

A brain imaging database of rare and endangered Australian mammals

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This project will implement the concept of a comprehensive national brain and skull image database of extant and extinct Australian native mammals and birds. Eventually this national e-Research collection is expected to include high quality data of brains from most of Australia's unique fauna and will allow data-mining for qualitative and quantitative comparisons across multiple species and exemplars.

Start date

3 June 2019

Expected completion date

21 October 2019

Investment by ARDC

\$49,999

Co-investment partners

[University of New South Wales](#)

[National Imaging Facility](#)

[Taronga Zoo Conservation Society](#)

[Australian Museum Sydney](#)

[Atlas of Living Australia](#)

Lead node



2. Database

Implementation of a database for brains and skulls of a sub-collection of Australian endemic species.

4. POC database

Extensible POC database with fully curated and metadata furnished MRI and CT data of brain and skull specimens from rare and endangered Australian animals.

1. Metadata framework

Implementation of a metadata framework for the specific needs of volumetric brain in animal specimens.

3. Specification document for metadata

Specification document for metadata to describe imaging data of animal brain and skull specimens, specifically data descriptors for complex MRI datasets.

5. Completion of project

Project outcomes will be presented at an ARDC Data and Services Summit in October 2019.

Core features



Establishment of a metadata framework

Establishment of a metadata framework to fully describe complex MRI and CT datasets from brain specimens.



Metadata database

Implementation of a database for metadata furnished brain and skull image volumes of adult and developing Australian marsupials and monotremes.

Who is this project for?

- Neuroscience researchers
- Museum and conservation societies



What does this project enable?

- Digital preservation and discovery of animal tissues
- Support comparative brain studies from the neuroscience community



Handy resources

- [FAIR assessment](#) [PDF 160KB]
- [Final Report](#) [PDF 229KB]
- [Presentation](#) [PDF 794KB]
- [Atlas of Living Australia](#)
- [Human brain connectome project](#)



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