DIGITAL DELIVERY
AND AUSTRALIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION

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INFORMATION JUST WANTS TO BE FREE (STEWART BRAND)
INFORMATION WANTS TO...

TANGO
HUMANITIES NETWORKED INFRASTRUCTURE (HUNI)

JAILBREAKING AUSTRALIA’S CULTURAL DATA
NATIONAL E-RESEARCH COLLABORATION TOOLS AND RESOURCES (NECTAR)

• NeCTAR is a $47 million dollar, Australian Government project, conducted as part of the Super Science initiative and financed by the Education Investment Fund. The University of Melbourne is the lead agent, chosen by the Commonwealth Government.
VIRTUAL LABORATORY PROGRAM
VIRTUAL RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT (VRE)

Vision

The purpose of a Virtual Research Environment (VRE) is to help researchers from all disciplines to work collaboratively by managing the increasingly complex range of tasks involved in carrying out research on both small and large scales. The concept of a VRE is evolving. The term VRE is now best thought of as shorthand for the tools and technologies needed by researchers to do their research, interact with other researchers (who may come from different disciplines, institutions or even countries) and to make use of resources and technical infrastructures available both locally and nationally. The term VRE also incorporates the context in which those tools and technologies are used. The detailed design of a VRE will depend on many factors including discipline, context, and security requirements. The intention of this programme is therefore not to produce a complete VRE, but rather to define and help to develop VRE frameworks and associated standards, and to encourage the development and population of these frameworks with applications, services and resources to create VREs appropriate to particular needs.

Definition

A VRE helps researchers from all disciplines to work collaboratively by managing the increasingly complex range of tasks involved in carrying out research.
RESEARCH ORIENTED SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ROSE)

RoSE (Research Oriented Social Environment)

2011

URL: http://rose.english.ucsb.edu [currently requires login]
Role: Project Lead.

Created in its first stage as an outcome of the Transliteracies Project, RoSE is now in a second stage of development under a NEH Digilit Humanities Start-up Grant (Level II). RoSE is a Web-based knowledge-exploration system that fuses a social-computing model to humanities bibliographical resources to allow users to explore the present and past of the human record as one “social network.” Stocked with initial information data-mined from YAGO and Project Gutenberg (with plans for data-mining the SNAC Project), RoSE provides profile pages about persons and documents, keywords and other data, and visualizations that help users see the relationships between people and documents. Uniquely, it also allows users (humanities students, scholars, and research groups) to add “thickly described” metadata on top of standard bibliographical data. This facilitates a social-network-like sense of active, dynamic interrelation with the objects of research.

RoSE site [currently requires permissions to login]
Press Release on RoSE, 11 January 2012, UCSB Office of Public Affairs Press (includes video interview with Alan Liu)

Suggested Citation: RoSE (Research-oriented Social Environment). Home page. Transliteracies Project, University of California. Retrieved [Date of access, e.g., 12 April 2013]. <http://rose.english.ucsb.edu/>

CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B
COLLABORATORY:
youtu.be/PF69E0QFB5g
VIRTUAL LABORATORY

1. A small group of researchers (dispersed globally) starts a project by looking for exemplars, tools and potential collaborators using the HuNI VL tools and exemplar projects directory.

Illustrations: Steven Hayes
2. The researchers, at their desks, search the national collections through the HuNI portal, find data, create a Virtual Collection in their (shared) workspace.
3. The researchers collect new data from a research project eg library/archive research
4. The researchers add this data to their Virtual Collection. The researchers make linkages and annotation in the workspace.
5. The researchers publish a compound object to the HuNI VL, as well as some articles and some selected material to a public website (RDA?)
6. The compound object and the bibliographic information is exposed within the HuNI VL, including good metadata (created automatically)
7. Another researcher finds the object in their search and connects with the collaboration.
8. The collaboration grows and starts a new cycle
THE HUNI VL WILL:

- Enable humanities researchers to work with cultural datasets more efficiently and effectively, and on a larger scale than is presently possible;
- Encourage the systematic sharing of research data between humanities researchers (including the cultural dataset curators themselves), the community and cultural institutions;
- Encourage a higher level of cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, both within the humanities and between the humanities and other disciplines, and the wider public;
- Support innovative methodologies such as network analysis, game theory and ‘virtual history’ that rely on large-scale datasets; and
- Ensure that Australian cultural datasets and the research associated with them become part of the emerging international Linked Open Data environment.
INTEROPERABILITY

1. Organisational level (the goals and processes of the institutions involved)

2. The semantic level (meaning of the exchanged digital resources)

3. Technical level (implementing data interoperability requires both data integration and data exchange processes as well as enabling effective use of the data that becomes available)

- Pasquale Pagano, ‘Data Interoperability’
1. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation / Group Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Dictionary of Biography / Digital Humanities Hub</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Art Australia Online</td>
<td>COFA/UNSW</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource</td>
<td>The University of Queensland</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AusStage</td>
<td>Flinders University</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARADISEC</td>
<td>University of Sydney, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Archives Project / the Australian Media History Database</td>
<td>Macquarie University</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bonza</td>
<td>Deakin</td>
<td>Proposer, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema and Audiences Research Project (CAARP)</td>
<td>Flinders/Deakin</td>
<td>Partners, Co-operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eResearch Office</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
<td>Partner, Co-developer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary of Sydney Trust</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts eResearch</td>
<td>University of Sydney</td>
<td>Co-developer, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VeRSI</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Co-developer, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intersect</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Co-developer, Co-operator</td>
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<td>AIATSIS</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>Partner, Co-operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Australia</td>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>Partner, Co-developer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. INTEGRATING MEANING

Differences that are obvious in real life…
“exist as a fragmented series of knots of knowledge across different disciplines and practices which only intermittently communicate with each other. So we not only need knowledges of space but integrating knowledges of these knowledges…”
• Nigel Thrift

Broadly conceived, cyberinfrastructure is intertwined with various institutional, social, cultural and historical layers inside and outside the disciplines themselves. As research infrastructure often, but not necessarily, supports interdisciplinary work, it seems particularly important to situate data structures, standards, technologies, knowledge structures and tools in a broad epistemological context.
• Patrik Svensson
PHASE ONE
3. HUNI ARCHITECTURE

The research communities currently served by the datasets in this application are diverse and geographically wide-reaching. The data, information, publications and research tools made available through the participating HuNI datasets inform a vast array of research and information seeking practices underpinning scholarly outcomes, educational achievements, and social realisations right through to family and local histories. Researchers across humanities disciplines use this data in both casual and complex ways. Some researchers use the datasets through relatively simple 'search and explore' functions, others create integrated datasets supplemental to traditional scholarly work, while some extract data for the purposes of visualisation and data analysis. Due to this breadth, the expected number of users is difficult to forecast accurately. As our aim, through the establishment of the VL, is to make as much of our data as possible available to all relevant researchers and public institutions and to engage with them on a daily basis, the expected number of users is potentially limitless. ADB alone records over 70 million hits annually, and AustLit has over 900 searches per day leading to more than 1.2 million page views in the past 10 months. The tools and combined data available through the HuNI service will ensure that both the casual user and the dedicated researcher seeking to answer a specific research question will be served. The disciplinary communities currently represented in the digital realm by these datasets and eResearch projects comprising the CDC are summarised in Table 9.1.
MORE INFORMATION

Apidictor

Welcome to Apidictor

Apidictor is the site name of the wiki and issue tracker of the Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) project. (An actual Apidictor is a device for monitoring and analysing the buzzing sounds of bees in a hive.)

HuNI is a NeCTAR funded project and is one of the first large scale eResearch Infrastructure projects for the humanities in Australia. The project will integrate a number of important cultural data-sets in Australia and will also build what is termed a Virtual Research Environment’ (VRE). A VRE or ‘Virtual Lab’ is online environment of tools and services to allow specialist researchers to come together to perform certain computational research tasks with the possibility of uncovering new insights and research into Australia’s cultural landscape.

This site is currently hosted on a virtual machine called Skep, which lives in the NeCTAR Research Cloud.

Starting Points

- TracGuide -- Built-in Documentation
- Trac project -- Trac Open Source Project
- Trac FAQ -- Frequently Asked Questions
- TracSupport -- Trac Support

For a complete list of local wiki pages, see TitleIndex.
DEALING WITH THE DATA
BEFORE AND AFTER

**Information was**
- Scarce
- Always expensive
- Shaped and controlled by experts and specialists
- Designed for one-way, mass consumption
- Measured and slow-moving
- ‘External’

**Information is**
- Abundant
- Often cheap or free
- Curated by consumers and networks
- Designed for discovery, sharing and re-use
- Immediate and impulsive
- Embedded and interconnected
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- FINDABILITY
- AVAILABILITY
- SEARCHABILITY

- RESEARCHABILTY
  (RETRIEVABILITY)
NEW WORKFLOWS IN RESEARCH LABOUR

• Typically HASS scholars have no formal training in data management practices
• Few researchers think about data preservation and sustainability
• Demands of publication output overwhelm the long-term consideration of data curation
• Greater support (institutional and technical) for collaboration is required
AUSTLIT TODAY

NEWSFLASH

- Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarships Go North

The poetry and prose Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarships for 2012 have been awarded to Brisbane writers Michelle Dicinoński and Christopher Currie.

The scholarships are named in honour of theatrical artist John Christian Marten (1905-1960) who was well known for his appreciation and support of the arts community. A strong advocate for the artistic capabilities of young Australians, Marten established a charitable trust to award funding to talented Australians so they could explore and develop their artistic gifts.

Christopher Currie will use his scholarship to travel to Winterthur, Switzerland to become an Artist-in-Residence. He will work on a historical novel loosely based on the life of artist Marc Chagall. Currie says, 'the unique European environment will be a singularly inspiring and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'.

Michelle Dicinoński will use her scholarship to honour international invitations for poetry readings and to attend workshops in Portugal and the United States. Her first book of poetry, Electricity for Beginners was published in 2011. Part of the AUSTLIT family, Michelle has worked on the Asian-Australian Children's Literature, Folk Fiction, and Children's Literature Digital Resource projects.

To read more about these scholarships, visit the Marten Bequest website.

- Commonwealth Lecture Praises Realist Literature

Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie delivered the 2012 Commonwealth Lecture in London's Guild Hall on 15 March. Ms Adichie's lecture was titled 'To Instruct and Delight: A Case for Realist Literature'.

Ms Adichie reminded her audience that when we read human stories, we become alive in bodies not our own. It seems to me that we live in a world where it has become increasingly important to try and live in bodies not our own, to embrace sympathy, to constantly be reminded that we share, with everybody in every part of the world, a common and equal humanity.'
AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY
DESIGN AND ART AUSTRALIA ONLINE
BONZA - National Cinema & Television Database

Bonza is an online collection of national cinema databases (to date French, Australian and New Zealand) prepared by film researchers and students.

Bonza is also an educational tool that gives students the opportunity to learn film research by doing the work - investigating, evaluating, and publishing - of a film scholar and by actively connecting their own work to that of other researchers. The result is an ongoing, expanding anthology of information and learning about the film and television industries. This accumulated knowledge is available to students, teachers, researchers and the general public by viewing the online databases and the accompanying student essays.

If you have any questions and comments about the bonza databases please feel free to contact us: afiresearch@rmit.edu.au

To start using bonza in your classroom, register your interest on the Contribute page.

Australia & New Zealand Database

French Cinema
FIND AND CONNECT AUSTRALIA

Welcome
The Find & Connect Web Resource is for Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and everyone with an interest in the history of out-of-home ‘care’ in Australia.

You can use this site to:
- read information about and view images of children’s homes
- get help to find records about your childhood in ‘care’
- connect with support groups and services in your state/territory

Note: there are no personal records or private information published in this site.

MORE ABOUT THE SITE

- ACT
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

Phone Support:
1800 16 11 09
(free call)
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm

What is the 1800 number?

Want some help?
- Support groups and services
- How to use this site
- Ask us a question

What to expect when accessing records about you
- WHAT TO EXPECT

Gallery
AUSSTAGE
The Ultimate Gig Guide
The Ultimate Gig Guide (TUGG) tracks the history of the live music scene in Melbourne from organised dance hall events, to discos and the thriving pub music scene of today.

Answer questions like...
...was jazz always an inner-city phenomenon?
...where did my favourite band get their start?
...when and where did rockabilly reach its peak?

and visualise the musical journey of major bands from their early roots.

Browse Gigs
Start exploring Melbourne's rich music

Add Gigs
Contribute contemporary gig listings or

Review Gigs
Check if our version of history matches your
Welcome to the Cinema and Audiences Research Project (CAARP) database: An online encyclopaedia of cinema-going in Australia.

Data
This site contains information on film screenings and venues in Australia.
311,137 screenings
10,256 films
1,978 cinemas
1,649 companies
From 1846 to now
TOWARDS A ‘NEW’ HUMANITIES SCHOLARSHIP
OSBORNE ON ACADEMICS

• Legislators
• Interpreters
• Experts
• Mediators

ACADEMIC AS MEDIATOR

The mediator is not simply a ‘media’ intellectual, but also someone for whom ideas are more like instruments than principles; a motivator of syntheses that ‘work’ and have purchase, rather than ideals that dimly reverberate; an expert as much in the contexts and fields in which ideas operate as in the intellectual content of ideas themselves.

• Thomas Osborne
MODULAR RESEARCH PRACTICE

“neither a family of disciplines, nor a new bud or branch of the tree of knowledge. It is a problem specific collaboration that takes place within a limited temporal window and in places that may have little to do with standard departments and institutes... What matters the most is to maximize the quality of one’s skills and to expand their range so as to be able to move from one fruitful collaboration to the next”.

REALLY?

US Today Show story based on research produced by Newsweek, April 2012
QUESTIONS?

Information just wants to tango