



Creating an eResearch Desktop for the Humanities

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Office of Fair Trading Notice

- This presentation is live – no lip syncing is used
 - This will affect the complexity of the presenter's dance performance
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Project Overview

- University of Southern Queensland (USQ) project
 - The Australian Digital Futures Institute (ADFI)
 - Public Memory Research Centre (PMRC)
 - Goals:
 - Develop software that assists researchers to:
 - Collect and manage digital resources
 - Work within their various communities
 - Curate and distribute outputs
 - Avoiding
 - A monolithic solution that provides all application services - too big, too many tools
-

They'll come looking for you....



- Researcher: Leonie Jones
 - Battle of Fire Support Base Coral
 - Started May 12, 1968
 - Largest battle fought by Australian troops in Vietnam
 - Lasted 26 days
 - Cost more Australian lives than Long Tan
 - Primary question:
 - Did the official history give the whole story?
 - The politics of commemoration:
 - Why is this battle not well know?
-

They'll come looking for you....

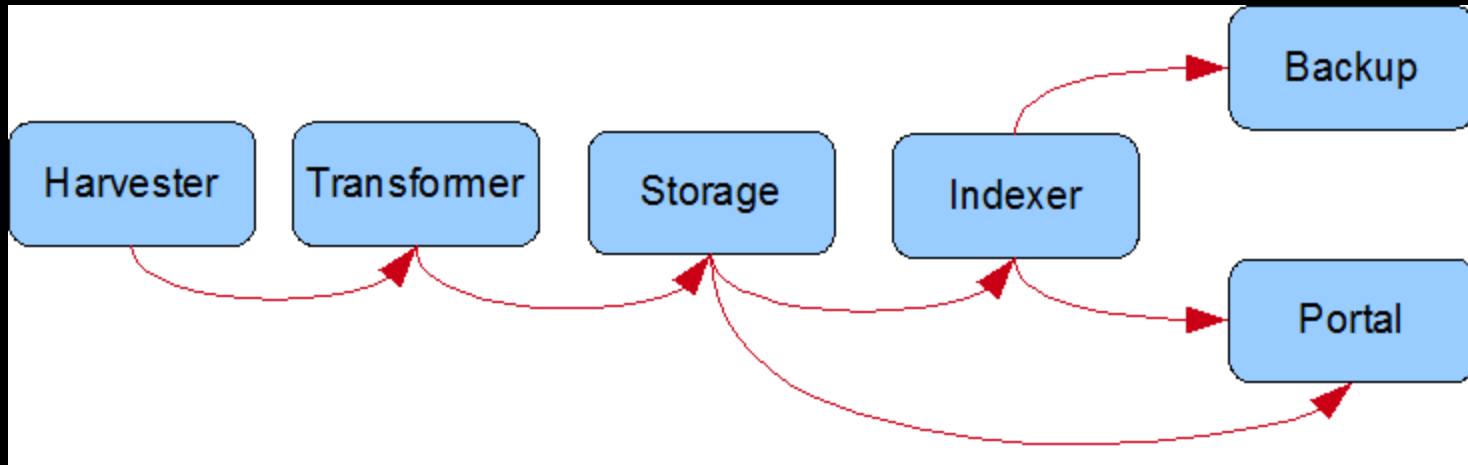
- Oral history project
 - Data collection:
 - Formal and informal interviews
 - Australian and Vietnamese veterans
 - Official records
 - Diaries and letters
 - Photos, music and video
 - Realia: Boots, tags, etc
 - This sort of project is more than data
 - Strong community of veterans that have supported the project and want their stories told
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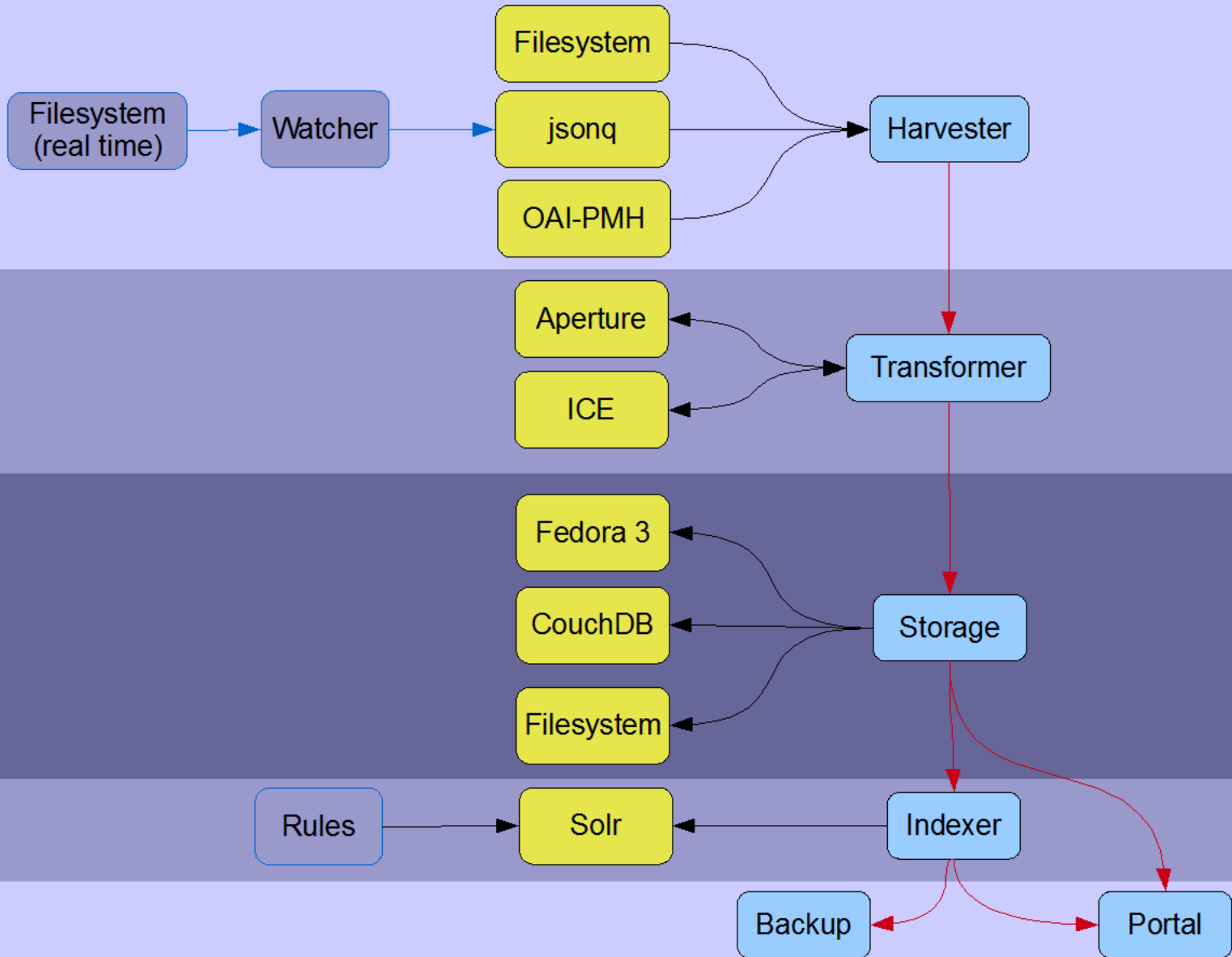
They'll come looking for you....

- Data stats:
 - ~30Gig
 - ~1500 files (and growing)
 - Large amount of the research data already collected
 - Provides a more stable early development environment
 - Still some big questions:
 - How do we transition to a public collection?
 - How do we enable communities to contribute to research:
 - Researcher, supervisors, participants, public
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The Fascinator

- The central idea is to provide a web view of data from disparate sources from the moment data are created
 - the web becomes a natural way to work with data from the very start, rather than a deposit challenge at the end of a project.





Step 1. Harvest data from a range of sources

- Harvesters:
 - Collect data from various sources (local/networked)
 - Filesystem
 - “Live”
 - Polling
 - RSS/Atom feeds (in development)
 - OAI-PMH
- Future possibilities:
 - Websites
 - Zotero



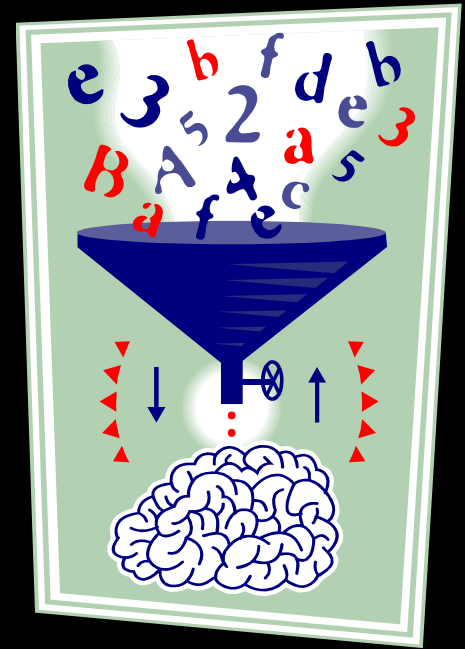
Step 2. Extract the metadata, apply conversions and store

- Metadata is extracted from a range of file formats
 - ICE
 - Aperture
 - Metadata is stored as RDF
- Web-ready conversions
 - ICE converts various formats to web formats
- Storage layer:
 - Now: Local filesystem
 - Later: Fedora and CouchDB



Step 3. User interfaces for eResearchers

- Current functionality:
 - Search
 - Limit through facets
 - Tag
 - Free tagging now
 - Taxonomy tagging soon
 - File viewing
 - In browser as much as possible
 - Create views
 - Saved searches



Step 3. User interfaces for eResearchers

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'The Fascinator' application. The browser's address bar shows 'Done' and the Zotero logo. The application has a dark grey header with the title 'The Fascinator' and navigation links 'Home' and 'Views'. A search bar in the top right shows 'View: Everything'. Below the header, the main content area is titled 'Everything'. On the left, there is an 'ACTIONS' sidebar with a 'Browse all' button. The main content area features a 'SEARCH' section with a search input field and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it states 'There are currently 1063 items available'. To the right of the search section is a 'MOST POPULAR' section, which is currently empty. Below the search section is a 'LATEST ADDITIONS' section containing a numbered list of 10 items:

- 1. Alan 1.mpg
- 2. Alan 2.mpg
- 3. Alan 3.mpg
- 4. Alan 8mm.mpg
- 5. Letter.mpg
- 6. coralm120568.jpg
- 7. gun268002.jpg
- 8. gun68001.jpg
- 9. maryletter1.jpg
- 10. maryletter2.jpg

The browser window also shows a vertical scrollbar on the right side.

The Fascinator

Home Views

View: Everything

Search

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 Next Last

FILE PATH

- ▲ C: (1063)
 - ▶ Data (1063)

SOURCE

Local Files (1063)

CREATOR

- Ramzilla (26)
- Susan Maddock (7)
- Denis Hare (4)
- Keith (2)
- Robert Monkcom (2)
- Duncan Dickinson (1)
- Leonie Hunter (1)
- RMC Duntroon (1)
- Zorak (1)
- administrator (1)

FORMAT

- image/jpeg (929)
- application/vnd.ms-word (21)

RESULTS

SHOWING 1 TO 10 OF 1063 ITEMS (0.0 SECONDS)

Tracer.doc

Tags:

Doc2.doc

Tags:

12 FR List of names.doc

Tags:

12 FR List of names.doc AA NOMINAL ROLL Operation TOAN THANGFire Support Base Coral/Coogee/Balmor...

12 FR List of names.doc

Tags:

12 FR List of names.doc AA NOMINAL ROLL Operation TOAN THANGFire Support Base Coral/Coogee/Balmor...



The Fascinator

Home Views

View: Everything



Search

1 2 Next Last

ACTIONS

Create view...

Clear selection

FILE PATH

▲ C: (20)

▲ Data (20)

▶ Alan Parr (20)

SOURCE

Local Files (20)

FORMAT

image/jpeg (15)

video/mpeg (5)

RESULTS

SHOWING 1 TO 10 OF 20 ITEMS (0.0 SECONDS)

Alan 1.mpg

Tags:

Alan 2.mpg

Tags:

Alan 3.mpg

Tags:



The Fascinator

Home Views

View: Everything

Search

1 2 Next Last

ACTIONS

Create view...

Clear selection

FILE PATH

▲ C: (20)

▲ Data (20)

▶ Alan Parr (20)

SOURCE

Local Files (20)

FORMAT

image/jpeg (15)

video/mpeg (5)

CREATE VIEW

View

Identifier

Name

Create

Cancel

RESULTS

SHOWING 1 TO 10 OF 20 ITEMS (0.0 SECONDS)

Alan 1.mpg

Tags:

The Fascinator

Home Views

Letter.mpg

ACTIONS

Open file

METADATA

Title

Letter.mpg

Format

video/mpeg

ATTACHMENTS



PREVIEW

Letter from Alan "Jack" Parr to Mary.

20th May 1968

Vietnam

Read by Lachlan Kann

00:03 / 04:34

The Fascinator

Home Views

coralmap120568.jpg

ACTIONS

Open file

METADATA

Title

coralmap120568.jpg

Format

image/jpeg

ATTACHMENTS

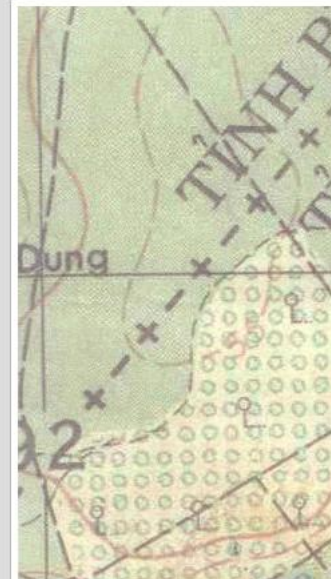
aperture.rdf

coralmap120568.jpg

coralmap120568.thumb.jpg

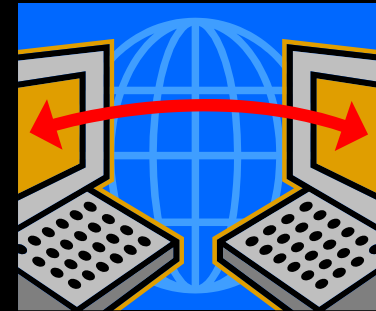
SOF-META

PREVIEW



Step 4. Backup and share the data

- File within views can be backed up to a directory
 - Local or mapped (e.g. ARCS Data Fabric)
- Working to integrate:
 - Repository submission (SWORD)
 - ANDS Identify/Register my Data
- Collaborative repositories
 - From desktop to shared environments
- Public sites



Try it out!

- Working to be as open as possible
 - Open source licence (GPL)
 - Documents to help users/implementers
 - The code
 - Java/Python based
 - Maven makes it easy to check out a project and its dependencies
 - Ticket system to track progress
-

Questions?

- Website: <http://fascinator.usq.edu.au/>
- Google Group: the-fascinator-dev
- Public Memory Research Centre:
<http://www.usq.edu.au/research/centres/pmrc.htm>
- 12th Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association:
<http://12fieldregiment.com/>
- Duncan: duncan.dickinson@usq.edu.au



Integrated
Content
Environment

