Suggestions for regional cooperation

Based on a critical evaluation of collaboration and standardisation across Australian Institutional Repositories

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Overview

- Summary of state of Institutional Repositories (IRs) in Australian Universities.
- Focus is on 'research outputs' (not learning objects etc.)
- Summary of collaboration efforts
- Suggestions for regional cooperation.

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100%

- IRs established in all 39 Australian universities.

  (Though not all open access)

- A great achievement in the 7 years since the 1st one was operational.
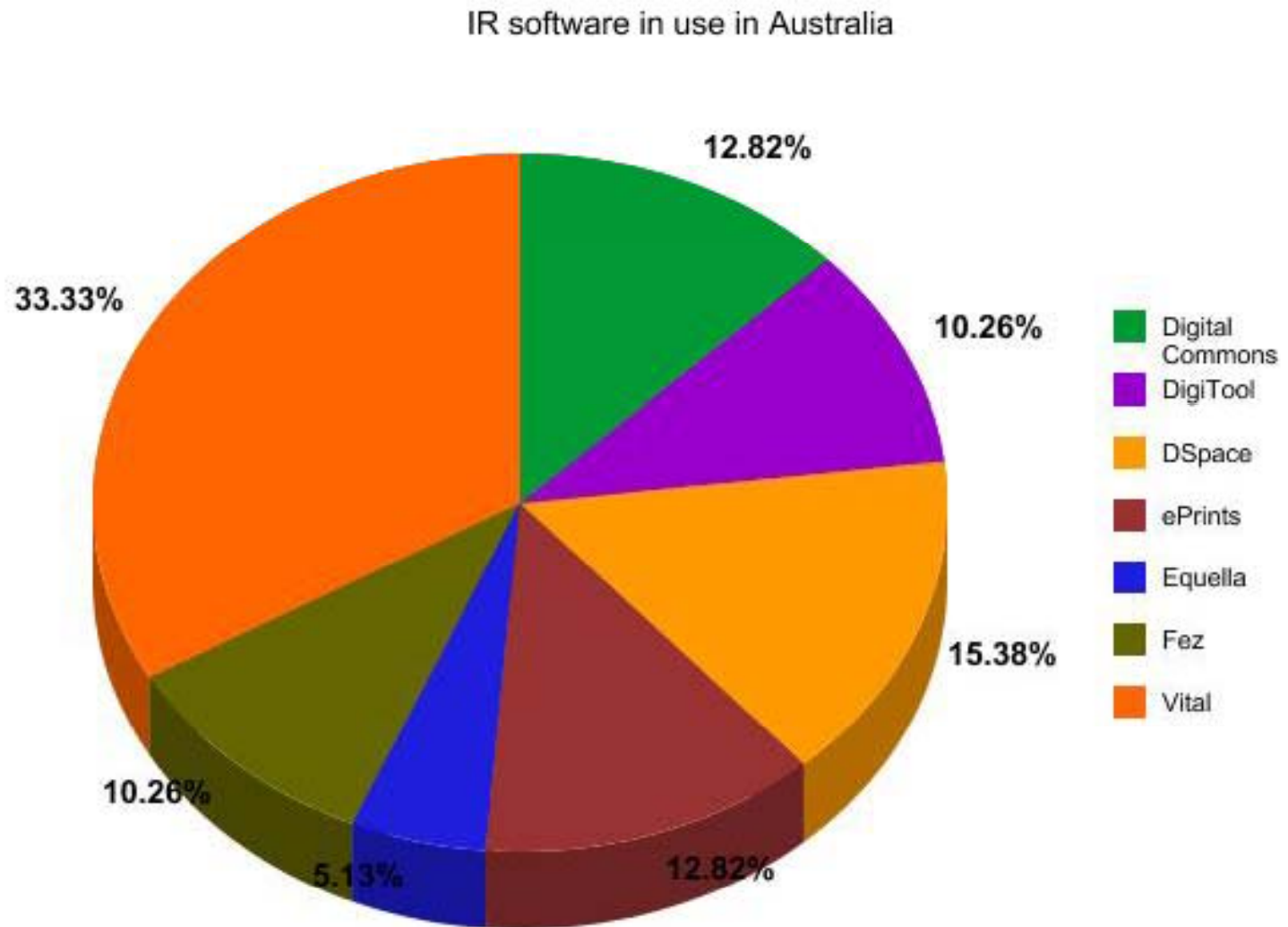
Summary of major IR functions
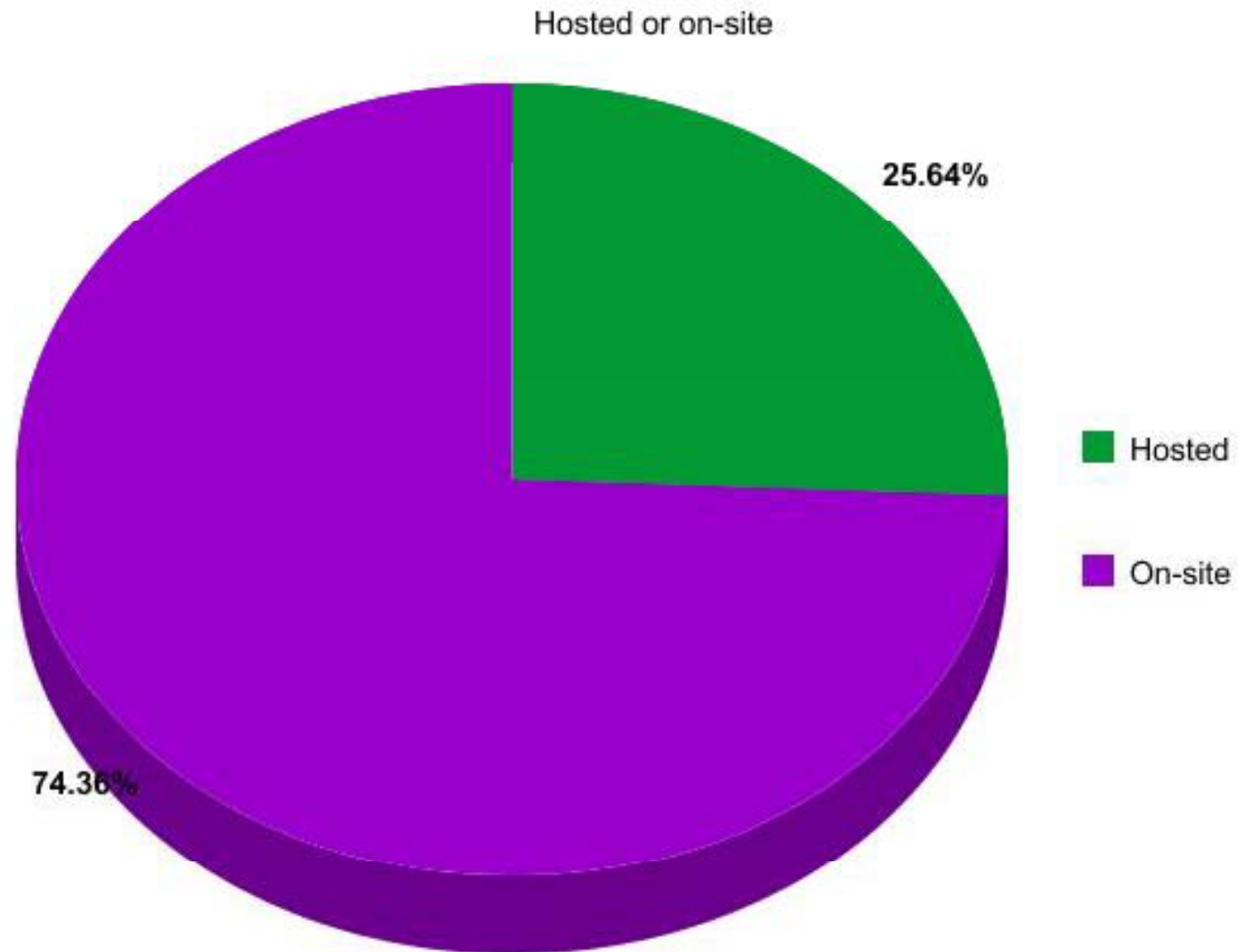
- Open Access to research.
- Reporting to the Australian Government on research outputs.
- Showcasing an institution's research.
- Preservation of digital content.

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Australian University IR software

IR software in use in Australia

12.82% — Digital Commons
10.26% — DigiTool
15.38% — DSpace
12.82% — ePrints
5.13% — Equella
10.26% — Fez
33.33% — Vital

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Hosted or on-site

Hosted or on-site

25.64%

74.36%

Hosted

On-site

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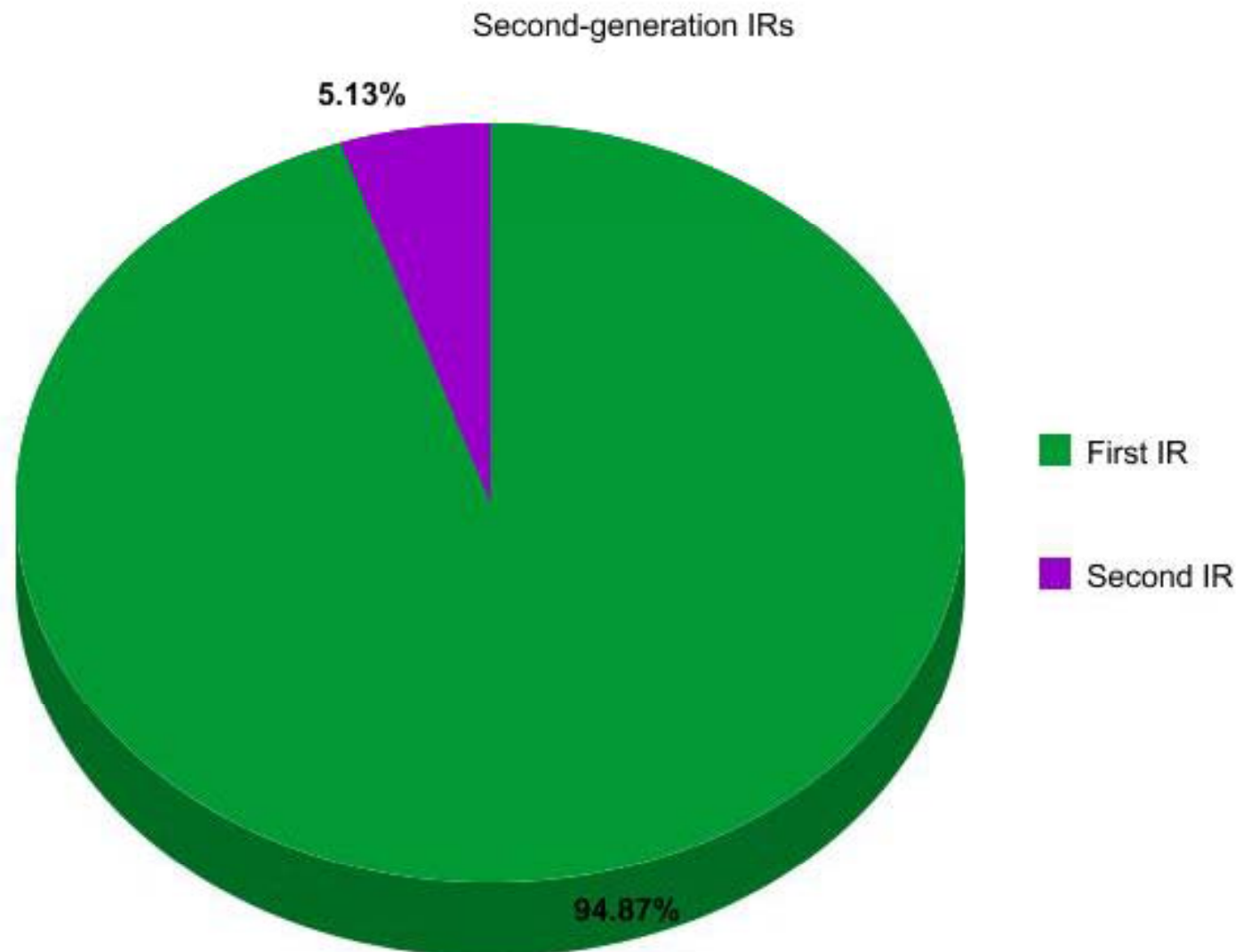
Suggestion #1

Smaller institutions are seeking hosted IR solutions.

We suggest any new collaborative projects should take this into account from the start, and seek to source such solutions.

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Second generation IRs – moving on

Second-generation IRs

5.13%

94.87%

First IR

Second IR

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Suggestion #2

Data migration out of an IR must be possible and evaluated.

Particularly important to evaluate this for proprietary and/or hosted solutions (condition of contract).

Past IR Collaborative Projects

A number of collaborative projects funded by the Australian government have helped establish repository infrastructure in Australian universities.

- **ARROW**
- **APSR**
- **RUBRIC**

* Also note large National Library of Australia involvement

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Suggestion #3

Government support and funding can assist in the success of IR implementation.

The Australian government has been pivotal in supporting the development of institutional repositories in Australia.

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Current IR Collaborative Projects

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http://cairss.caul.edu.au/

Suggestion #4

If possible collaborate despite software in use.

Do not keep to 'software groups'.

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Suggestion #5
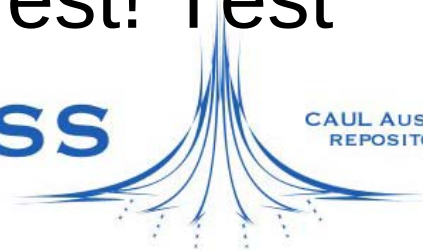
Provide forums for community
discussion to take place, led by
people who can 'translate' between
software developers and
librarians/repository managers.

Interoperability and Standardisation

- Standardisation for harvesting
- Standardisation and interoperability for migration between IRs
- Interoperability with Australian Government SEER reporting system
- Test! Test! Test

ARO : Australian Research Online

- http://research.nla.gov.au/
- Hosted by the National Library of Australia
- Harvests all Aust institutional IRs + others
- Normalizes content
- Emerging as the locus for discussion on standardization

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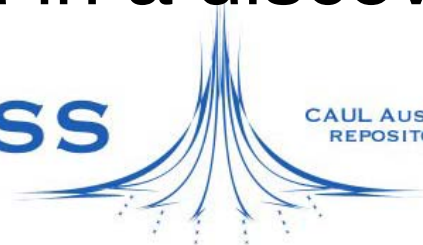
Suggestion #6

Where aggregated views of content are being provided, document and expose any normalization that is required for data.

Provide 'sandpit' or test services where IR managers can see how their metadata will look when viewed in a discovery service.

Suggestion #7

New software is needed that can:

a) More easily handle multiple metadata schemas and ontologies.

b) Allow IR managers to create conformant views of data for different communities/federations.

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Suggestions for regional cooperation

1. Consider hosting
2. Consider migration
3. Governments can help
4. Collaborate regardless of s/w choice
5. Provide mediated forums
6. Be as transparent as possible
7. Enhanced software required

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For further details on CAIRSS
 please see:

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