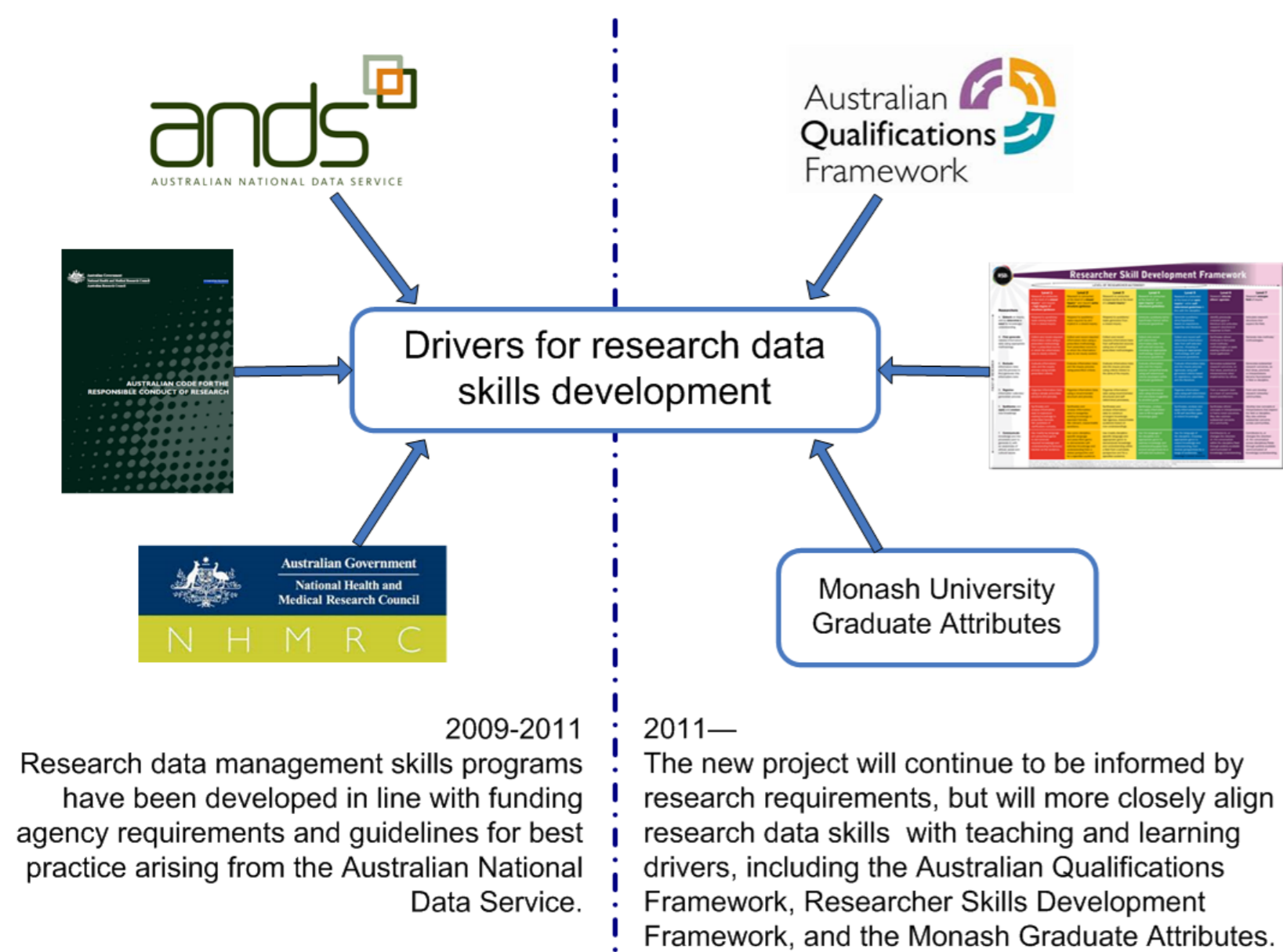


From silo to systematic: a new approach to building research data management skills at Monash University

Sam Searle and Lyn Torres, Monash University Library



Education drivers for research data management skills

A new Monash University Library project aims to position data management skills as core research skills and, over time, to embed the development of these skills within programs such as faculty-based PhD coursework.

In 2009-11 more than 150 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students attended 2-hour Introduction to Data Planning seminars. These sessions were developed and delivered by the Library's Data Management Coordinator as part of the well-established exPERT seminar series within the Monash Research Graduate School (MRGS).

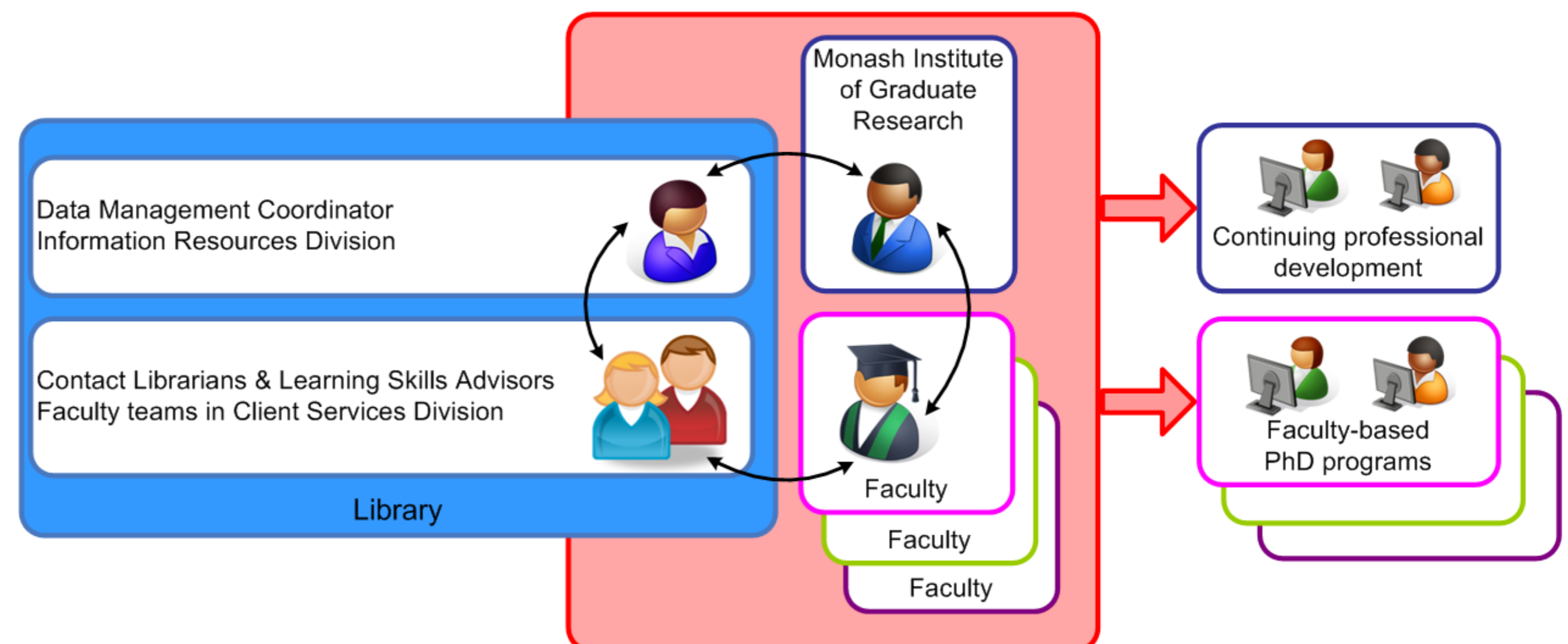
While evaluations of the seminars have been overwhelmingly positive, the Library has identified a need to bridge the gap between its data management activities and other information research skills programs. Contact librarians and learning skills advisers partner with academics to build other information research skills (e.g. database searching and bibliographic management for secondary materials). Genuine peer-to-peer collaboration across faculties and campuses, and between academic and professional staff, has resulted in information research skills being regularly addressed through unit reviews, skill diagnostics, curriculum and assessment design, and ongoing work on teaching methodologies. From 2012 the Library will explore how the pedagogic models, tools (including e-learning) and educational expertise of contact librarians and learning skills advisors can be applied as rigorously to research data management.

New partnerships

Staff coordinating the data management portfolio and staff tasked with improving teaching and learning will collaborate within a framework of broader institutional partnerships with critical stakeholder groups.

Engagement with faculties and the new Monash Institute for Graduate Research (MIGR) is essential and timely: new PhD program requirements from 2013 provide an opportunity to develop embedded and parallel units that can be taken by students as part of required coursework and professional training.

Engagement with the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) has resulted in the inclusion of data management in a postgraduate unit dedicated to research leadership. Over time, linkages with the Office of the PVC (L&T) will also ensure that Honours and undergraduate researchers improve their data management skills.



New content and delivery methods

The Library will review existing content and investigate new delivery modes. Balancing discipline-specific needs whilst delivering content that is essential for all researchers, such as requirements of the *Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research* and of Monash University policies and procedures, is an ongoing challenge. Better meeting the needs of off-campus researchers and accommodating different learning styles are also aims of the new project.

As well as improving the development of research data skills at Monash University, the project will provide a base for collaborating with other institutions, and particularly other University libraries, that have similar requirements and a desire to align research data management more closely with other learning and teaching activities.

Contacts for more information

Sam Searle, Data Management Coordinator, samantha.searle@monash.edu
Lyn Torres, Information Literacy Librarian, lynette.torres@monash.edu

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