

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](#).



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Current Position

eResearch Analyst, Intersect Australia-University of New England

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, I work collaboratively with the University Library and the IT Directorate, as well as the faculties.

I have included a selection of activities 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. As chair, I have led the investigation of various university eResearch capabilities; overseen the committee's restructure and renewal; and reported to the University Research Committee and the DVCR as required.
- Initiating and leading a year-long, university-wide Research Data Management project. This project functioned to build awareness amongst researchers of university services including the institutional cloud storage platform, [Cloud.UNE](#); positively affect cultural change with regard to research data management; streamline inter-department workflows and advocate for further investment into infrastructure capabilities; and automate weekly reports on UNE researchers' usage of Cloud.UNE. The [latest report](#) indicates how successful this project has been in increasing researchers' usage of Cloud.UNE.
- Member of a team establishing a Researcher Support Network at UNE, to support researcher support staff to carry out their roles effectively. ReSuN is intended to open communication channels between faculty-based staff and central services staff.
- Earlier this year I conducted 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.

Education & Training

- I currently coordinate Intersect's training program at UNE, delivering the programming, data science and data management courses on campus. I manage two on-campus trainers and between the three of us, we deliver the only research training program at UNE.
- Over the past two years I have worked to improve the experience of participants inside and outside of the courses, through building up a network of interested researchers and systematically notifying them when courses become available. I have found that this has built a community of researchers interested in upskilling, which has facilitated peer-to-peer learning.
- 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 office, as well as [research software management](#).
- I regularly present to HDRs, post-doctoral fellows and academics on data and software management techniques, eResearch capabilities, and help researchers in their projects through consultation and advice.
- I currently sit on the organising committee for [Sydney ResBaz \(3-5 July, 2018\)](#). The event was held at Macquarie University and was a huge success. I was lead instructor for the [Introductory R stream](#), coordinating three other trainers as well.

Research Project Consultancies

- Providing eResearch support to an ARC Discovery Project in digital musicology led by Dr Jason Stoessel since 2016. 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 migration and formatting ~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 project management. A staging version of the [Canonic Techniques website](#) is now live.
- In 2016-17, I initiated and led 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.

Select other experience

Corporate Communications Officer (2015-2016), UNE

In this position I reported to the Office of the Vice Chancellor and spearheaded the Research Communications Strategy for the university as well as handling relationships with media outlets.

Unit Coordinator, Lecturer and Tutor (*casual contract*, 2011-2015), UNE

I have held various short-term academic contracts in Sociology, Political Science and International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies and Education, teaching face-to-face and online (Moodle).

Research Fellow (2014), Institute of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, Queen's University (Belfast)

Lead Consultant (2013), Women's Empowerment and Access to Justice project in Timor-Leste, [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

Other qualifications

[Software Carpentry instructor](#) accreditation, 2018

Skills

My proficiency in selected eResearch tools

R (RStudio)



Python



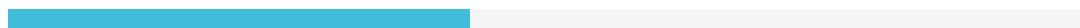
SQL (SQLite, Oracle, Postgres and MySQL) and database design



GitHub and version control



Bash, grep, sed



Qualtrics



Selected Publications

- [1] Tobias, P. 2018. [eventbriteR](#). A package for R that can call the Eventbrite API for event, order and user information.
- [2] Tobias, P. 2018. [Join data check for Muscat](#). A Python program to ensure linking data exists between authority tables in Muscat.
- [3] Tobias, P. & N Reid, 2017, 'Improving the online profile of the Ngan'gi Language Collection', [eResearch Australasia](#), Brisbane
- [4] Reeson, R & P Tobias, 2017, 'Working towards the "end-to-end": Research Data Management Capability Development at UNE', [eResearch Australasia](#), Brisbane

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.

References

Prof Heiko Daniel **Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research**, University of New England
hdaniel@une.edu.au | +612 6773 2080

Dr Jonathan Arthur **National Services Manager**, Intersect Australia jonathan@intersect.org.au | +614 309 690 502

Dr Eliza Kent **Deputy Director, Graduate Studies**, University of New England ekent@une.edu.au | +612 6773 3715

paddytobias.github.io/resume

paddytobias@me.com

0403 328 864