Annual Report 2010

AUSTRALIAN
ACCESS FEDERATION

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Executive Committee

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AAF Staff

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Australian Government

**Department of Innovation
Industry, Science and Research**

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This is the second Annual Report of the Australian Access Federation covering the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

Paul Sherlock, President, Australian Access Federation

President's Report

This is the second Annual Report of the Australian Access Federation (AAF) Inc.

I take great pleasure in being able to report that the AAF has made significant progress during 2010 and is now firmly established as a fundamental part of the Australian eResearch infrastructure landscape in Australia.

Perhaps the most important achievement in 2010 was the development and communication of a subscription model for the AAF. The subscription model, which will apply from 1 January 2011 will ensure that the Federation has a sustainable financial future. Given the increasing reliance the sector has on the Federation, this is a critical step in the evolution of the AAF from a "funded project" to an "enduring service" for all researchers.

Under the leadership of Heath Marks, the AAF staff have again contributed their expertise and commitment to the success of the AAF during a year of great progress and change. On behalf of the entire Executive Committee I thank them for their hard work.

The development of the Federation would not have been possible without the substantial financial support of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and the support of QUT in managing the grant from DIISR on behalf of the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT). I would particularly like to thank Clare McLaughlin and Kate Hurford from DIISR, for their ongoing support and Richard Northam and his CAUDIT staff for their assistance with the running of AAF Inc.

I would also like to sincerely thank all of the Members of the Executive Committee for their commitment, advice and guidance over the past 12 months.

The development of the Australian Access Federation has been a tremendously collaborative and successful endeavour underpinned by the ongoing commitment and support from the members of CAUDIT. Without this support, as both identity and service providers, the Federation would not be where it is today.
I look forward to the continued success of the AAF in 2011.

Paul Sherlock
President, Australian Access Federation Inc.

Executive Committee

The Australian Access Federation Inc. is governed by an Executive Committee. The 2010 Executive Committee was appointed at the AAF Annual General Meeting to replace the Interim Executive Committee. The Members of the Executive Committee are:

Mr Paul Sherlock
President

Paul has been Director of Information Strategy and Technology Services at the University of South Australia (UniSA) for the past nine years. Prior to joining the University, Paul held senior ICT management roles at the Defence Science & Technology Organisation (Adelaide) and BHP Billiton (Whyalla). Paul has been President of CAUDIT since April 2010 and is the author of the complexity index which is used to help make meaningful comparisons of benchmarking data across the Australia and New Zealand Higher Education sector. Paul has been Director and Chair of SABRENet Ltd since its formation in September 2006. He is a Member of the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) Steering Committee, the AARNet Advisory Committee, and the NeCTAR Project Board, and is also the UniSA Project Delegate for the $37M National Research Network Project. Paul has formal qualifications in Engineering (Electrical), Computing, Business (MBA), and Finance and is a chartered professional member of the Institution of Engineers and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr David Toll
Vice President

David has worked with CSIRO for 8 years where he is Chief Information Officer with responsibility for IT, eResearch and library functions. Previously David held the positions of Chief Financial Officer and General Manager, Finance. David is a member of the VERNET Board and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) Steering Committee and is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA).

Mr Marc Bailey
Treasurer

Marc is an experienced information technology professional with a strong background in theoretical and applied software engineering. Marc's career has been broad and international, including roles in the healthcare, defence, financial, mining and telecommunications sectors. Freshly patriated to the Higher Education sector as Chief Information Officer at Macquarie University, Marc brings a range of vendor and private enterprise experience to this position. Marc has won various accolades for innovation during his career, including: the 2008 Sir Rupert Hamer Award for Advancements in Record-keeping across Victoria for design and delivery of the first VERS2 compliant electronic content management software technology and 2009 election to the Executive Committee of the EU Forum developing the European Model Requirements for the Management of Electronic Records.

Mr Bruce Callow
Secretary

Bruce is the Director of Information and Communication Technology Services for Griffith University, a position he has occupied since January 2009. Previous to this, Bruce was the Associate Director of Enterprise Information Systems for Griffith. During this period he was on the Board of Directors for the global Higher Education Users Group and Chair of the ANZ Higher Education Users Group. Bruce has been an IT professional for over 30 years and his varied background includes 14 years as an Army Officer in various IT related roles, a number of years as an IT Manager in large Local Government Authorities and as a business manager with AWA Computers.

Mr Richard Northam
Public Officer

Richard is the General Manager of CAUDIT. Richard has more than 20 years experience in the ICT industry and has worked in the Private, Commonwealth Government and Higher Education Sectors in Australia. Throughout his career, Richard has taken a strategic leadership role in shaping and enhancing the role of Information Technology within various organisations. More recently he has played a key national and international leadership role in enhancing research through the use of new methodologies and development of eResearch infrastructure that are enabled by Information Technology. Richard recently co-authored an article in EDUCAUSE Review on "Cloud Computing and the Power to Choose" and sits on the board of EDUCAUSE which is a US based association which represents the best thinking in higher education IT. Richard holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics) and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Ordinary Members

Mr Matthew Cocker	University of Auckland
Mr Jeremy Du Ve	Monash University
Mr John Parry	University of Tasmania
Mr Garry Trinder	Edith Cowan University
Professor Anthony Williams	Australian Research Collaboration Service

Co-Opted Non-Voting Members

From October 2010

Ms Kate Hurford	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Prior to October 2010

Dr Rhys Francis	Australian eResearch Infrastructure Council
Ms Clare McLaughlin	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
Mr James Sankar	Australian Academic and Research Network
Mr Thien Tran	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
Mr Stephen Whiteside	University of Auckland

AAF Staff

The AAF staff are:

Manager AAF	**Mr Heath Marks**
Technical Program Manager	**Mr Terence Smith**
Change and Communication Manager	**Ms Glenys Kranz**
Senior Project Officer	**Mr Steven Beagley**
Policy, Process and Strategy	**Ms Patricia McMillan**
Technical Specialist (Advanced Technical Development)	**Mr Bradley Beddoes**
Technical Support	**Mr Stuart Allen** **Mr Bruc Liong** **Mr Damien Mannix**

AAF Vision Statement

To be the first choice for enabling access to electronic resources for the Australian Higher Education and Research Sector.

"We see the AAF as an enabler for sharing all manner of fragile, dangerous, rare and geographically remote equipment between research organisations.

This is potentially a huge application area and a real driver for collaboration"

Michel De La Villefromoy - Manager,
University of Technology, Sydney
(AAF Mini-grant Recipient: Labshare Project)

2010 In Review

2010

Our past twelve months have been extremely successful. The AAF has continued to experience rapid growth, championed by a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy and strong sector interest.

A snapshot of the last twelve months:

Subscriber Growth

By the end of 2010 the AAF had 53 subscribers including 37 Australian Universities, CSIRO, and four New Zealand Universities. A number of other research organisations had also subscribed to the Federation. The growth in subscribers was underpinned by a number of strategies including free membership in 2010, extension of the 'best endeavours' joining conditions until 31 December 2010, and the provision of increased technical support. These strategies were supported by a targeted marketing and communication plan and a mini-grant scheme to encourage the development of AAF aware services.

Usage

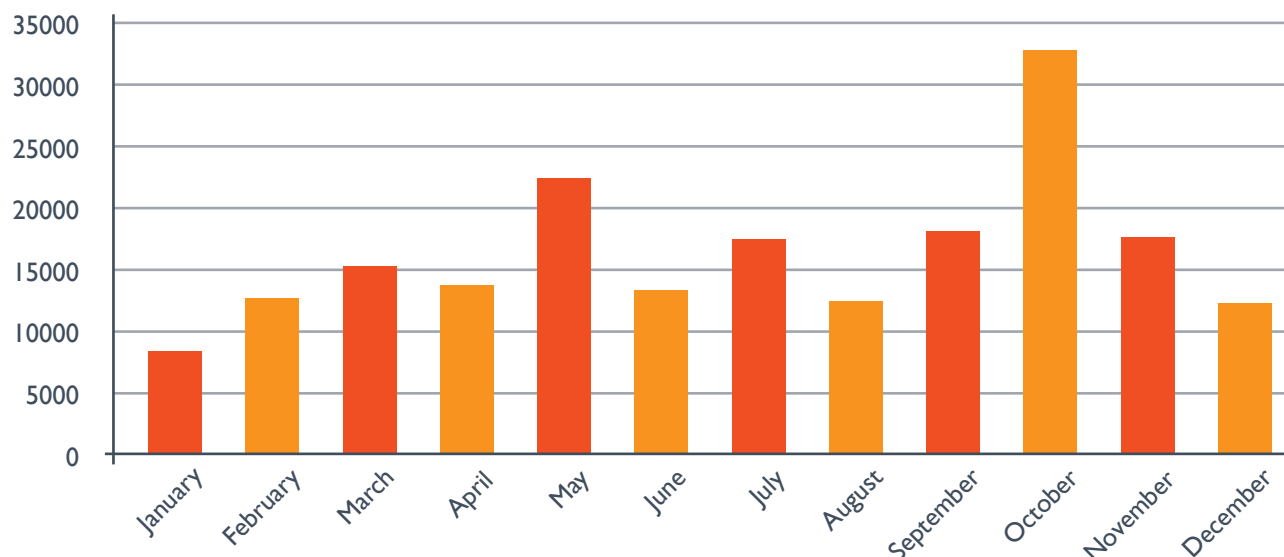Usage of the Federation increased substantially in 2010 as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: *AAF Logins (2010)*

The range of services accessed via the AAF also increased. The Top 10 services accessed via the AAF are shown in Figure 2 below.
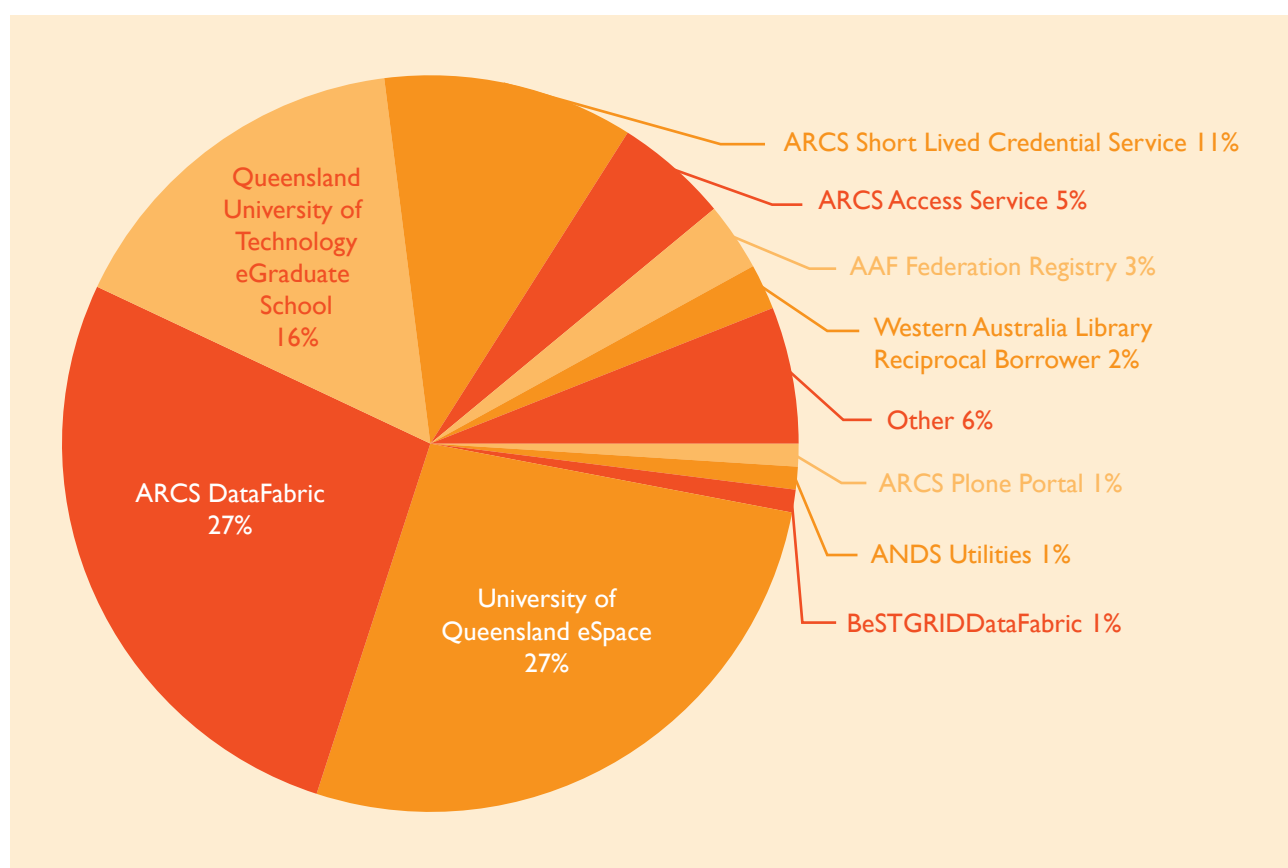

Figure 2: *Top 10 Federated Services*

AAF Subscription Model

Perhaps the most important achievement in 2010 was the development and communication of a subscription model for the AAF. The subscription model, which will apply from 1 January 2011 will ensure that the Federation has a sustainable financial future. Given the increasing reliance the sector has on the Federation, this is a critical step in the evolution of the AAF from a "funded project" to an "enduring service" for all researchers.

In anticipation of the subscription model being applied from 1 January 2011 all fees for 2010 were waived. This was a deliberate strategy to encourage subscriber growth during 2010.

AAF Mini-grant Scheme

The AAF Mini-grant Scheme was continued during 2010 to assist current and potential Service Providers with the deployment of their service through the Federation.

During 2010 five AAF Mini-grants were awarded from Round 3 of the scheme. This brought the total number of AAF mini grants awarded under the scheme to twelve.

Cutting Edge Technical Developments - Federation Registry

During 2010, the AAF developed a new 'Federation Registry ' tool to assist with managing subscribers and the Identity Providers and Services they bring into the Federation. The tool was released in November 2010 and has now been made available to the international community. The new tool has received significant interest from other Federations since its release.

Technical Support

The AAF Technical Support team continued to operate an AAF Support Desk that provided one-on-one support to assist new Subscribers to connect to the AAF and specialised support for existing Subscribers and Mini-grant recipients.

International Engagement

As part of the AAF's strategy for on-going international engagement, staff attended Research and Education FEDerations (REFEDS) meetings in Lithuania and Atlanta in May and October.

The AAF has also joined a number of international Federations in making a small contribution to funding the 2010-2011 REFEDS work plan. This work plan will see the development of a number of strategies to help standardise activities across the international federation community.

The AAF also assisted in the early stages of establishing the New Zealand Federation, Tuakiri.

2010 AAF Subscribers

Institution
Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand)
Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet)
Australian Catholic University
Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
Australian National University
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS)
Bond University
Central Queensland University
Charles Darwin University
Charles Sturt University
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Curtin University
Deakin University
Edith Cowan University
eResearch SA
Flinders University
Griffith University
Intersect Australia Pty Ltd
James Cook University
La Trobe University
Landcare Research (New Zealand)
Lincoln University (New Zealand)
Macquarie University
Monash University
Murdoch University

Institution
Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF)
Queensland University of Technology
RMIT University
Southern Cross University
Swinburne University of Technology
Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing (TPAC)
The Sax Institute
The University of Melbourne
The University of New South Wales
The University of Notre Dame
The University of Sydney
University of Adelaide
University of Auckland (New Zealand)
University of Ballarat
University of Canberra
University of Canterbury (New Zealand)
University of New England
University of Queensland
University of South Australia
University of Southern Queensland
University of the Sunshine Coast
University of Tasmania
University of Technology Sydney
University of Western Australia
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong
Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing (VPAC)

Table 1: *AAF Subscribers as at 31 December 2010*

WHO IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE
AUSTRALIAN
ACCESS FEDERATION

Curtin University
Edith Cowan University
Murdoch University
University of Notre Dame
University of Western Australia

eResearch SA
Flinders University
University of Adelaide
University of South Australia

Charles Darwin University

Deakin University
La Trobe University
Monash University
RMIT University
Swinburne University of Technology
University of Ballarat
University of Melbourne
Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing

Australian National University
University of Canberra

Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing
University of Tasmania

Bond University
Central Queensland University
Griffith University
James Cook University
Queensland University of Technology
University of Queensland
University of Southern Queensland
University of the Sunshine Coast

Charles Sturt University
Macquarie University
Southern Cross University
University of New England
University of New South Wales
University of Sydney
University of Technology Sydney
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong

New Zealand
Auckland University of Technology
Landcare Research
Lincoln University
University of Auckland

Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet)
Australian Catholic University
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Australian Institute of Marine Science
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
Australian Research Collaboration Services (ARCS)

Intersect Australia Ltd
Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF)
The Sax Institute

AAF Mini-grants

A Mini-grant Scheme to stimulate development and deployment of AAF enabled services which commenced in 2009, continued to operate throughout 2010. Grants of up to $40,000 were awarded for projects that had the potential to promote growth of the AAF across the sector and would:

- be likely to be used by subscribers;
- facilitate the AAF uptake by new members;
- be developed and deployed quickly;
- benefit Australian research, teaching and learning effectiveness; and
- involve collaboration and/or can be used more broadly across the research and education community.

Successful Mini-grant applications for Rounds 1 and 2 were listed in the 2009 Annual Report. Of the seven mini-grants awarded from these rounds, the following two projects were completed in 2010:

Organisation Awarded	Project	Grant
CSIRO (completed 30/04/10)	AuScope Grid Portal Project	$37,000
RMIT Publishing (completed 10/09/10)	Informit AAF Integration	$36,000

Round 3 closed on 26 February 2010 and 13 applications were received. The following five mini-grant applications were successful:

Organisation Awarded	Project	Grant
University of Southern Queensland and Automated Patrol Telescopes Australia	telescope-net	$37,500
Flinders University	AusStage	$40,000
University of Technology, Sydney	LabShare	$30,000
University of Queensland	Authenticated Annotation Service for E-Research (AASER)	$39,700
Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS)	Sakai	$9,600

Mini-grants awarded for Rounds 1, 2 and 3 totalled $404,671.

Marketing
and Communication

Comprehensive marketing and communication activities commenced in January 2010 to specifically focus on Federation growth and achieve ongoing sustainability. The key promotional activities undertaken included:

Conferences

The AAF had a presence at the following conferences and key industry meetings over the year:

- APAN29 Conference
- AusCERT Conference
- TERENA Networking Conference (TNC)
- QUESTnet 2010 Conference
- New Zealand eResearch Symposium
- CAUDIT Spring Member's Meeting
- eResearch Australasia Conference 2010
- REFEDS Meeting Lithuania and Atlanta.

Supporting Researchers Roadshows

The following Roadshows were held in capital cities and regional areas throughout the year:

- Melbourne (March)
- Perth (May)
- Adelaide (June)
- University of Southern Queensland (July)
- Canberra (July)
- Sydney and surrounding areas (July)
- University of Newcastle (August)
- University of the Sunshine Coast (August)
- University of Ballarat (September)
- Sydney (October)

The Roadshows proved successful in promoting the benefits of being part of the AAF and demonstrating how the AAF supports research activities. A Supporting Research Engagement Pack was distributed to all Roadshow attendees.

AAF Services Authorisation Workshops

Workshops were held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney to investigate the question of, and options for, authorisation of services connected to the Federation.

AAF Website

The AAF Website continued to be a major source of information on subscriptions, policies and guidelines, technical requirements, services and news items for AAF subscribers.

News Items

In 2010, the AAF released 83 news articles through e-newsletters and the AAF website. The first AAF Newsletter was produced in June and a second edition in November.

The Year Ahead

The 2011 AAF Business Plan outlines five major business activities for the AAF in 2011. A full copy of the business plan can be found at http://www.aaf.edu.au/about/aaf-inc-business-plan/.

1. Financial Sustainability

The AAF will achieve financial sustainability through subscriber growth and service expansion underpinned by a comprehensive marketing and communication plan.

The AAF will be co-funded in 2011 by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and subscription fees.

2. Operational Sustainability

The AAF will provide ongoing support services for subscribers and monitor compliance with the Federation Rules.

3. Organisational Sustainability

The AAF will work with the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) to rationalise the administration and governance activities between AAF Inc. and CAUDIT Inc. to ensure that operating costs and therefore subscriptions for both organisations can be kept to a minimum.

4. Engagement with Government Research Entities

The AAF will continue to engage with research support groups and government research entities.

5. Pilot Co-federation

In conjunction with the New Zealand Federation, the AAF will investigate co-federation activities from a strategy, technical and policy perspective.

Income Statement

The operation of AAF Inc in 2010 was funded by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) as part of a $2,000,000 grant awarded in June 2009. During 2010 the grant continued to be managed by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) on behalf of the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) for Australian Access Federation Inc.

For the year end 2010

	$
REVENUE	
Commonwealth Grants	
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science & Research	
Interest Income	105,469.30
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 105,469.30**
EXPENSES	
Advertising, Marketing & Promotional Expenses	9,875.33
Audit Fees	262.50
Conference and Travel Costs - Australia	29,465.96
Conference and Travel Costs - Overseas	3,729.12
Contributions to External Collaborative Projects	558,454.25
Corporate Memberships	2,640.91
Donations and Sponsorships	3,500.00
Employee Benefits & On Costs	330,525.47
Fringe Benefits Tax	458.28
General Consumables	428.05
Learning and Development Charges	2,050.00
Legal Fees & Costs	2,931.50
Non-Capitalised Equipment	7,066.49
Postage, Freight & Courier	497.24
Printing & Stationery	1,694.72
Rental, Hire & Other Leasing Fees	628.85
Telecommunications	1,776.56
Training Courses	1,729.04
Visiting Academics Travel & Accomodation Costs	978.96
TOTAL EXPENSES	**958,693.23**
PROFIT/(LOSS)	**(853,223.93)**
RETAINED FUNDS	
Opening Retained Funds	
Profit/(Loss)	1,796,759.31
	(853,223.93)
CLOSING RETAINED FUNDS	**$ 943,535.38**