



USQ HEADS PROJECT TEAM TO REFINE RESEARCH INFORMATION PROCESSES

BY SUSAN McDONALD

Research in regional universities has been given a \$5 million boost with USQ set to start a two-year project to develop better research infrastructure into digital repositories.

USQ is pooling financial and personnel resources with the University of New England, University of Sunshine Coast, the University of Newcastle, Massey University and sourcing input from the New Zealand Ministry of Education to conduct a Federal Government backed project to develop new processes and tools to create sustainable research infrastructure in regional universities in the areas of e-Research and e-Learning.

This project is one of nine projects to be announced in the second round of funding (known as the Managed Environments for Research Repository Infrastructure or MERRI Projects) which come under the Department of Education, Science and Training's (DEST) Systemic Infrastructure Initiative (SII). This initiative is providing more than \$20 million in funds to upgrade research infrastructure at Australian universities.

Building on the first round of projects (known as the Federated Repositories of Online Digital Objects or FRODO projects), the USQ-led Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively (RUBRIC) project will develop infrastructure and capability across regional and

smaller universities to maximise access to digital research resources.

Director of USQ's Distance and e-Learning Centre (DeC) and Executive of the RUBRIC Project Board, Associate Professor Alan Smith, said the initial work of the current FRODO projects had identified a significant gap in research data access.

"USQ staff in the Distance and e-Learning Centre and the Library have been working on a variety of small projects in this particular 'space' for several years. We saw an opportunity to build on our current experience and extend into other emerging aspects related to the development and maintenance of digital repositories for e-research. The fact that DEST and other colleagues in regional universities in Australia and New Zealand are willing to contribute to, and support USQ's initiative is particularly pleasing," Associate Professor Smith said.

USQ Vice-Chancellor Bill Lovegrove is also delighted to see USQ be successful in its bid for Federal research infrastructure funds.

"This grant recognises the importance of regional universities' ongoing and significant contribution to research and the Minister is to be congratulated for supporting the RUBRIC Project bid," Professor Lovegrove said.

The aim of the project is to take on the best practice developed from the existing FRODO

projects and develop similar institutional repositories in thirteen other universities in both Australia and New Zealand.

RUBRIC will provide a means for the institutions to work in a structured framework using the latest tools, to act collectively and to develop the expertise that will be necessary to respond to emerging needs of the Research Quality and Accessibility Frameworks across universities. It will also develop a set of support services to sustain the collaborative development of distributed research information networks across regional universities.

The RUBRIC Project will take two years to complete and will involve staff from diverse areas of expertise including technical standards experts, information technology officers, metadata specialists and research active academics from a variety of disciplines.

L to R: Ms Deidre Lowe – RUBRIC Proj Manager; Mr Gordon Suddaby – Director, Training & Development Unit Massey University N.Z.; Dr Peter Sefton (at rear) – RUBRIC Technical Manager; Mr Gerrit Bahlman – Director of I.T. & Organisational Development Massey University N.Z.; Assoc Prof Alan Smith – RUBRIC Project Director; Mr John Redmayne – University Librarian Massey University N.Z.; Ms Kerry Blinco – E-framework Manager RUBRIC Project.



CONTENTS:

USQ heads project team to refine research information processes	<i>cover page</i>
Education community takes shape: Coalition launch	<i>page 2</i>
Wide Bay project adopts local high school	<i>page 3</i>
University farewells talented technician	<i>page 4</i>
University gives charities a hand	<i>page 5</i>
Academy showcases upcoming musical talent	<i>page 6</i>
Soapbox	<i>page 7</i>
Unitrader	<i>page 8</i>
Newsmakers	<i>page 8</i>
Coming Events	<i>page 9</i>
In Retrospect	<i>page 10</i>

BY CONNIE-LOUISE ALEXANDER
PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH COULTON



ABOVE: Vice Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove meets grade 11 St Saviour's College student, Molly Whitnall.

EDUCATION COMMUNITY TAKES SHAPE: COALITION LAUNCH

Darling Downs education providers are working together to improve the future of young people in the region

Toowoomba education providers certainly conveyed the message of solidarity and cooperation during the successful community launch of the Toowoomba Education Coalition (TEC).

Downs tertiary education institutions and schools joined forces with the Toowoomba City Council to launch the education cooperative earlier this month in the Council Chambers on USQ's Toowoomba Campus.

USQ Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove signed an official agreement along with representatives from local schools and the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, which cemented the relationship that has formed between the institutions.

The TEC is an initiative that aims to increase the quality of education provided on the Downs through a local education partnership.

Through the work of the coalition, students will be able to access a greater pool of resources and face fewer challenges when choosing post compulsory study.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Regional Engagement and Social Justice) and Dean of the Faculty of Education Professor Frank Crowther said the coalition is an Australian first. The TEC is the only initiative nationally that brings together all education providers in a formal agreement.

"The establishment of the TEC is an integral step in the evolution of Toowoomba as Australia's leading education community. The TEC brings together all of the education institutions in Toowoomba in a way that we believe is unique in this country," he said.

"Our students in their various schools have many opportunities to compete with each other but too few to learn from each other and work collaboratively as a community. The TEC launch symbolises an exciting new beginning across our educational institutions in that regard," Professor Crowther said.



WIDE BAY PROJECT ADOPTS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

ABOVE: Associate Lecturer in Accounting Penny Richards, Urangan State High School's Student Services representative Glenice Kingston and Senior Lecturer in Education John McMaster.

BY STEPHANIE FITZPATRICK
PHOTOGRAPH BY LAURETTA WRIGHT

USQ's Wide Bay campus is involved in an initiative to encourage more local high school students to continue their education after completing year twelve.

Under the Bay Project initiative, created by Urangan State High School (USHS), USQ lecturers from across different faculties will talk to the school's students each week about different career options.

USQ staff have allocated a few hours to talk to students, teachers and parents enabling students to access lecturers or advisors without appointment to discuss career paths and other options.

The school started the initiative as a pilot program after noticing students felt intimidated approaching officials and because there is a lack of transport in region.

The Bay Project operates as a co-location of community and government agencies within the Student Services Centre at USHS.

Through the initiative USQ staff address any education issues at the actual school and encourage parents to come and talk to officials about career goals with their child.

Community agencies, like Centrelink, will also be available to assist students and parents with any queries.

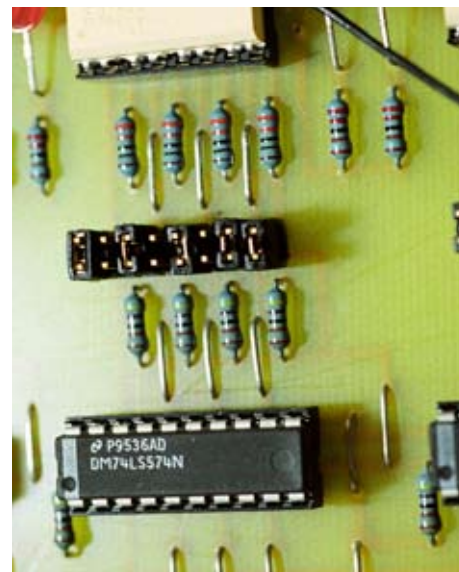
Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies, Laretta Wright, said she hopes to move this concept across other high schools in Urangan.

"Our first step is working with the high school to try and persuade secondary students to pursue higher education and consider putting USQ as their first preference," Mrs Wright said.

She said it was one way that USQ is connecting with students when they come to lodge their QTAC applications and that the project also worked towards building relationships between students and the community.

The project has the potential to assist USQ staff to continue their education too, through the development of postgraduate opportunities for those interested in becoming a part of the education initiative.

If the Bay Project is successful it will be rolled out by Alternative Education Coordinator at USHS Bruce Kingston to other schools in Hervey Bay.



ABOVE: Keith Hoffman recently retired after 36 years at USQ.

UNIVERSITY FAREWELLS TALENTED TECHNICIAN

BY STEPHANIE FITZPATRICK
PHOTOGRAPH BY LIZA MATTIAZZI

After 36 years of watching technology change and the University expand its campuses Technical Services Manager Keith Hoffman is moving on.

During his time at USQ Keith helped to advance the University's profile by integrating slide and overhead projectors into the University syllabus.

Keith said he had enjoyed most things, like seeing how technology changed from slideshows and to the construction of the Allison Dickson Lecture Theatre.

It was while working on the Theatre that Mr Hoffman remembers how fond he was of the friendships he made with staff and students.

"In the early years I had immense interaction with students because the campus was obviously smaller," Keith said.

"I built some really solid friendships and even attended some of the students' weddings."

He said while the old-fashioned familiarity may be gone, the memories have not.

A farewell function for Keith was hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove in the Vice Chancellor's conference room and attended by many of the people he has worked with.

He will continue his work on the Wide Bay and Springfield campuses before he officially retires to begin his travelling days.

Farewell and Good Luck!

BY CONNIE-LOUISE ALEXANDER
PHOTO SUPPLIED BY RED CROSS



UNIVERSITY GIVES CHARITIES A HAND

ABOVE: Assistant to Red Cross CEO Catherine Jeffkins has received an AGSB scholarship and will complete a Certificate in Business Administration free of charge thanks to the USQ initiative.

Charities make a huge contribution to the community and in return have recently been handed a little charity of their own from USQ.

Through a Faculty of Business scholarship initiative employees from Australian not-for-profit organisations will be able to complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Management, free of charge.

In December USQ invited Australian not-for-profit organisations to nominate employees for a scholarship through the Australian Graduate School of Business (AGSB).

Director of the AGSB Professor Ronel Erwee said USQ offered the scholarships to not-for-profit organisations because the University appreciates the contribution charities make to the community.

"We have a high regard for not-for-profit organisations' vision and mission and sincerely appreciate their significant contribution to the community," Professor Erwee said.

"The Faculty of Business is proud to offer this opportunity to these employees who serve diverse communities."

The scholarship recipients hail from well known organisations such as The Red Cross; Oxfam; Life Line and The Salvation Army. Scholarships have been awarded to 28 candidates, 18 of these were awarded to women applicants.

USQ will run the program again during Semester three. Selected not-for-profit organisations will again be invited to take advantage of fully funded scholarships.



ACADEMY SHOWCASES UPCOMING MUSICAL TALENT

LEFT: USQ's Junior Academy of Music hope to play at a Finnish String Festival next year.

BY STEPHANIE FITZPATRICK
PHOTOGRAPH BY LIZA MATTIAZZI

A generous donation by a local violin maker will help USQ's Junior Academy of Music (JAM) showcase their talents at a Finnish String Festival next year.

The \$18,000 violin was donated by highly acclaimed violin maker Ian Clarke for a raffle to raise funds so that the students of the JAM can attend the Prima Nota Festival from 3-5 February in 2006.

The Academy was invited to attend the Festival by the Kuhmo Music Institute and Finnish directors Geza and Czaba Szilvay.

The students will all be involved in tutorials, rehearsals and concerts with other talented musicians.

The Principal of the Music Institute in Kuhmo said he will cover the JAM's tuition costs, accommodation and food during their stay, however they still need to raise some funds to cover the airfares.

USQ Faculty of Arts Music Director Celia Egerton said while it was a wonderful experience they did not want to place undue financial pressure on parents.

"It was never a question of not wanting to do it but we had to consider the significant costs that would be involved," she said.

Mrs Egerton said it was exciting to see the academy participating in such an event.

"We were always wanting to do something like this and it has been made possible by such a generous donation," she said.

In addition to the support from Mr Clarke the Academy has also received further donations.

Simmers Violin Shop donated an W F Hirst Violin valued at \$1150 to be offered as second prize in the raffle and A R Irwin Violins donated an Articul Wood-finish Carbon-fibre Violin Bow valued at \$895 for third prize.

Tickets are \$5 each and are available from Mrs Egerton on 07 4636 1221.

soap box

IS EDWARD E GOLD ROLLING IN HIS GRAVE WITH ALL THIS "NOISE"?

*Oh how the wireless
has changed...*

BY JASON MYATT
SENIOR AUDIO PRODUCTION OFFICER

From the days of the family sitting around the HMV wireless set for their fix of daily entertainment, to today's "wham bam thankyou mam" radio banter. Times have really changed. Don't be mislead, I'm not *that* old, I'm not a complete stick in the mud...but I do remember the days of good old *entertainment*.

Let me also qualify this, there are a few different types of radio listeners – those who listen to our National Broadcaster, the community radio listener and the commercial radio listener. Statistics show that a majority of the population falls into the last category, and this is what I speak of ...Commercial Radio. When I started work in the radio industry 18 years ago, radio was a different animal. It was fun! It was there for the listeners – not just the shareholders. We didn't YELL at our listeners, we spoke to them one on one, it was a personal medium. We timed out to the news on the hour, music selection was done with the help of a colour coded circle on the wall, and we talked about local issues. Listeners used to really take an ownership of a radio station and it's personalities. I remember a colleague say on air one day, he and his family were going to be having a picnic in a certain park, and hundreds of listeners showed up to join them! Recently, one of our local

commercial radio stations celebrated 80 years of broadcasting, but it seems they didn't feel it was worth celebrating, I only noticed a brief mention. Edward E Gold started Queensland's FIRST Commercial Broadcaster, 80 years ago this month. If only we could congratulate them.

Yes, times and technologies change, that's fine, but when you take away that human touch, you may as well just load up the Ipod. Hmmm what a great idea!

Soapbox (noun)

1. *box for soap*
a box in which soap is packed
2. *platform for speaking*
Something, such as a wooden box, used as a platform for making an impromptu speech

We're not giving you the chance to win a box of soap but we are challenging you to come up with a topic that you'd like to talk about on the USQ virtual soapbox to convey your views and potentially spark water cooler debate. Email your proposed Soapbox idea to Fiona Taylor and we'll get back to you with a deadline and any feedback for you to supply a comment piece that's a maximum of 300 words.

UNITRADER:

BORDER COLLIE PUPS (10 weeks old) – 6 gorgeous male pups with excellent black and white markings, CCCQ registered with papers, vet-checked, vaccinated, wormed, \$250 ono. Ph: 54661308 a/h or x2457

BULLBAR – to fit Holden Commodore (VU or VX). Excellent condition, with spotlights, \$450. Ph: x2103 or 0407 111 336

TOYOTA CELICA – 1982, reliable, clean and cheap to run. Roadworthy certificate. \$1,700 ono. Ph: 4631 1553 or 0404 010 396 a/h

PERSONAL TRAINER – Are you looking for a trainer who will come to your home? I specialise in one-on-one fitness individualised to your goals. Small groups of 2, 3 or 4. Ph: Helen 0408 079 564 or 46 966 322 a/h

ROOM FOR RENT – share a cosy 2 bedroom unit close to town (west side). Female preferred. Rent negotiable. Ph: 0404 019 640 (Not there on weekends)

WANTED: LAPTOP – computer to donate to the St Vincent's Hospital Children's Ward for the children to use, especially the ones

that are bedridden. Wanted for playing DVD movies and DVD games. Ph: Tess on x1629

3 BRM/ENSUITE UNIT: Modern brick duplex close to USQ featuring 3 B/I bedrooms (main with walk thru robe to ensuite – shower only), kitchen with dishwasher and electric cooking facilities, tiled lounge/dining combined with reverse cycle air conditioning, main bathroom with shower and spa bath, separate large laundry, heaps of storage, full security – screens and windows, remote LUG, electric HWS, large paved outdoor entertainment area, fully fenced courtyard and safety switch. Ph: x2278 b/h or 0414 865 507 a/h

NEWSMAKERS:

Aidan Burke, Head of the Mass Communications Department was quoted in *The Chronicle* as part of an expert panel commenting on the council's public relations practices in relation to the water recycling plan.

Dr Brad Carter, Senior Lecturer in Physics was quoted in the *Daily News* dismissing the claim that the planet Mars would be closer to the earth during its recent orbit than it had in previous orbits.

Penny De Byl, Senior Lecturer in Computing was quoted in *The Australian* about USQ's new degree in computer games design

Professor Gerard Van Erp, Executive Director of Fibre Composites Design & Development (FCDD) was quoted in the *Business Acumen Queensland* regarding the development of fibre composites at the FCDD.

Gary Ingram, Campus electrician was quoted in *The Chronicle* regarding the assistance he received from a St Johns Ambulance volunteer.

Deidre Lowe, RUBRIC Project Manager appeared on WINTV in relation to the federal government funding for a research base (RUBRIC).

Dr Rabi Misra, research fellow Faculty of Engineering was interviewed by *The Chronicle* as part of an expert panel commenting on the water recycling issue.

Professor Catherine O'Sullivan, Regional Service Delivery was quoted in the *Stanthorpe Border Post* about women leading in rural industries and the DPI & F launch.

Sandy Pottinger, Lecturer in Visual Arts had her regular column *Around the Galleries* published in *The Chronicle*.

Associate Professor Alan Smith, Acting University Librarian and Director, Distance and e-Learning Centre, was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland regarding the funding the university received from the Federal Government to help create a digital research base (RUBRIC). He also appeared on WINTV in relation to this issue.

Dr Ernest Yoong, Senior Lecturer in Public Health Engineering was quoted in *The Chronicle* as part of a panel of expert opinions regarding the recycling water issue.

COMING EVENTS:

VISIONS FROM THE SOUTH AND CAPITAL TEXTILES

DATE: Wednesday 31 August – Sunday 2 October
VENUE: USQ Arts Gallery
Exhibition exchange with students from the Australian National University, Canberra and USQ featuring textile and ceramic artworks
PHONE: USQ Curator 07 4631 1119

CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS

DATE: Friday 16 – Sunday 25 September
Check out USQ's parade entry float themed "Food for Thought" below
WEB: www.toowoombacarnivalofflowers.com.au

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEDAGOGIES AND LEARNING: MEANINGS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

DATE: Sunday 18 – Tuesday 20 September
VENUE: USQ, Toowoomba Campus, West Street
PHONE: Shirley O'Neill 07 4631 2604 or oneills@usq.edu.au
WEB: www.usq.edu.au/pedagogies2005

THE PROPHECY CODE SEMINAR

DATE: Until 12 October
VENUE: Room R113, USQ Toowoomba
An independently-run event revealing future world events
WEB: www.bwis.net/prophecycode

CAROUSEL

DATE: 5, 7, 8, 12, 14 & 15 October 7.30pm
9 & 16 October 3pm
VENUE: USQ Concert Hall
From the magical impression of the carousel in the overture, to the tender strains of *You'll Never Walk Alone* and *If I Loved You*, this timeless musical will be brought to soul-stirring life by the USQ Opera Studio and USQ Orchestra.
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

BLACK BOX SHAKESPEARE

DATE: 17 & 18 October 11am
19-22 October 7.30pm
VENUE: USQ Arts Theatre
Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, cousins and even dynasties take the stage in a selection of Shakespearean scenes ranging from tragedy to comedy to history.
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

THEATRE SHOWCASE

DATE: 27 & 28 October 7.30pm
VENUE: USQ Arts Theatre
Appearing together for one last time at USQ, are the graduating actors who brought you *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Three Sisters* in a fast-paced selection of contemporary stage scenes interspersed with screen-scenes.
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

WINGS, STRINGS N MAGIC THINGS

DATE: Sunday 30 October 3pm
VENUE: USQ Arts Theatre
USQ's Junior Academy of Music (JAM) takes a fanciful adventure to far away places in search of all the elements needed to make and play a violin. Vocal and instrumental solos, duets and ensembles, movement and text combine to make this an experience for children of all ages as well as the inner child in adults.
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

To fill this space email **Fiona Taylor**: taylorf@usq.edu.au



in RETROSPECT



THE WAY THINGS WERE: The Student Administration Building, B Block. Where is the Engineering and Surveying building and the Ivy on B Block?

Here's a blast from the past thanks to USQ Photography's archives.

The Communications team will be running a new photo every edition to highlight how the University have changed over the years.

UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND – <http://www.usq.edu.au/newsevents>

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