Working towards the invisible repository

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a personal take on what repositories are, and what they need to become

centred on two basic premises ...
Premise One:
the repository must be big enough to justify its existence

and for York, that means being a hybrid repository, hybrid content, hybrid access
Premise Two: Repository does not equal user interface
MEDIA STREAMING
ACCESS CONTROL
PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS
DEVELOPER SERVICES
COVER SHEET GENERATION
Digital Library
WRRO
WREO
YorSearch
York Research Database
History of Art Portal
IRIS Database
Digital Showcase
...

[Diagram of jigsaw puzzle pieces with labels: Digital Library, WRRO, WREO, YorSearch, York Research Database, History of Art Portal, IRIS Database, Digital Showcase]
Case Study: Past Exam Papers
For students: Easy to find, easy to access

For the University: Good for student experience, but need to be access restricted

For us: Managing something so central to teaching and learning is good for business
In future:

delivered via Library discovery interface and student portal and VLE

transferred from student information system automatically
Other Access Control Use Cases …

online exhibitions where the owner of the images does not want them available to download

materials covered by specific license terms
Case study: History of Art Portal
History of Art Department wanted to showcase their digital activity ... online exhibitions, project, talks etc.

Pay us a small amount annually to maintain and develop

Largely standalone but images are pulled in from Digital Library
In future:

Audio and video also managed by Digital Library

Pulling in captions and other information
Case study:

iris-database.org
ESRC funded and academic Department-led

Developer hosted by us

Custom interface based on our own code

All content stored by Digital Library
In future:

Funding for science education version being sought

Interest from other disciplines
We do have a single interface to (almost) everything in the Digital Library but users tell us they find it hard to understand what’s in it.
with limited resource for our Library & Archives IT is that really where our effort should go?
Where does all of this fit in the wider University / Information strategies?

What is our Digital Strategy?
Repositories are now mature enough to really deliver ...
But ...
Community
Collaboration
Sharing
Open