

# Social Networking Technologies and their value in Research

Andrew Alexander<sup>1</sup>, Anders Boman<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ARCS, Brisbane, Australia, Andrew.Alexander@arcs.org.au

<sup>2</sup>ARCS, Brisbane, Australia, Anders.Boman@arcs.org.au

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Open Forum discussion on whether Social Network Technologies have a value in Research
- The primary convener for the workshop is Andrew Alexander
- The workshop will include 10 min presentations on specific tools/technologies.
- A discussion will be had on the technology/products presented and their value
- The workshop will be open to the number of attendees we can take in the room
- Presentations will be limited 5-6 product/technologies.

## DESCRIPTION

There has been a large trend towards internet based Social Network sites in the last few years . Facebook has over 200 million active users, and more then half of those use the site everyday. Sites like LiveJournal have over 20million entries. Given their popularity as a social tool, are Social Networking sites are useful for researchers?

The Australian Research Collaboration Server (ARCS) is currently investigating a number of web based collaboration tools which can be used to help facilitate collaborative research. A recurrent request received by ARCS is for a "FaceBook for Research". ARCS is currently investigating what this means, and how it would be useful.

This BOF will look at the questions of What makes a good social networking site? Would social networking be useful for Researchers? And what functionality would make such a site useful?

## OUTLINE

This Forum will provide a open discussion on the value of certain technologies to deliver benefits for researchers around the social web interface, with the following technologies raised as potential tools/services which ARCS would provide:

1. **Google Wave.**
2. **Collaboration Portals.** (Plone, Sakai)
3. **Live Journal and Dreamwidth**
4. **Other Tools/Technologies TBA**

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This forum is designed to capture the feedback from researchers as to the value and effectiveness of different technologies within the research sector. Researchers and research support staff are encouraged to provide feedback for future product direction within the ARCS collaboration services team.

## WHAT TO BRING

To participate in this workshop, attendees wishing to demonstrate particular technologies should notify the presenters of any technical requirements 1 week before the BOF. Otherwise attendees will not be required to bring anything to participate.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Andrew Alexander**, is the Collaboration Services Manager in the Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS). He has over 17 years of experience in the IT Industry, and has filled a number of roles in both the University sector and Industry. Andrew holds a Masters in Technology and Innovation management from the University of Queensland.

**Anders Boman**, Anders Boman is the Assistant Collaboration Services Manager in the Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS). He has over 22 years of experience in telecommunications and defense industries with applications in high integrity software systems and simulation systems. He has also recently been involved with technology start-up companies associated with the Queensland i.lab program. Anders holds a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering with a major in Computer Science from the University of Lund, Sweden.