



Australian Government
Department of Education

NDRI for Humanities, Social Sciences and GLAM – Summary

Targeted Discussion Series (September 2024)



Summary

The consultation identified several key considerations and potential investment priorities for digital research infrastructure:

Data Infrastructure: A coordinated network of national research data repositories; not necessarily near HPC facilities; with clear ownership and management, including data lifecycle considerations; funding arrangements to ensure long term viability of the digital assets in contrast to current fragmentary development driven by project-oriented funding.

Digitisation: Invest in digitisation of collections, ensuring they are FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, Ethics) compliant; noting there is separate national research infrastructure (NRI) work on Collections, ensure aligned timeframes for investment.

Methods: Invest to unlock private sector data and to enable reusability and linkage of government held data; use advanced tools and techniques to democratise researcher access to vast unstructured datasets, including cultural heritage and social media data, to allow researchers to develop new research methods and study new research questions; invest in new approaches to handle sensitive data to enable the development of next-generation models and analytics.

Skills: Provide training programs that help researchers recognise and utilise existing resources and possibilities; foster collaboration between software/data engineers and domain experts, potentially with the aid of specialist data brokers.

Practices: Work towards making best practices normative across the research communities.

Overall, rather than a single, all-encompassing facility, the focus should be on developing an interconnected ecology of systems and tools, with emphasis on collaboration, accessibility, and adaptability to various research needs.

If you'd like to provide any additional comments or feedback on the above summary, you're invited to provide these views via the online NDRI Investment Plan Consultation Survey, which can be found on the department's NDRI webpage.