Dr Paddy Tobias

About Me

Hi! I am the eResearch Analyst employed by Intersect Australia, based at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. I have been in this role for two years and based at UNE for nine years. I moved to Armidale from Melbourne to undertake a PhD in 2010 in the inter-disciplinary field of peace and conflict studies. My PhD focused on the socio-cultural impacts of democratisation in Timor-Leste.

Read more here…

Experience

eResearch Analyst, Intersect Australia

May 2016-ongoing

I am currently based at UNE in this role, reporting to the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research (DVCR), Prof. Heiko Daniel. Whilst based in the Research Services Directorate, to carry out this role effectively, there is a need to collaboratively with the University Library and the IT Directorate, as well as the faculties.

Through these relationships I have been an active member of a number of UNE's grant-funded research projects, strategic university-wide eResearch initiatives, and researcher training events. I have included a selection below:

Strategic initiatives

- Since August 2016 I have chaired the University's eResearch Committee, a committee sponsored by the DVCR, since August 2016, established to advance the university's eResearch services. In my time as chair, I have overseen the committee's restructure and renewal; reported to the University Research Committee and the DVCR as required; and led the investigation of various university eResearch capabilities.
- Initiating and leading a year-long, university-wide Research Data Management project. This project functioned to build awareness amongst researchers, streamline corporate workflows, advocate for further investment into infrastructure capabilities, and establish and maintain weekly reports on UNE researchers' usage of the institutional cloud storage platform, Cloud.UNE.
- Undertaking a web-scraping and text analysis project to support UNE's preparation for the Research Engagement and Impact assessment, using 2014 submissions to the UK REF Impact assessment.

Research projects

- Providing eResearch support to an ARC Discovery Project in digital musicology run by Dr Jason Stoessel. I also supported the successful application for a successive ARC Discovery grant awarded to Dr Stoessel and his colleague, Dr Denis Collins (UQ). My work in this project has involved leading the ETL of ~5,000 data records from a FileMaker Pro database into an open source online database repository called Muscat using database techniques; scripting bug fixes in Python and SQL; and supporting a constructive relationship between Dr Stoessel and Intersect's Engineering team. A staging version of the Canonic Techniques website is live.
- In 2016-17, I initiated and lead the Ngan'gi Language Collection Enhancement project for A/Prof. Nick Reid, funded by the Australian National Data Service. This including scoping realistic web-based solutions for A/Prof Reid's requirements; managing the execution of the project from start to finish; and coordinating user acceptance testing, content migration and training. A/Prof Reid and I presented the project at the 2017 eResearch Australasia conference.

Education & Training

- I currently coordinate Intersect's training program at UNE, delivering many of the programming and data science courses myself with the help of two on-campus trainers. Over the past two years I have worked to improve researcher guidance on course scheduling and systematised the notification of courses once they have been booked. Earlier this year I also completed the Software Carpentry accreditation. I am currently developing new

courseware for teaching the survey tool, Qualtrics, with input from the Sydney-based Qualtrics team, and research software management.

- I regularly present to researchers and staff on eResearch capabilities, including data and software management techniques, and help researchers in their scripting tasks.
- I currently sit on the organising committee for Sydney ResBaz (3-5 July), primarily to oversee an increase in the representation from regional NSW universities at this year's event. I will also be lead instructor of the *Introductory R* stream at this year's event.

Other experience

- Corporate Communications Officer (2015-2016), *UNE*
- Research Fellow (2014), *Queen's University* (Belfast)
- Lead consultant (2013), Women's Empowerment and Access to Justice project in Timor-Leste for *Search for Common Ground* (Washington)

Education

Ph.D, *Cum laude*. University of New England, 2010-2015

M.DataScience. University of New England, 2018-ongoing

B.IntRelations, *Distinction*. Deakin University, 2007-2009

Skills

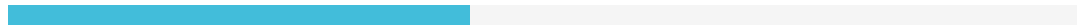My proficiency in selected eResearch tools

R (RStudio)

Python

SQL (SQLite, Postgres and MySQL) and database design

GitHub and version control

Bash, grep, sed

Qualtrics

Selected Publications

[1] Tobias, P. & N Reid, 2017, 'Improving the online profile of the Ngan'gi Language Collection', eResearch Australasia, Brisbane
[2] Reeson, R & P Tobias, 2017, 'Working towards the "end-to-end": Research Data Management Capability Development at UNE', eResearch Australasia, Brisbane

Other academic publications

[1] Tobias, P. 2017, 'Truth and Reconciliation in Timor-Leste: Some reflections ten years on', in Reconciliation in conflict affected communities: Experiences and insights from the Asia-Pacific, Springer.
[2] Tobias, P & B Kovac (eds.), 2016, 'Questioning "peace formation" and "peace infrastructure"', a special edition of papers with The Peace and Conflict Review journal
[3] Tobias, P. 2014, 'Modernisation in Timor Leste: The "Community" at Stake', in The Love of Education: Learning to Live Together, Bangkok: UNESCO, Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development.
[4] Tobias, P 2014, 'Keeping Community: Traditional Culture and Implications for Maintaining Peace in Post-Conflict Society in Aileu, Timor Leste,' in H Ware, B Jenkins, M Branagan & D Subedi (eds), Cultivating Peace: Contexts, Practices and Multidimensional Models, Cambridge Scholar Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne.

[5] Tobias, P, 2012, 'Maintaining a Civic Nation: social cohesion in Timor Leste', M Leach, NC Mendes, AB. da Silva, B Boughton & A da Costa Ximenes (eds.), New Research in Timor Leste, Melbourne: Swinburne Press.

Resumé of Dr Paddy Tobias