EPrints: a Hybrid CRIS/Repository

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JISC Open Impact
Current Research Information Systems

- A CRIS pulls together information from all the research-relevant databases

- Repositories should support the CERIF standard to co-operate as components of a CRIS environment
CERIF Information

Broad, but not necessarily DEEP.
CRIS Revisited

CRIS components attempt to provide service to management and researchers

Repository attempts to reach researchers and public, and provide a service to management
Admin View of A Project

- Grant ID / Funder / Amount
- Start date, End Date
- Investigators
- Budget breakdown

“To support Business Analytics”
K Jeffry, Workshop on CRIS, CERIF & Institutional Repositories, June 2010
Researchers’ View of A Project

- Project name
- Project aims / objectives
- Project Logo / Website / Blog
- Press releases, news clippings
- Funder
Repository / CRIS combo

- Bring new perspective to CRIS
- Researcher-oriented
- Publicity-oriented
- Marketing-oriented
- Descriptive, narrative
- Complementary to administrative perspective
Example

- Repository of High Impact Research
- Brings together staff, outputs, projects
- JISC Open Impact project

Timeline of a group’s key publications, projects and press releases, taken from three RSS feeds.
EPrints / CRIS

- EPrints has attempted to internally accommodate the CERIF data scheme
  - CERIF data interchange
  - Not just publications but projects and organisations

- CERIFed repositories have many separate datasets, all linked together via explicit relationships
  - a paper doesn’t have a *project property*, it is related to *project objects*
Projects and funding organisations were just names typed into the paper’s metadata record.

- Funders
  1. EPSRC
- Projects
  1. AgentLink III
Now they are objects in their own right

A paper links to its affiliated projects, instead of just mentioning them
Concluding Remarks

- Social, political & funding pressures are changing the roles of Research Information Systems
- Repositories have a history of engagement with grassroots / public
  - providing services (portfolios, collections, reports)
  - collecting/managing/preserving information and knowledge products
- These engagements can enrich CRIS products
- CRIS ontological breadth can enrich repositories
- Distinction between CRIS / repository starts to blur.
PS What is a Repository?

- A repository is not just a piece of information management software
- It is a socially embedded technological phenomenon that promotes new relationship to research information
  - International programs of ‘advocacy’
  - Institutionally embedded, with teams of librarians trained to use, and to train researchers to use, repositories
  - Personal engagement with end-users