QUT Library Collection Development Manual

3. Practices

3.4. Digital Repository

3.4.6 Research Data Collection

Identification Block

| QUT Library Collection Development Manual | 3.4.6 Research Data Collection |
| Contact Officer | Associate Director, Library Services (Information Resources and Research Support) |
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3.4.6 Research Data Collection

1. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this guideline is to outline the scope, policy and practice, background, collection, repository, services, responsibilities and access issues for the QUT Research Data Collections.

It acknowledges and guides the Library’s role in the curation of QUT’s collection of metadata describing its research data collections, and the research datasets themselves. It also acknowledges the Library’s role as information broker, mediating between data providers and QUT researchers.

2. University policy and practice

In February 2010 the University Academic Board approved the University Policy MOPP 2.8 Management of research data which states the value of research data as an output of the
research process, outlines the University’s approach to good data management practice and storage, and mandates the use of a Data management checklist.

The Division of TILS has developed Guidelines for Management of Research Data at QUT which complements the University Policy and provides more detailed information on the practical issues of data ownership, storage and backup, data formats, documentation and metadata, privacy and confidentiality, retention and disposal, and access and re-use.

The policy was updated in 2013 to include reference to the QUT Research Data Finder metadata repository which provides description, discovery and access services to datasets. It acts as a data registry service for QUT.

3. Background

Research is moving into a data-centric era, which is becoming popularly known as the Fourth Paradigm of research. The new methods of conducting research are commonly referred to as e-research or e-science and the systems and networks referred to a cyber-infrastructure or e-research infrastructure. The methods involve the marrying of discipline-specific knowledge, scientific method and information communication technology services such that the skill sets become intertwined. The use of large datasets, and the mash-up of previously unrelated datasets allows the discovery of new patterns in the data, not previously visible. New sensing devices, networks, computing power, applications and visualisation tools are used.

The storage, sharing and re-use of research datasets suggests increased efficiency and productivity can be achieved and the rate of discovery will accelerate.

There is evidence that making research data openly available and linked to the publication, increases interest in both the data and the publication, and increases the citation count, and therefore impact of the research.

A number of government funded initiatives are developing and making available data storage and sharing facilities and virtual research environments. Some of the e-research support agencies include:

- Queensland Cyber-Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF) QCLOUD
- Research Data Storage Infrastructure (RDSI) data storage nodes
- National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) nodes and tools
- Quadrant – project management tools

4. Description of the research data collection

The QUT Research Data Finder collection consists of a combination of metadata records describing research datasets, and links to, or the actual research datasets themselves. QUT’s research data collection uses a hybrid model of both centralised (TILS) and decentralised (Faculty and Institute) repository and data storage solutions. Generally, however, metadata records are stored centrally, and datasets are stored across a range of storage solutions. Data description records are sent to the ANDS Research Data Australia repository when datasets are openly available or available via mediated access.

5. QUT Data Repository

The QUT Research Data Finder uses a local modification of the Registry Interchange Format – Collection Services (RIF –CS) metadata schema supported by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS). Metadata records are created for collections (data), activities (research projects), parties (people and institutions), and services (eg. Senor machines).
Collection records in the QUT Data Repository are linked to related records in the QUT ePrints institutional repository of published research outputs.

The QUT Researcher Data Finder repository is currently based on the VIVO repository system which provides an interface for ingest and resource discovery.

6. **External Research Dataset Service**

The QUT Library also provides an External Research Data Service by which it facilitates access to QUT researchers and RHD students for the purpose of QUT research. The Library will negotiate open access if possible or may use Library Resource Allocation funds to purchase commercially available research datasets. More information including the datasets available is available from the [QUT Library web site](#).

7. **Services**

Research data management services surrounding the QUT Data Repository and Data Collections include:

- Advocacy and awareness via Research Support eNews
- Data management information and documentation via the [Research Data Management website](#)
- [Data management seminars and workshops](#)
- Advice and assistance with using the [Guidelines for Management of Research Data at QUT](#) and the [Data management checklist](#)
- Creation of QUT-preferred metadata records for collections, activities, parties and services.
- [QUT Research Data Finder](#)
- The [External Research Dataset Service](#)

8. **Responsibilities**

**MOPP 2.8 Management of research data** states:

The Director, QUT Library is responsible for:

- development and maintenance of QUT Research Data Finder, the centrally supported institutional repository for the provision of open and/or controlled access to metadata records describing and providing access to QUT's collection of research datasets (data registry)
- maintaining procedures, and providing training and support relating to research data management.

The Director, Information Technology Services is responsible for:

- provision of research data management storage infrastructure and services including those based at QUT and those provided by partnering service providers
- maintaining procedures, and providing training and support relating to research data storage.

**QUT researchers**

All QUT researchers are responsible for maintaining records of research data and primary materials, and ensuring that these records and the research data and materials are securely stored. Researchers must make the data available to other researchers via open
or negotiated access, as appropriate and in accordance with the requirements of research funding bodies such as the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) (see NHMRC revised policy on the dissemination of research findings) for as long as there is interest in the data.

9. Access

Research Data Finder will once developed, provide three levels of access:
- QUT – wide access for restricted collections (available);
- Open access for sharable collections (available); and
- Controlled access for collection works-in-progress and defined project groups (future functionality)

Metadata records for these collections will also be migrated to Research Data Australia (Australian National Data Service).

Access to the External Research Dataset Service is via the Library Research Support Team based in the Gardens Point Branch Library. Most dataset publishers require the QUT researcher sign a license agreement. Some datasets may be used in the Data Lab facility only, while others can be borrowed from the Library collection by negotiation with the Library Research Support Team.

Related Documents
- University Policy MOPP 2.8 Management of research data
- Guidelines for Management of Research Data at QUT
- Data management checklist
- About Research Data Finder
- The Fourth Paradigm: Data-Intensive Scientific Discovery

Modification History

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