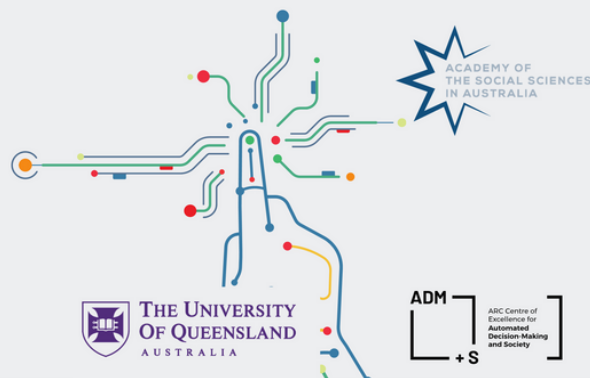


# Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure 2023-32



## Submission # 16

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## Response

On behalf of Professor Mark Blows, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback on the [Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure 2023-32](#).

We have carefully reviewed the comprehensive content, and the plan clearly demonstrates careful consideration, incorporating solid connections within the broader research and innovation sector.

We would like to emphasise the critical importance of workforce development and career pathways for the essential staff involved. At the University of Queensland (UQ), we acknowledge the significance of supporting the professional and academic growth of these staff members. Specifically, we are committed to establishing a clear framework for career progression that acknowledges and values the significant contributions brought by these individuals to academic achievements. We fully agree that additional training is pivotal, particularly given the rapid evolution of data management and analysis methods, such as machine learning, handling large datasets, computational approaches for qualitative data, and complex research designs.

Another critical point we would like to highlight is the value of partnerships across various levels of the innovation ecosystem. At UQ, we take pride in fostering interfaculty collaborations, which serve as a foundation at the university level. Furthermore, our strong affiliations with state and federal governments and industry partners reinforce the importance of these collaborative relationships. Data forms the cornerstone of these partnerships, and thus, it is imperative to establish a robust data infrastructure that facilitates seamless connections between partners. A comprehensive understanding of data governance is equally crucial to ensure the integrity of these collaborations. Moreover, the ability to work with secure and sensitive data within protected research environments is an aspect that we fully endorse and recognise.

The opportunities to enhance datasets, including valuable cultural collections, are noteworthy. We are enthusiastic about the potential for digitisation and digital access to render these datasets more accessible. This aligns perfectly with our commitment to innovation and expanding the reach of knowledge.

In conclusion, we appreciate the thoughtful approach in the plan, and we are aligned with the emphasised aspects of workforce development, partnerships, data infrastructure, and secure data handling. We look forward to engaging further in these initiatives and contributing to their successful implementation.

Best regards,

**Professor Paul Bonnington**

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