

Invitation to participate in research into ...

Data re-use within the Australian Advanced Membrane Research Cluster

Dear Cluster member:

You are invited to participate in a new study about the use and re-use of data within the Membrane Research Cluster, both that internally created and that derived from external sources. It is being undertaken by three UNSW researchers who have a common interest in data management, Fletcher Cole (Information Systems, Technology & Management), Shane Cox (Chemical Sciences & Engineering), and Maude Frances (Library). The research has the support of the Cluster Management Committee.

Data re-use is a 'hot topic' in the e-research world, but many of the assumptions made are not well based in research of actual practice. This research seeks to come to a better understanding of how data is constituted and represented within a collaboration of members with diverse backgrounds, such as the Cluster, especially where data re-use is involved. Your involvement in the research will provide valuable information.

Your involvement

We wish to gather our evidence by way of general interview, and also by more detailed discussion and observation of work with data.

If you decide to participate, we will initially ask you for an interview in which we will ask you questions about your involvement with the Cluster in general, and more specifically about the data you use, both your own and other researchers. It would be convenient to audio record this interview; otherwise notes will be taken. The interview will probably take 30-40 minutes.

On a separate occasion, we may seek your permission to observe you and your colleagues at your workplace, especially when you are in discussion about data-related matters. In order to record the interaction and any physical activity in sufficient detail for repeated review we will wish to video this discussion. We may also invite you to comment on the interview transcripts and video records, and on our analysis of them.

We plan to report using the normal channels of academic publication. You will be given the opportunity to raise any concerns about the level of disclosure in any publication before it is released.

Please seriously consider contributing to this research. If you wish to participate, or if you have questions, please contact Fletcher Cole.

Fletcher Cole
f.cole@unsw.edu.au
tel: 02-9385-7124