

Open Repositories 2014  
Helsinki  
12<sup>th</sup> June 2014

# 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



Wild West



Beehive



Walled Garden

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

Open educational resources

Research data

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



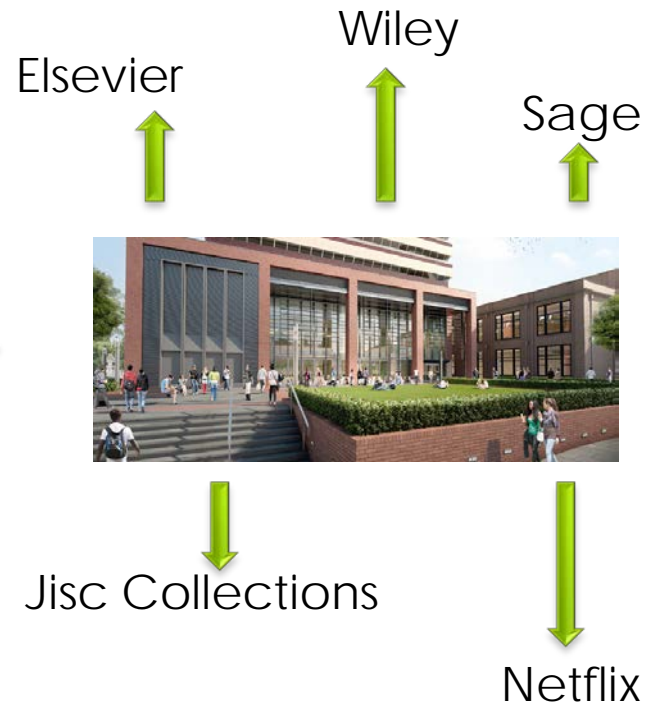
# Print to digital

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 repositories fit with these trends?

- A digital repository is 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

Practical benefit  
- Delivering more  
value locally

Digital repository

Technical benefit  
- Concentrated development



# 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 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

# 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

# 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\*



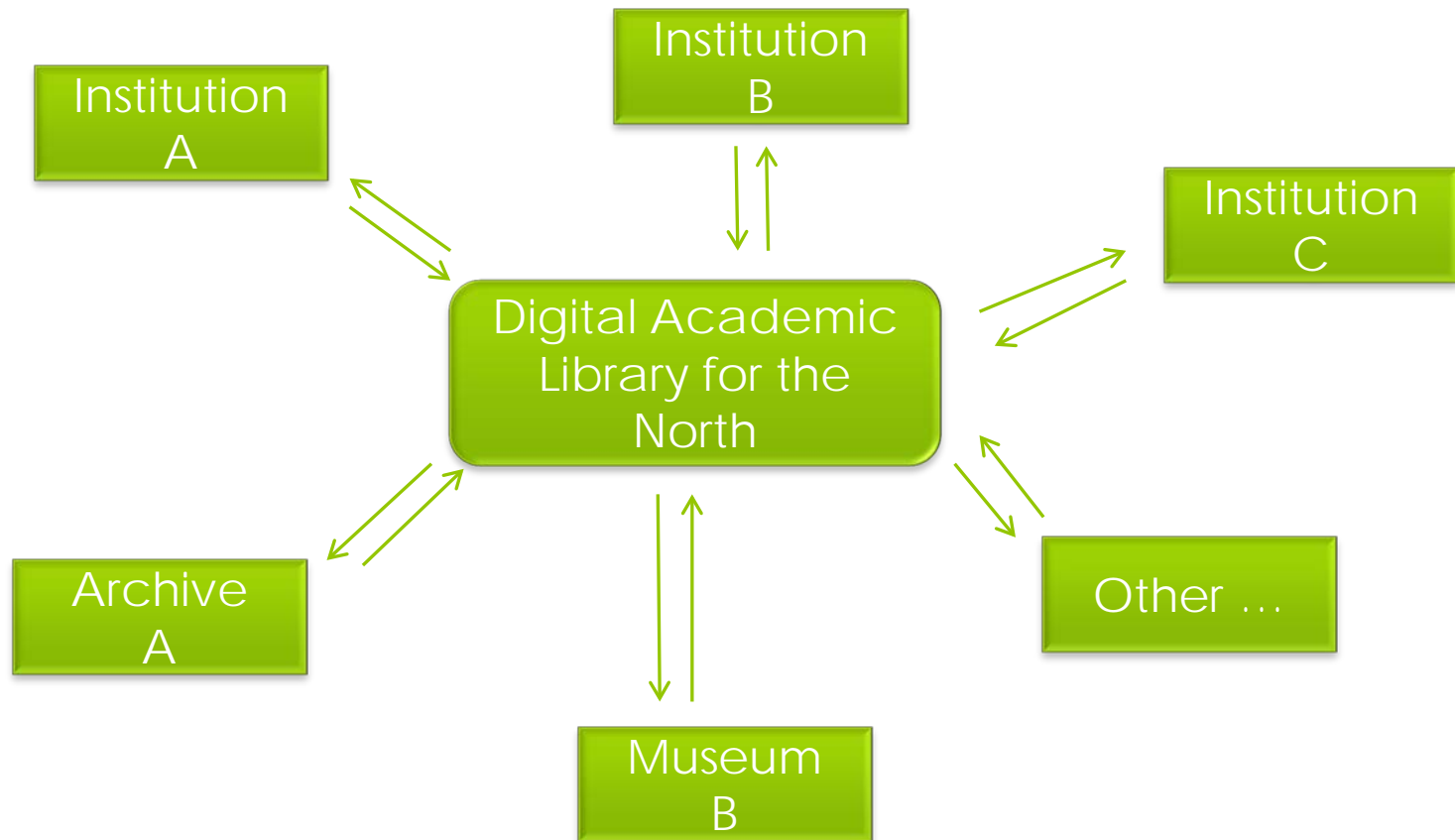
\*Personal vision



# 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





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>

# Image attributions

- Paul Stainthorp, "IMAG2719", 13 Aug 2005, Online image, Flickr, 10 Sep 2013, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pstainthorp/4192270743/>
- Mark Stevens, "The Road Ahead", 14 Oct 2012, Online image, Flickr, 10 Sep 2013, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/14723335@N05/9013482834/>