

RESEARCH NEWS

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WELCOME

Recently I have been dedicating a lot of time to exploring the eResearch agenda to ensure UWS researchers have access to the eResearch support services provided by the Library and ITS.

What is eResearch?

eResearch refers to research activity that uses a range of advanced Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capabilities and embraces new research methodologies emerging from increasing access to:

1. Underlying Infrastructure:

Broadband communications networks, research instruments and facilities, sensor networks, data repositories and high performance computing resources;

2. Architecture:

Software and infrastructure services that enable secure connectivity and interoperability of eResearch facilities;

3. Application Layer:

Discipline-specific applications and tools allowing researchers to interact with each other and with their instruments, tools and data;

4. Communication Layer:

Large scale research collaboration across boundaries – temporal, geographic and disciplinary.

eResearch support is provided not only to make research more efficient but also to aid compliance with various government requirements – for example:

- 1) All publications must be in an institutional Digital Repository for ERA purposes.
- 2) All Projects funded by the ARC or NHMRC must have a research data management plan
- 3) Research Data Management must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (ACRCR)

Professor Andrew Cheetham
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

In November last year UWS nominated academic staff members to the Australian Research Council as Assessors, and we were subsequently notified in April that 102 UWS academic staff had been appointed.

RESEARCH GRANT ACTIVITY AT UWS

College	Applications	Approved
Arts	90	17
Business	16	4
Health and Science	179	23
Divisions	1	1
Total	286	45

As at 6 July 2010.

LAUNCH OF THE RESEARCHER PORTAL

Our new online information and data service a Researcher's Portal was launched in March. This new service has been developed by the Office of Research Services.

Available now at the Researcher's Portal is detailed information and data to enable you to track grant and ethics applications; to view all publications which you have lodged for the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC); and to view the underlying data forming the Register of Research Activity.

You will find many uses for the Researcher's Portal – updating your CV by copying and pasting, and reviewing publications to ensure the most recent have been lodged; you can also cut and paste grant details into further applications.

The Portal is simple to access: a URL (no login required) asks you to enter the first few letters of a researcher's surname and the result will take you to the details (the default landing page is Publications). From any page the menu buttons will take you to each of the other pages (Publications, Activity Register, Grants, Ethics and Search Again).

The URL for the Researcher's Portal is: <https://research-report.uws.edu.au/wpubs/Portal.asp>

This site will be subject to further enhancements relating to further use and analysis of ERA journal rankings data.

Please explore and make use of this valuable resource.

Stelarc – Senior Research Fellow, Thinking Head Projects & Artist in Residence, MARCS Laboratories University of Western Sydney – has been awarded the “Gold Nica” for the Hybrid Arts Prize in the Prix Ars Electronica 2010, the International Competition for Cyber Arts (which also comes with a 10,000 Euros grant.) The award was publicly announced in Linz, Austria, May 17.

Ars Electronica is the foremost electronics media organization, and it is particularly pleasing that the nomination came from the organization itself (i.e., it was completely unsolicited). The award is based on Stelarc's Ear on Arm project.

See http://www.aec.at/prix_history_en.php?year=2010 for more details.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Did you know UWS has approved access to Australian Bureau of Statistics Data?

Researchers can gain access to a large number of Australian and New Zealand National Statistics via an agreement negotiated by Universities Australia and thirty five Australian universities including UWS.

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides a range of products and services to universities including Table Builder. Under the Agreement, staff and students are not individually invoiced for their use of the priced ABS products and services in the Agreement. This is because Universities Australia has paid for access on behalf of universities.

If you are interested in gaining access to this data please register online at <https://secure.abs.gov.au/micro/public/pages/individualApplyForm.xhtml>. For further information contact the UWS Contact Officer Tanya Hobson, Executive Officer, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Email: t.hobson@uws.edu.au Telephone extension X7180

For more information please see web page http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/australian_bureau_of_statistics_and_census_data

SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Thank you to all staff who participated in the first SRE time use survey.

Under the Australian Government's SRE initiative, there is a suite of measures to enhance university research including access to increased funding to meet the indirect costs associated with Australian Competitive Grant research. In order to access this funding, universities are required to undertake transparent costing processes including a time-use survey of academic staff. UWS participated in the pilot survey earlier this year and exceeded the Commonwealth's required response rate of 67 per cent.

DIISR has advised that universities should conduct the survey proper over two weeks during June/July. We thank you in advance for assisting the University access approximately \$3 million in indirect cost funding that will be available to support research at UWS.

ERA UPDATE

The Office of Research Services has submitted ERA data from June 1st, 2010. All items for ERA review will be available to reviewers via an ERA-only access version of the UWS Research Repository.

The Office of Research Services has ensured that UWS has participated in all aspects of the sector's development of ERA including:

- 1) Collation and review of over 7000 lines of data submitted to the ARC
- 2) Multiple consultations by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and the ARC on the indicators and the guidelines.
- 3) A pilot evaluation of the IT systems.
- 4) The 2009 ERA Trial of two clusters.
- 5) July 2009, ORS facilitated feedback and recommendations for changes to 354 journals.
- 6) The UWS Library has been funded for staff to work on the population of the Institutional Repository.

For all ERA news and details about the process see Research Services.

SCHOOL OF LAW

After an intensive peer review process, Ashgate a leading international legal publisher, will publish Global Governance: Contemporary Legal Perspectives. The volume will consist entirely of contributions by 14 UWS School of Law academics. This is another measure of the growing prestige and profile of the School and the University.

The editors and authors include many of the leading researchers in the School, including the Head of School, Professor Michael Adams.

NEW STAFF

On 19 May 2010 a welcome function was held for the first cohort of Research Lecturers appointed late last year who commenced at UWS over the last couple of months. These positions are designed for early career researchers with a low teaching load (1/3 load) to allow them 3 years to establish their research career. Staff employed in the first round are:

- Dr Marta Bello Lamo – School of Natural Sciences – Solar Energies Technology Research Group. Her research is on Photocatalysis using TiO2 for water purification.
- Dr John Cass – School of Psychology. His research is on sensory dynamics with an emphasis on visual processing and audio-visual interactions.
- Dr Remko Duursma – Centre for Plants and the Environment. His research is in the area of modelling vegetation function in response to climate change.
- Dr Marion Gaborieau – School of Biomedical and Health Sciences/Nanoscale Organisation & Dynamics Group. Her research area is (Bio)polymers and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and their structure motions.
- Dr Reza Hasmath – School of Social Sciences His research is in the area of ethnic minority in the relatively developed urban areas of China.
- Dr Michael O'Connor – School of Medicine. His research area is on New Cataract Models for Drug Screening.
- Dr Rachel Robbins – School of Psychology. Her research is on the role of experience in face and object recognition.
- Dr Tamara Watson – School of Psychology. Her research is on the the visual system which employs 'adaptive' strategies i.e. neural processing of a stimulus changes due to the statistics of the visual environment.
- Dr Guirong (Grace) Yan – School of Engineering/Civionics Research Centre. Her research is Structural Health Monitoring and Smart Sensor Technologies

We have since recruited a second cohort and another cohort will be recruited in the future.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCHERS

OPTION 1

The School of Computing and Mathematics provides support on a fee for service basis with expert advice and analysis, including:

- Selecting appropriate analytical mathematical and statistical methods
- The full range of statistical and data mining approaches
- The application of mathematical techniques
- A diverse range of computer programs
- Interpretation and presentation of results
- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Various analytics

OPTION 2

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated – ACSPRI - offer courses in data analysis, if you elect to undertake one of these you will receive a member discount.

Web link: <http://www.acsPRI.org.au/winterprogram2010>

OPTION 3

For a full list of training opportunities please see:

Community of Users and Producers of Statistics Statistical Literacy and Training <http://www.nss.gov.au/nss/home.NSF/pages/Statistical+Training?OpenDocument>

This page provides links to agencies that offer a range of statistical training, education programs and resources. These services are targeted at developing the statistical skills of people using statistics, or working, managing or conducting surveys.

Other Statistical Information available may be linked from the UWS Library site: <http://library.uws.edu.au/statistics.php>

HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH SUPERVISORS HANDBOOK

The revised latest version of the Higher Degree Research Supervisors handbook has been published and will be available in hard copy and online.

http://www.uws.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/128077/Supervisors_Guide.pdf

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION RECOGNISED

Professor Katherine Gibson was awarded in June, the Australia-International Medal from the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers for the work she undertook jointly with Professor Julie Graham in their collective authorial presence as J.K. Gibson-Graham. This significant award is given in recognition either of outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australia-based) geographers to the advancement of Geography world-wide. No more than one medal is to be awarded each year.

STAFF PROFILES



Jason White is the Secretariat and Administrative Officer. Jason oversees administrative and promotional arrangements relating to all internal research grants schemes, including the publishing of Research Direction articles. He provides executive support to the Research Committee. Jason as web content author maintains and develops the Research Services web pages with a particular focus is on providing access to electronic forms and guidelines, together with promoting the research activities and achievements of UWS staff. Jason is also a professional photographer and an exhibited photographic artist.



Niru Ramanathan is the Research Accountant for the Office of Research Services. He is the contact for preparing and certifying all income/expenditure statements and acquittals required for the funding agencies. Niru also deals with the day to day financial aspects of research grants, working closely with grant holders and the Office of Finance. When he is not working with numbers, he enjoys playing cricket and bush walking.

Angela Theodorou is the Research Development Assistant. Angela assists the Research Development Officers to promote the development of research within the university and oversees all aspects of externally funded grant administration (pre-award). Angela is also responsible for sourcing information on funding opportunities to disseminate to the UWS academic community. In her spare time, Angela loves to unwind with a good book and is an avid runner.



Andrew Cheetham and Gar Jones at a recent event celebrating completion of the Excellence in Research Australia Process and acknowledging Gar's 20 year service milestone.