Follow that!

Redeploying project investment for future activities

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BOPCRIS Digitisation Laboratory

Extensive scanning facility developed since 2004

I2S Copibook scanner, 300dpi colour/greyscale

SupraScan, high definition colour scanner, up to A2
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...

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