



**AUSTRALIAN
ACCESS FEDERATION**

www.aaf.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN ACCESS FEDERATION

Providing trusted access to services, resources and people



Australian Access Federation

The Australian Access Federation (AAF) provides a framework and support infrastructure to facilitate trusted electronic communications and collaboration within and between universities and research institutions in Australia and overseas. The AAF uses cutting edge technologies to provide a range of automatic identification services, which will allow authentication of people (researchers, teachers and students) and resources (servers, services, networks, instruments and data). It enables resource owners to identify and authorise a researcher to access online resources, such as computer facilities, data and other research infrastructure, at their home institution, at other Australian institutions, and around the world.

The Australian Access Federation provides the means of allowing a participating institution and/or a service provider to trust the information it receives from another participating institution. This will provide seamless access to resources and secure communication to support collaboration between users.

Key benefits

For researchers, other staff members and students

If you are a researcher, staff member, or student at a university or research institution, the most immediate benefit is that the AAF will enable you to log in using the credentials issued by your own institution, and seamlessly access a wide range of resources both internal and external to your institution, such as:

- data collections and data grids,
- scientific instruments, modelling and visualisation tools, and computing resources,
- collaboration environments and workspaces for virtual teams,
- scholarly resources and publications,
- eLearning resources and learning object collections, and
- national higher education and research administrative systems.

This means:

- you will only need to remember the one account from your own institution,
- the need to disclose your identity is reduced, and
- collaboration with colleagues is increased because it is easier to share access to tools and resources.

For institutions

Institutions will benefit from the AAF by enabling their research, academic and administrative users to access a wide range of services and resources and to collaborate more readily with colleagues in Australia and with AAF international peers.

Other ways in which institutions may make use of the AAF include:

- driving improved institutional identity management practices,
- offering better service to users,
- providing improved access services for cross institutional courses,
- integrating with existing access management systems, and
- reducing identity and access support problems.

Subscription Process

Subscribing to the AAF is easy and our staff can provide information and assistance at every stage of the process. By signing the AAF Application Form and forwarding to subscribe@aaf.edu.au you are agreeing to abide by the *Federation Rules*.

You can choose to become either a **Subscriber** or a **Member** of the AAF.

As a **Subscriber** you are simply using a service (the AAF) for which you are paying a fee (the subscription) and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the service (the Federation Rules).

As a **Member** you are, **in addition to being a Subscriber**, also agreeing to be bound by the Australian Access Federation Incorporated Constitution. Becoming a Member gives you the right to participate in meetings of AAF Inc. and to have input into how the Federation is run.

For more information and to download the relevant Subscription Pack, go to: www.aaf.edu.au/subscribe/

Service Catalogue

The AAF Service Catalogue connects users to Federation enabled services. The Service Catalogue provides a definitive list of services available to members through the Australian Access Federation. Visit the Catalogue and find a service to support you, explore what International Federations offer or read Case Studies to find out more about our Service Providers.

Can't find what you were looking for? Suggest a service to the Federation via the link on the Service Catalogue page.

The AAF Service Catalogue can be accessed at www.aaf.edu.au/servicecatalogue/

The Future

Growing the AAF is a critical step in ensuring that the Federation continues to provide value to the Research and Higher Education sector. During the year ahead, the AAF will continue to execute a number of strategies to engage actively with the following three groups of organisations:

- Australian universities and research support organisations, such as the Members of ARCS (MARCS);
- existing AAF Members to identify other potential Participants with whom they are currently collaborating; and
- organisations and groups associated with the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) process.

Engagement with the International Community

The AAF will continue to engage with the international Federation community through the Research and Education FEDerations (REFeds) group coordinated by TERENA. REFeds includes representatives from 23 existing research and education federations from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia and several federations in the process of forming. The AAF also participates by invitation in ECAM, the European Committee on Academic Middleware, which is TERENA's coordinating committee for federation and middleware activities. Participating actively in these groups gives the AAF a voice in influencing international federation directions, provides an avenue for input and assistance from the international community and paves the way for future co-federation arrangements.

A technical roadmap of activities will see the AAF collaborating with the international Federation community to ensure best practice with enhancing and further developing the Federation.

More Information

For more information about the AAF
please visit: www.aaf.edu.au

Contact us

For general enquiries: enquiries@aaf.edu.au
For support enquiries: support@aaf.edu.au

Follow us

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/ausaccessfed
Become a Fan on Facebook: facebook.com/ausaccessfed



Supported by the Australian Government
through the Department of Innovation,
Industry, Science and Research