Presenters: Dr Kerry Taylor, Donald Hobern, and Basil Dewhurst

Facilitator: Dr Paul Arthur

The thick, descriptive data of humanities research and the strict categorization of digital databases are not natural partners. Current developments in data representation are breaking down these barriers. This forum discusses the theory and practice of flexible digital search techniques.

Kerry Taylor will discuss the largest knowledge representation project ever attempted, the Semantic Web, which uses data representations that have a heritage in natural language processing. These make data accessible in many different ways, avoiding the rigid structure of the traditional database. Kerry is a principal research scientist in CSIRO and teaches on the Semantic Web in FEIT, ANU.

Donald Hobern will talk about the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), a government funded initiative to integrate information on Australian biodiversity. The ALA exemplifies the way new data representations can bring diverse sources of information together – from herbaria, to literature, to observations from the public. Donald is the inaugural Director of the Atlas of Living Australia.

Basil Dewhurst will use examples from the National Library of Australia’s Trove People and Organisations program and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) to discuss the creation, maintenance and sharing of data to support research. Basil is the Project Manager for the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) Party Infrastructure Project at the National Library of Australia.

All Welcome
Convenors: Mary Hutchison and Alison Wain

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