



e-Research Workshop, 3 May 2006

---

# Proposed Centre for Organisational and Social Informatics & e-Research

# Overview of COSI

**Focus on human-centred design, deployment and creative use of ICTs in organisations and society:**

- **Develop theory, frameworks, models and tools, particularly in e-Business, e-Government and virtual communities – e-Society**
- **Improve how people and organisations create, manage, store, categorise, seek, obtain, evaluate and use information**
- **Understand knowledge work practices that effectively exploit information resources**
- **Improve enterprise and interpersonal information flow and recorded memory**
- **Break down barriers to satisfying information and IS needs of people and organisations and extending their effective use of information and ICTs**

# Scope of e-Society Research

- **R&D projects in the areas of:**
  - information infrastructure to support community knowledge sharing
  - knowledge technologies to support communication and sharing in a wide variety of community contexts
  - support for knowledge work
- **Social and cultural contexts**
- **Human issues**
- **Organisational issues**
- **Technology challenges**

# e-Society Research:

- **Is close to:**
  - Community Informatics, which brings together people concerned with electronically enabled local and virtual communities;
- **Relies on:**
  - structuring collaborations within and between communities.
- **Involves communities of:**
  - researchers, practitioners (including industry) policy makers and civil society;
- **Aims to:**
  - support ICT implementation and effective use.

# DART – Dataset Acquisition, Accessibility and Annotation e-Research Technologies

- **CR1 – Move data from personal data repositories to secure trusted alternatives**
  - Work with researchers with personal data repositories, preferably in the areas of the demonstrators (climate change, X-ray crystallography, humanities/social sciences)
  - Identify barriers to them depositing these datasets into secure institutional repositories
  - Develop strategies to overcome these barriers and test these with the researchers
  - Document the findings in a research report

# DART - Dataset Acquisition, Accessibility and Annotation e-Research Technologies

- **CR5 – Make it as easy as possible for researchers to deposit datasets and other digital objects into institutional repositories**
  - Develop workflow steps and a user interface (UI)
  - Determine workflows
  - Determine metadata that needs to be captured/machine-generated
  - Prototype data-entry screens
  - Implement into ARROW software development environment
  - Test usability and modify software as required
  - Move into ARROW production software

# DART - Dataset Acquisition, Accessibility and Annotation e-Research Technologies

- **CR4: develop guidelines for best information management practice for research dataset issues:**
  - Embedding information management professionals into research teams (Climate Research, X-ray Crystallography, humanities/social sciences)
  - Identifying areas requiring improved information management practices
  - Developing strategies and guidelines
  - Testing strategies and guidelines in a range of disciplines
  - Documenting the findings in a research report

# Knowledge Commons

**Research collaboration with cultural institutions, the communities they serve, and their government and business stakeholders.**

***Coverage:* Libraries, Archives, Museums, Public Broadcasters in Australian and internationally**

***Aim:* Continuous improvement to user-centred design for creation and use of public information.**

***Current projects include:* comparative study of libraries museums, broadcasters Australia and Singapore; Beijing Olympics community portal; archives and Indigenous oral memory; public libraries and ‘baby boomers’).**

# Development Informatics

**Research collaboration with NGOs, government agencies, business stakeholders, local CBOs in Australia and internationally**

***Aim:*** Improving choice, opportunity and well-being in the lives of people – ‘grass roots e-democracy’.

***Coverage:*** policies and programs for empowerment through participative community action.

***Current projects*** include: work auspiced by DCITA on national and international Information Economy policy eg World Summit on the Information Society - contract in consortium with ACOSS and others on National Non-Profit ICT Coalition; project of Monash Australia, South Africa, Malaysia with IITB Development Informatics Lab (Mumbai), SAP and others on ICT supported community of practice models for knowledge transfer and peer-to-peer learning.

# Memories, Communities, Technologies

- **Research relating to rich interplay between memories, communities, technologies at nexus of humanities, sciences and IT**
- **Focus on formation/transformation of community memory – communities of memory**
- **Use of e-Research frameworks, infrastructure, methods, tools and sources**
- **Formative/transformational potential of e-Research itself**

# e-Research & MemCT

- **Infrastructure enabling researchers, memory institutions and communities to work cooperatively across geographical and technical boundaries, and across multiple repositories and datasets**
- **Opening up new areas for research**
- **Doing research more collaboratively and creatively; disseminating outcomes across disciplinary and cultural boundaries; developing collaborative e-Research governance and ethics frameworks, protocols (IP, rights in research data and outcomes, access, privacy); inclusive research agenda-setting models**
- **Role of ICTs in empowering communities, and enabling and facilitating their engagement with research - subjects, consumers, stakeholders, partners, collaborators?**