

# Follow that!

**Redeploying project investment for  
future activities**

Chris Fowler  
JISC Digital Content Conference 2009  
1 July 2009

# BOPCRIS Digitisation Laboratory

Extensive scanning facility developed since 2004



I2S Copibook scanner,  
300dpi colour/greyscale



Copibook scanners in  
action for 19C  
Pamphlets project



Digitising Line DL  
robot scanner  
unique in the UK

# The Southampton context

- Research project environment – extensive experience
- Specialist scanning of rare material in country
- Support from archive staff including special handling and security
- Secure transport
- Establishing and consolidating ‘know how’ not readily available from commercial companies

# H/W and S/W investment since 2004

- Content management system £60,000
- Servers £140,000
- Dark store £30,000
- Scanners £500,000
- Challenges of hardware obsolescence
- Demands of standards-driven workflow outputs and software durability

# Skilled staff requirements

- Knowledge drain when project finishes
- Dependencies with Archives and Special Collections
- Workflow (developer) dependencies
- Maintaining staff capacity depends on revenue
- Institutional ‘workaday’ scanning requirements – who does this?

# IT Dependencies – more unpicking

- Software dependencies
  - Black box/Customised
  - Developmental environment = staff dependency
  - Post-project software migration...
- Hardware dependencies
  - Corporate IT service – “Process vs. innovation”
- Techno uplift on reprocurement e.g. text mining not basic coding

# Cost – building a minimum budget

- Staffing – Technical, managerial, administrative, legal
- Servers – production, hosting, storage
- Scanners – maintenance and operation
- Software – production workflow
- Advocacy/Advertising
- Aggregation/Hosting/Web

# What work is out there...

- Own institutional content – IPR? Copyright? Sensitivity?
- Market testing – how to find what is needed in global community of practice?
- Other special collections in UK – location and reputation advantage
- Third party collaboration – subcontract role
- Proactive offers to aggregators – brokering is a slow process

# Confine... or Spinout..?

- What is the business model – institutional constraints
- Fit with University (Library) mission and vision
- HE customer comfort zone
- What are we trying to be and why?
  - Contributors of value/context
  - Specialist contribution to the Google-style creation process

# Content sustainability definitions?

- Host(s)/destinations
- File format – fit for the future
- Master images – long term preservation? Why?
- Fitness for repurpose... - metadata and files
- Sustainable ‘context’ - Web 3.0, Linked data

# Hosting – overheads and models

- In-house (now or in the future) – funding required
- Not-for-profit - subscription
- Commercial – with JISC facilitated access
- Commercial – direct deal (sell and forget)
- Open access -with dowry
- Open access – no cost (thus no guarantees?)

# Working to create publicly funded Open Content – solutions and questions

- Funding Council topslice
- JISC topslice
- SCA role
- Quantify ‘public’
  - UK HE? Home Nation?
  - The World?
- Role of RLUK as facilitator to achieve OC hosting
- Where could our National Libraries contribute?
- Not achievable without national support?

# Questions...

[Bopcris@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Bopcris@soton.ac.uk)