

Panel Session 3: International Collaboration in e-Social Science

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Presentation to First International Conference on e-Social Science, 22-24
June 2005, Manchester UK

- Government support for e-Social Science in Australia
 - Australian Research Council (ARC) Special Research Initiative (e-Research Support)
 - Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) e-Research Strategic Framework - Discussion Paper
 - “Creating and developing international linkages is vital to the success of Australia's e-Research effort” (p. 17)
 - Q28 - What strategies does Australia need to adopt for participation in international e-research efforts?

- International e-SS collaboration can focus on
 - Grid technology
 - e.g. application of UK-developed e-research tools/technologies by Australian social scientists
 - social science research using Grid technology
 - e.g. cross-country (Australia, UK, US) comparative study of use of the internet by new social movements
- Obstacles to international collaboration
 - What are the incentives for individual researchers?
 - No tradition of tool development in social sciences - hard to get proper academic recognition
 - Intellectual property issues - who owns the code?
 - Multidisciplinary research is difficult - international element makes even more difficult

- Possible solution?
 - Look to the success of the Open Source Software Movement
 - data
 - software
 - Start with relatively modest goals with clear deliverables