative Research Network: An Institutions Perspective

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Collaborative Research Network: an institutions perspective

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Content

1. What constitutes collaborative working?
2. Collaborative Research Network (CRN)
3. eResearch @ ECU
4. Conclusion
Collaboration

Collaboration is an essential part of research

Why is Collaboration essential?

• Change in funding patterns
• Financial costs
• Political pressures
• New technologies
Concerns/Obstacles to Collaboration

Major obstacles that have to be considered while establishing a collaboration

i. Financial costs
ii. Set-up - Time
iii. Travel
iv. Intellectual property ownership
v. Proximity of collaborators
vi. Distribution of workload
Different Levels of Collaboration

- Need to balance concerns with the potential long-term benefits
- Collaboration cannot start until there is a shared agenda of work / program of work
- Three levels
  
  i. **High level**: different institutions / funding split across partners / sustainability / trust / expansion
  
  ii. **Mid level**: lead agency maintains the majority of the funding / problems of competition
  
  iii. **Low level**: occasional collaborations / small projects / consultancy / little chance of sustainability
Possible models of Collaboration

- Collaborative Networks
- Research / Support Facility
- Cooperative Research Centre
- Centre of Excellence
- Communities of Practice
- Clusters
ECU is committed to growing research, by increasing strategic research budget

- Collaboration
- Research expertise
- HDR student scholarships
- Postdoctoral appointments
- Support for early career researchers

DIISRTE funding $5,615,052 plus cash/in-kind of $12,146,011: Total $17,761,061

Nine Partner Universities: UWA, UMel, Flinders, UoSA, QUT, Deakin, USyd, UQ, and UA

Website: http://www.ecu.edu.au/research/office-of-research-and-innovation/collaborative-research-network/overview
CRN sub-projects

1. Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People – Donna Cross (5 partners: UWA, UM, Flinders, UoSA & QUT)
3. Integrated Health Services to Enhance Community-Based Care – Cobie Rudd (3 partners: UWA, UM & UQ)
5. Protection of Coastal Ecosystems and Marine Resource Management – Paul Lavery (1 partner: UWA)
6. Advanced Technologies for Leading Teaching and Education Practice – Mark Hackling (2 partners: UM & Deakin)
CRN: KPIs

- Increase in Senior Research Staff
- Increase in Post Doctoral Research Staff
- Increase in Research development Staff
- Increase in Higher Degree Students
- Increase in Visiting Fellows
- Increase in Workshops and Training Schools
- Increase in Book Chapters
- Increase in Journal Article Submissions
- Increase in Joint Grant Applications
eResearch at ECU

- **AIM**: Build and develop eResearch capabilities at ECU

- iVEC @ ECU Facility established in Aug 2012

- eResearch Strategy (2013-2016)
  - Areas for engagement: link to ERA outcomes and strategic priorities
  - Infrastructure development
  - Funding opportunities (work with iVEC)
  - Collaboration with service centres and research teams
  - Assist with the development of grant applications
  - Develop the iVEC facility / Visualisation suite / software and hardware options for the research community
eResearch @ ECU stakeholders

ECU e-Research Team

- ECU IT Service Centre and Library
- National Programmes Eg RDSI, NeCTAR etc
- External Service providers Eg iVEC, ANDS etc
- National e-research communities and committees
- External researchers and facilities
- ECU Researchers and Faculties
eResearch/iVEC @ ECU

• Visualisation Facility (WAAPA, SCA, SEd, SCSS, SMed Sci etc)
  – Motion Capture
  – iDome
  – 3D Stereo projection

• HPC Uptake (SOE, SCSS, SCA etc)

• Education (Various)

• eResearch Development (Various)
eResearch: Research Data Management

• Research data management (RDM) policy and guidelines
  – provide structure for data archiving and sharing; consistent with National good practice and research ethics requirements
  – RDM policy/guidelines currently being developed
  – Data Management Plan
  – Publish / Implement / Educate
    • Seminars (in conjunction with the Library)
    • Disseminate to ADR, HoS, GRS and Research Teams

• Aims:
  – *Provide a process map to assist research staff/students*
  – *Ensure the infrastructure is in place for research data*
  – *Provide governance arrangements*
  – *Provide a facility to share data with collaborators*
Conclusion

1. Without collaboration ECU would not have been able to develop the CRN, eResearch and the iVEC@ECU Facility

2. Balanced distribution of funds and personnel, and ‘Wins for all partners’

3. Communication and Trust are essential to a successful collaboration
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