Building the 'digital' library

Routes to managing our institutional digital learning, teaching and research assets together

Chris Awre
Baseline
Libraries

- Collections of knowledge
  - Acknowledging that libraries have always been more than just collections
- Strong service emphasis
- Stewardship, incl. preservation
- Organisational sustainability
- Reaching out to other collections
- Ethical traditions

Howard Besser, 2002
Move to digital

- How well do our libraries have these characteristics when managing digital materials?
  - Besser concluded there was some way to go
  - 12 years on, are we progressing?
- Initiatives looking ahead
  - Academic Libraries of the Future, 2009-11
  - ARL scenario planning, 2010
    - Both agreed that the future will be digital
Academic Libraries of the Future

Managing collections of knowledge and providing services, stewardship and sustainability are key parts of all three scenarios.
Digital repositories

- An embedded part, more or less, of academic library operation now
  - OpenDOAR – 2212 institutional repositories
- Emphasis on digital
- Focus on local collections
- Drivers? Open access
  - Research data
  - Open educational resources
  - Images
  - Etc.
Questions

- Can digital repositories support the development of the ‘digital’ library?
- If so, how do we enable this?
- Are we in a position where we can develop ‘digital’ libraries on a 1-to-1 par with our physical libraries?
Library trends
## Print to digital

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Theses</td>
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Personal libraries

- Books/e-books
- Web resources
- Music/film
- Journals/e-journals
- Grey literature
Owning to renting

Elsevier

Wiley

Sage

Jisc Collections

Netflix
Shift to the network level

ERM
Resources
Discovery
Subject guides
Reading lists
Library management systems
How do repositories fit with these trends?

- A digital repository it focused on managing digital material (of course)
- Repository content can be part of a personal library
  - And a valuable part of this

- Focus on ownership, not rental
- Move to the network level?
Network benefits

Economic benefit
- Scaling up delivery

Technical benefit
- Concentrated development

Practical benefit
- Delivering more value locally

Digital repository
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
Opportunity
Building a digital library

- Repository as home to a variety of local digital assets
- Repository as infrastructure, not an application
- What resource is needed to build a ‘digital’ library?
  - Where does this come from?
  - What skills are required?
  - What can be learned from those who have built digital libraries so far?
Collaboration at the network level

- Models currently exist
  - SDLC hosting of IRs for Scottish Universities
  - White Rose
  - EPrints Services / BMC Open / Digital Commons
  - Hydra community

- Focus on repository software service sharing
  - Can other repository services be shared or developed collaboratively?
Northern Collaboration

- A grouping of 27 English University libraries
- Exploring areas where we can be more effective working together
- 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
- Sharing Repository Services Working Group
Areas to investigate

- Better understand our current repository processes
- Examine feasibility of scaling up whole or part processes to the network level
- Define and explore branding advantages and potential added value services
- Review IT support and skills required
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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
- Quality assurance
  - Scaling up required

**Not now**
- Software
- Search interface
- Brand/design
  - All still establishing local service
- Statistics
  - IRUS-UK doing this
Vision

*Personal vision
Digital Academic Library for the North: a shared service

- Recognise the value and benefits of taking services to the network level
- Take action on institutional limits
  - Scaling up
  - IT resource requirement
- Take ownership of the means by which we can jointly develop our digital libraries
- Maximise the potential for getting local assets into personal libraries
DALN model

Institution A

Institution B

Digital Academic Library for the North

Archive A

Museum B

Institution C

Other ...
To conclude
Building the ‘digital’ library: how are we doing?

- Collections of knowledge
- Acknowledging that libraries have always been more than just collections
- Strong service emphasis
- Stewardship, incl. preservation
- Organisational sustainability
- Reaching out to other collections
- Ethical traditions
Things to do

- Develop more, value-added, services
- Develop better stewardship capability
  - For collections
  - For repositories
- Make content seamless across repositories
- Enhance understanding of repository ethical practice

...and do it together ;-}
Thank you

Chris Awre
Head of Information Management
University of Hull

http://www.hull.ac.uk/lib
http://hydra.hull.ac.uk
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