

Ray Norris' Informal Biography

(see also <http://www.atnf.csiro.au/people/rnorris/>)

Ray Norris is a Chief Research Scientist at the CSIRO Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF), and also has honorary academic appointments at the University of Tasmania and Swinburne University. He has published about 200 papers, mainly in international refereed journals, and is a member of several international and government committees and panels.



He grew up in England, where he completed his Honours Degree in Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge, and a PhD in Radio-astronomy at the University of Manchester, and then moved to Australia in 1983 to help with the design of the Australia Telescope. His research interests gradually moved outwards from star formation to luminous galaxies, and he shouldered an increasing management role, becoming Head of Computing and then Head of Astrophysics at the ATNF. In 2000 he became Deputy Director of the ATNF, and in 2001 he led the successful \$53m bid for Australian astronomy under the Federal Government's "Major National Research Facilities" (MNRF) program, and then established and was Foundation Director of the Australian Astronomy MNRF. In 2005, he took a break from management to concentrate on research and data management issues. His current research projects include using radio imaging to understand the formation of the first galaxies in the Universe, and studying the astronomy and culture of indigenous Australians.

He is passionate about the challenge of optimising the transformation of scientific data into knowledge, and promoting open access to scientific data. He has also played an active role in establishing e-Science (the use of advanced information technology to accelerate the process of scientific discovery) in Australia, and initiated the Australian Virtual Observatory project. He has been the CODATA delegate of the International Astronomical Union since 2000, chairs the IAU Working Group on Astronomical Data, has championed the cause of Open Data Access within astronomy, and in 2006 he was appointed President of IAU Commission 5 (Documentation and Astronomical Data). In 2004 he chaired a CODATA team to formulate a response to the ICSU "Priority Area Assessment on Scientific Data and Information", and was a member of the Scientific Program Committee for CODATA 2006.

Outside his professional life, he relaxes by writing and bushwalking.