

Shared Preservation for archives

Simon Wilson, Senior Archivist

Chris Awre, Head of Information Management

Library and Learning Innovation

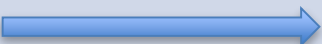
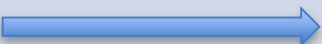
Investing in Opportunity conference, 17-18th November 2014

The Field of Dreams (as seen from Hull)

- (Re-) creating archive tools and systems for the digital world
- Born-digital records not as a subset of archives – but as the current and future reality of archives
- Needs work beyond any single archive office
- Model of AIMS project – outputs and experience
- Creating a shared direction of travel
- Exploring how to get there (collaboratively)

Academic library trends and collaborations

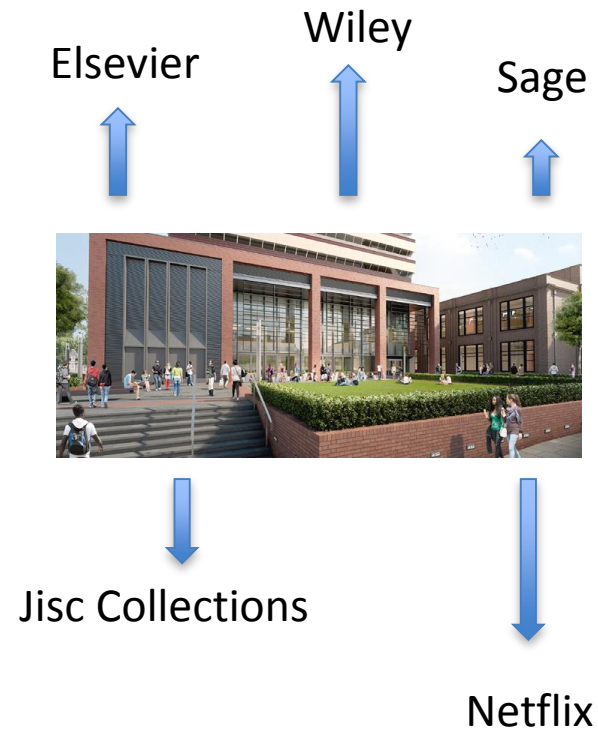
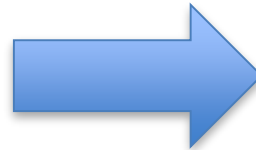
Print to digital

Print		Digital
Books		E-Books
Journals		E-Journals
Reference works		Online reference works / The Internet
Videos/DVDs		YouTube, NetFlix, etc.
CDs		iTunes, Spotify, etc.
Slides		Flickr, Google Images, etc.
Theses		E-Theses, EThOS

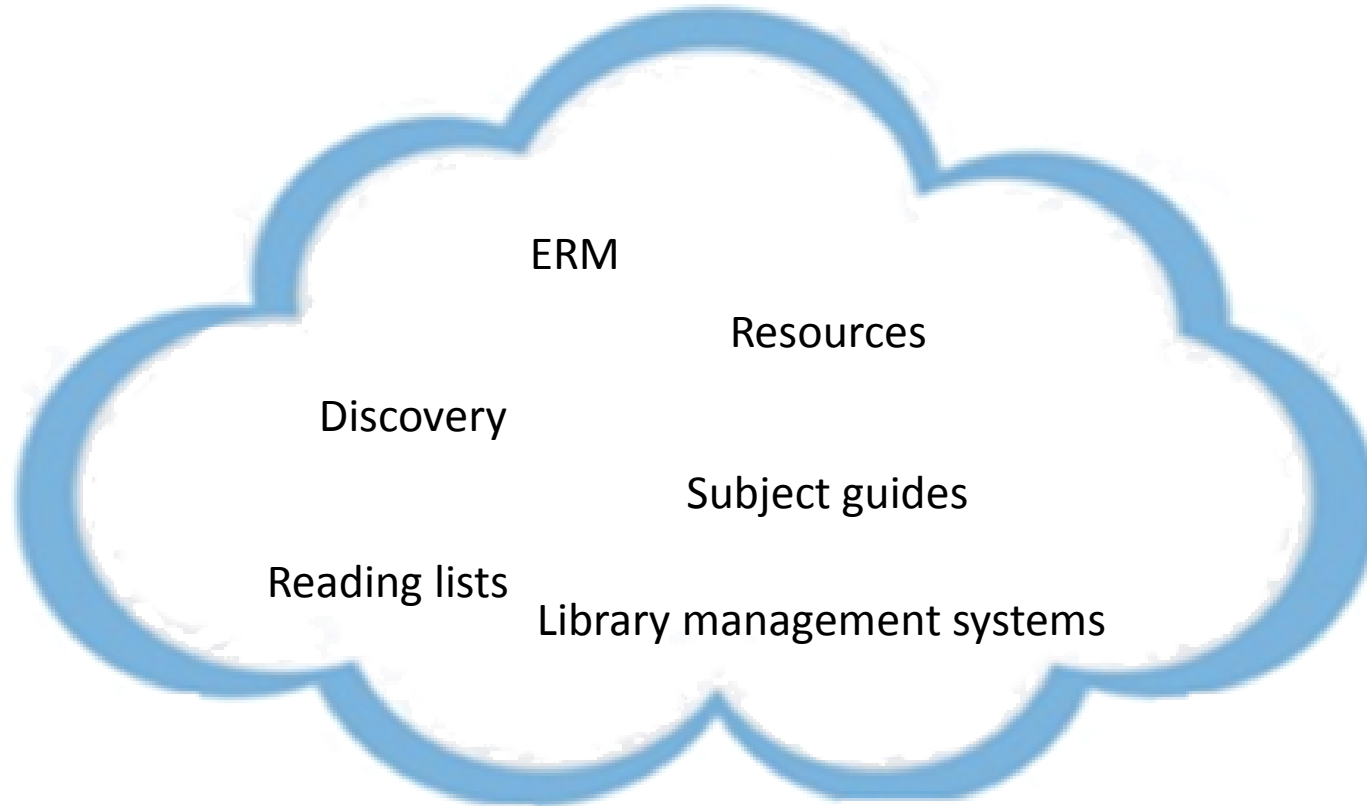
Personal libraries



Owning to renting



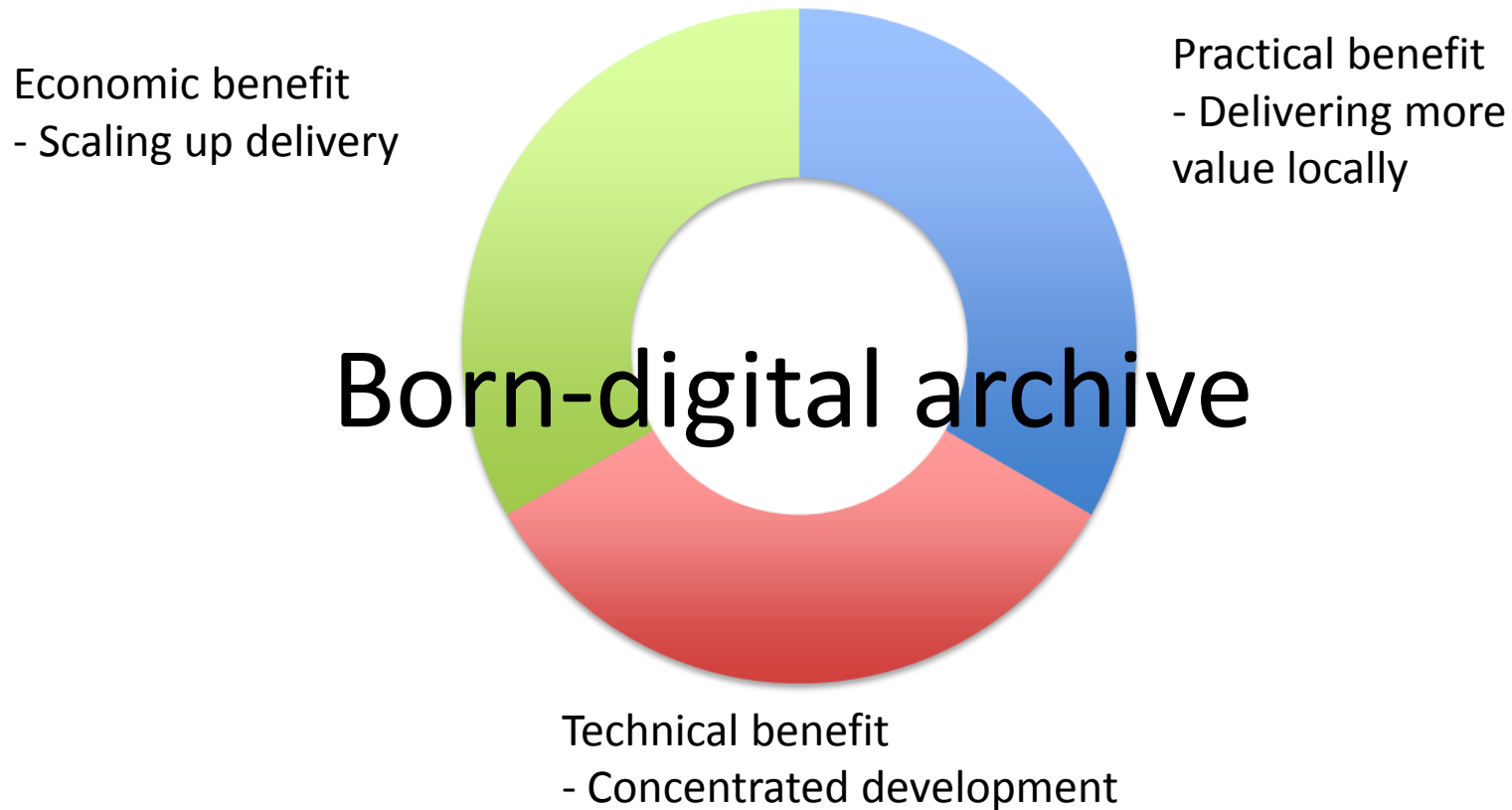
Shift to the network level



How do born-digital archives relate to these trends?

- A born-digital archive is focused on managing digital material (of course)
- Born-digital archive content could (should) be part of a personal library
 - and a valuable part of this
- Focus on ownership, not rental
 - Each archive's content is unique
- Move to the network level?

Network benefits



Jisc Spotlight on the Digital

- Focus on digitised collections and their management/accessibility over time
- Highlighted need for
 - Institutional capacity building
 - Benefit of working with network level services, e.g., aggregators
 - Network level foresight and oversight of collection management and delivery

Collaboration – to be
or not to be?

Barriers to collaboration

Inertia

- waiting for the perfect tool, funding call or “the answer”
- “its complicated” or the challenge is too large

Cost and capacity

- limited capacity within an individual archive office
- doing “something” means stop doing something else

Collaboration in action (examples)

- CURL
 - Produced COPAC union catalogue
- Data centres
 - MIMAS/EDINA
 - NB. Archives Hub at MIMAS
- SHEDL – Scottish HE Digital Libraries
 - Service provider to Scottish Universities
- Northern Collaboration
 - Recognised need to work together to develop services

Collaboration in action (archives)

- Archives & Records Council Wales Digital Preservation Consortium
 - Joint initiative to explore use of Archivematica to serve Welsh archives
- ArchivesSpace development
 - US institutional consortium developing archives management system
 - Edinburgh now implementing this as part of partnership

Collaboration in action (archives)

Archive collaboration works well for:

- ‘Types’ of archive (e.g., literary, political, business)
- Use-cases (e.g., education, digitization)
- Discovery (e.g., archives Hub)
- Definable consortia (e.g., AIM25, A&RC Wales)

Hull History Centre:

- 3 services (LS Library, City Archives & University Archives)
- Working to service targets and HHC targets simultaneously

Collaboration – to be or not to be?

- Waiting for someone else to open Pandora's box and find an answer



Your turn...

Fostering collaboration

- What specific area of digital preservation would you like to tackle (be granular, both technical and non-technical)?
 - How would this benefit from being worked on collaboratively?
 - What is needed to get it off the ground?
- What chunk of the problem should be addressed first?
 - What is the initial step (does this build on previous work)?
- Who would you like to be able to work with on addressing the area concerned?

Possible areas/collaborators

- IT infrastructure
- Technical development
- Data storage
- Preservation actions
- Access provision
- Staffing
- Policy
- Good practice
- Individuals
- Colleagues (local or elsewhere)
- Other institutions
- Technical services
- ARA
- Jisc
- OPF/DPC

Hydra – collaboration in practice case study

Hydra

- A collaborative project between:
 - University of Hull
 - University of Virginia
 - Stanford University
 - Fedora Commons/DuraSpace
 - MediaShelf LLC
- Unfunded (in itself)
 - Activity based on identification of a common need
- Aim to work towards a reusable framework for multipurpose, multifunction, multi-institutional repository-enabled solutions
 - Local solutions built on common base - Hydra
- Timeframe - 2008-11 (but now extended indefinitely)





Fundamental Assumption #1

No single system can provide the full range of repository-based solutions for a given institution's needs,

...yet sustainable solutions require a common repository infrastructure.

Fundamental Assumption #2

No single institution can resource the development of a full range of solutions on its own,

...yet each needs the flexibility to tailor solutions to local demands and workflows.

Hydra partnerships



- From the beginning key aims have been and are:
 - to enable others to join the partnership as and when they wished (Now up to 25 partners, with two others in process)
 - to establish a framework for sustaining a Hydra community as much as any technical outputs that emerge
 - Establishing a semi-legal basis for contribution and partnership

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”

(African proverb)

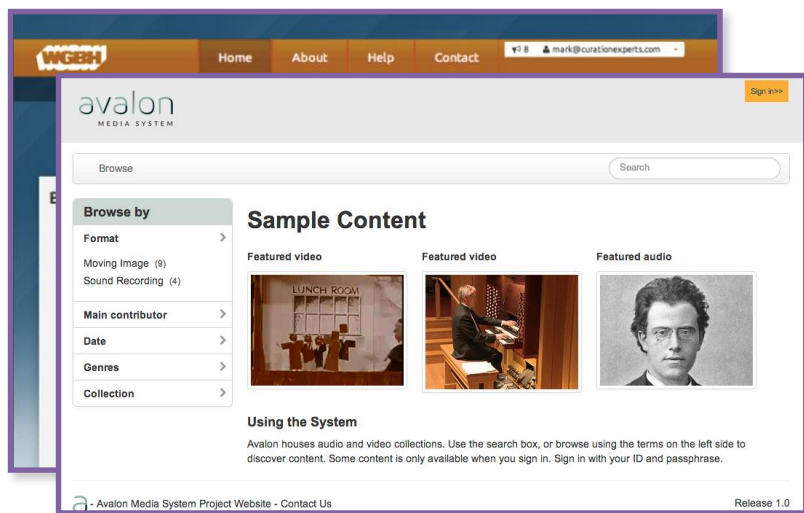
A Worldwide Presence



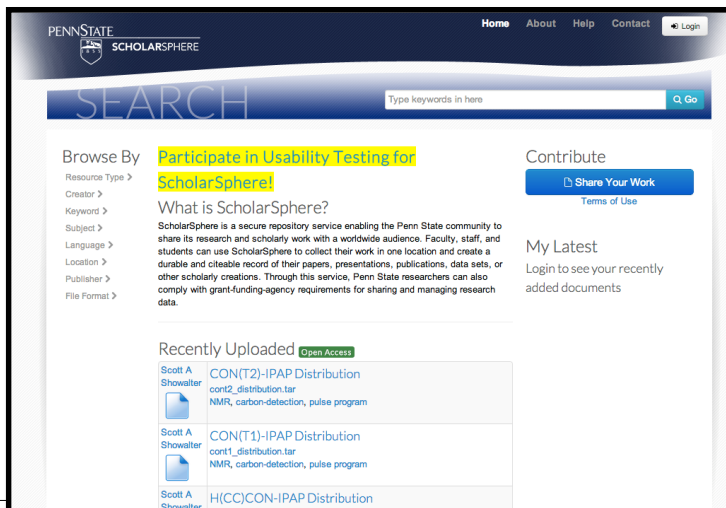
~~Seven~~ *Eight* strategic priorities

1. Solution bundles
2. Turnkey applications
3. Vendor ecosystem
4. Training
5. Documentation
6. Code sharing
7. Community ties
8. *Grow the User base*

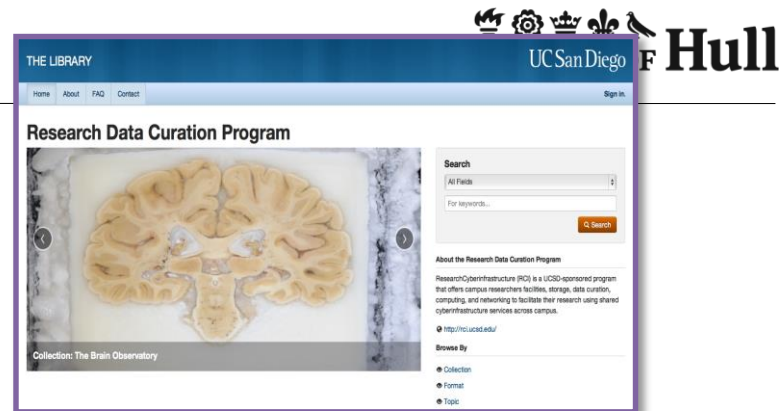
Hydra Heads of Note



Avalon & HydraDAM for Media



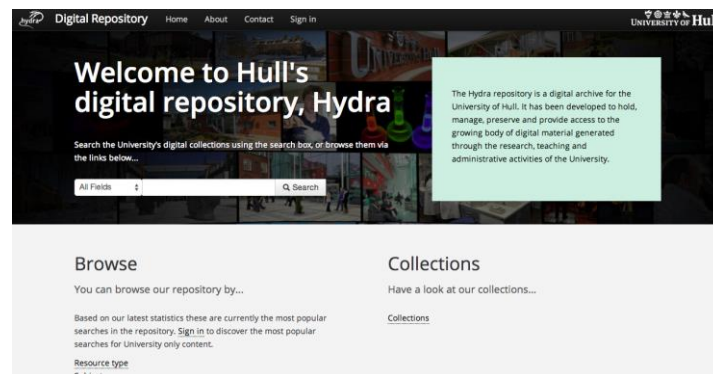
Sufia



UCSD DAMS



BPL Digital Commonwealth



Hydra@Hull

AIMS Project – collaboration in practice case study

The AIMS Project

An inter-Institutional Model for Stewardship funded by The Andrew W. Mellon foundation

Each partner employed a digital archivist for 18 months (2010-11) to process born-digital material in their collections

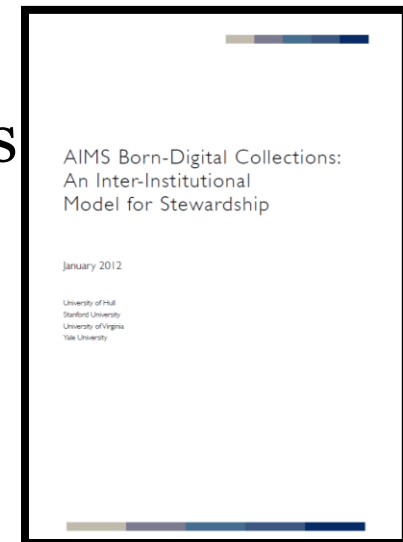
Started with traditional archival theory/principles; identify **commonality** - not looking to create a single solution



AIMS Project – White Paper

Good-practice, based on partners **shared experiences** of working with born-digital materials in their archives

- written by archivists....for archivists
- starts from ‘paper-based’ archival principles
- not based on specific infrastructure or tools
- technical and professional standards
- build-upon work of other projects



AIMS Project – Lessons learned

Takes time to define the culture of the collaboration – need to understand each partners motivation for participation

Communication was critical

- contact via email and also regular Skype calls (1 hr max)
- space to share files eg work in-progress (GoogleDocs)
- blog to engage with other individuals and groups

Face to face element was the most productive
– gave the group and project momentum

AIMS Project – Lessons learned

Doing something practical

- makes a huge difference; move on from desktop research

Make friends in ICT

- move away from “archives” problem to an institutional one

Talking to other archives

- can help put your experiences in perspective

Digital Archives Connect



Shared Services workshop in Hull (Sept 2012)

Create a point where archive services can share their current experience with born-digital materials
– services use it to identify those with similar “needs”

<http://daconnect.wikispaces.com/>

Take-up hasn't been great
– lack of interest, lack of promotion..?

Northern Collaboration – collaboration in practice case study

Northern Collaboration

- A grouping of 28 English University libraries
 - ‘North’ – Sheffield and up
 - SCONUL regional sub-group
- Exploring areas where we can be more effective working together
 - E.g., borrowing/visiting, e-books, customer service models
- Moving to the network level doesn’t mean having to rely on outsourced staff
 - Existing staff can be more than the sum of their parts by collaborating
- Exchange of experience / defined projects

Sharing Repository Services Working Group

- Created to explore how we could enhance our repository services through mutual effort
- Getting collaboration going
 - Call put out through Northern Collaboration Directors
 - Interested institutions met three times in first half of 2014
 - Developed list of areas to focus collaboration around
 - Now developing ideas through Programme Board
- Key has been to focus on areas of direct benefit to staff and services, without duplicating efforts elsewhere

Areas to collaborate on now

- Advocacy / Content marketing & promotion
- Discoverability of content
 - Content licensing
 - Impact measures
- Strategy / policy development
- Training
- Preservation
- Storage

Areas to ponder

- Maybe
 - Hardware
 - Already done for hosted solutions
 - Content re-use and embedding
 - Media specific
 - Cataloguing/description
 - Media specific
 - Quality assurance
 - Scaling up required
- Not now
 - Software
 - Search interface
 - Brand/design
 - All still establishing local service
 - Statistics
 - IRUS-UK doing this

Back to you...

Turning theory into practice

- How do we turn ideas of collaboration into practice?
 - What can we learn from existing collaborations?
- Pick two areas from the first session
 - What actions are needed to foster collaboration for these areas?
 - What actions would you like to see the collaboration undertake?
 - Define the goal of the collaboration

And finally...

Finding next steps

- Contact us to be involved in further discussions
- Propose to set up a Google Group (or equivalent – ideas welcome)
- c.awre@hull.ac.uk
- s.wilson@hull.ac.uk

Thank you