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Institutional Repositories & Digital Libraries :

Building a new delivery framework

Howard Amos University of New South Wales, Australia

Overview

- What are repositories
- What services do they support
- What services will they need to support
- How does that fit into the library's framework
- What services will our users need
- UNSW's plans to bring some of these together



Environmental Framework

- Once was Libraries as information store
 - Knowledge store of physical items
 - Access to information via structured systems
 - Librarian and their tools guide & navigate
- Now there's digital assets
 - Some have little structure or order,
 - Transient, subjective and could lack authority
 - Now finding is more important than searching
 - Users are happy with what we get



Environmental Framework

- Recognise change & Re-engineer

“modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources”

“libraries are understood as extending beyond the physical walls of a building...providing assistance in navigating and analyzing tremendous amounts of knowledge with a variety of digital tools.”

Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library>

- Future lies in how well we can mesh a wide range of services



Where are we at?

- “Information Access” more complex & fragmented
- Identifying needs increasingly difficult
- Aggregating resources is not enough
 - Move resources into users space
- Must develop Libraries as places of change & innovation
- Staff are ageing
- New Librarians will have different skills & attitudes
- Budgets are being cut



Who are our users

- Sift from library centric to user centric
- Users
 - want to be independent problem solvers and are happy with “self-service”
 - comfortable with creating/aggregating their own information
 - Actions are more important than knowledge and they have little tolerance for delay
 - Staying connected is essential



Where do we go from here?

- Provide tools to connect user to unknown things
- Fundamental service element
 - Adapt services to users information space
 - Relevant to how we now learn & teach
 - Present our information in understandable ways



Where do we go from here?

- Libraries need to
 - Provide services that save time
 - Capable of meeting highly personalised needs
 - Fit into individual users work flows
 - Combine local with external
 - Resources that are:
 - Authoritative
 - Authentic
 - Appropriate.....in context
 - Present flexible delivery



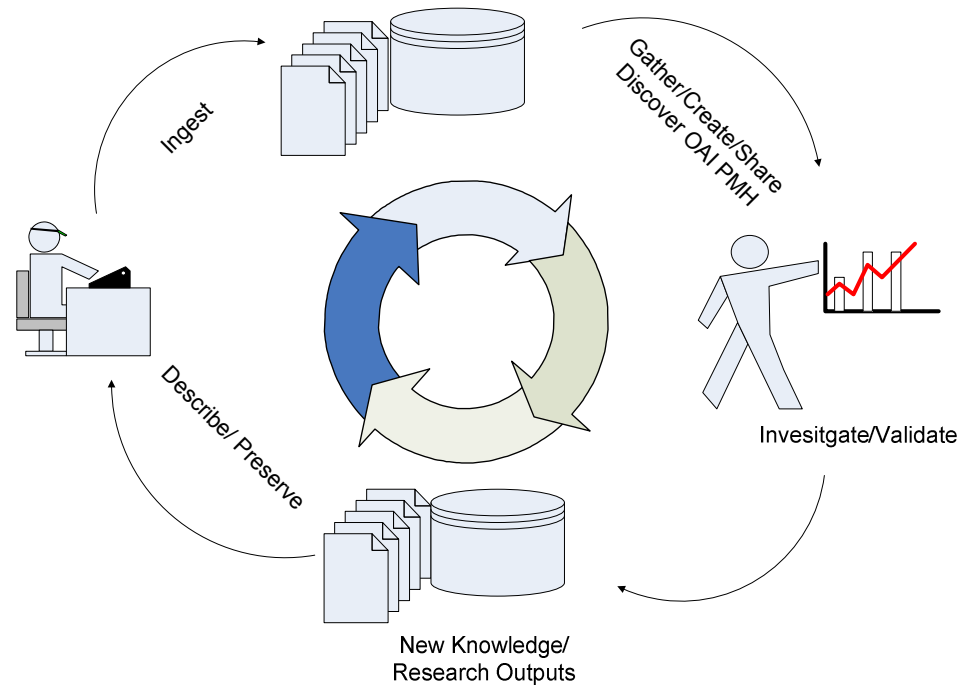
Repositories

- Set of services for the management & dissemination of digital material
(Lynch 2003)
- Not another name for a digital collection
- Repository services still in development
 - New media/object types need new management skills
 - Compound with multiple content types
 - Changes in scholarship & learning
 - New ways in creating/using/re-using/preserving



Repositories

- Store of digital objects as a unit of scholarly communication



Repositories

- Facilitate the use & re-use of material
 - Value grows as non-anticipated use of datasets grows
- Skills needed
 - Data management
 - Access controls
 - Maximising discoverability
- But wait there's more!!
 - Not just familiar digital library services
 - It's about making research data accessible



Data Management

- Making it accessible means managing it
 - Research data and data sets – not just published findings.
 - Data a primary source material
 - Data as part of compound publications
- Managing these requires
 - New ontologies
 - Cross discipline identifiers
 - Consistent description
 - Data structuring conventions
 - Search & retrieve protocols



Data Management

- The time is now!!
- Changes in ARC funding rules for 2008
 - “encourages” depositing of data but.....
- What infrastructure do we need
 - Who will design/build/run this
- What collection management practices do we need
 - What to keep, in what form, using what tools?
 - Selection, weeding, destruction etc.
- How do we preserve this new scholarly record



Who's responsible anyway

- Librarians aren't the drivers
 - We can contribute to defining needs
 - Support scholarly communication and the academic mission
- Assist researchers to maximise discoverability
- Assist in enabling open science/open data
- Expertise in collection management
 - Management of descriptive consistency
 - Data clean up/normalisation
- Economies of scale across all research domains



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- Role is to provide users with a competitive advantage using digital tools and services
 - Developed Institutional Repository (ARROW)
<http://arrow.edu.au>
 - Digital Collections to support L & T (digitised exam papers, reprints etc.)
 - Manages the Australasian Digital Theses program (ADT) at <http://adt.caul.edu.au>
 - Lead in major Visual Arts thematic repository – Dictionary of Australian Artists Online
<http://daao.org.au>



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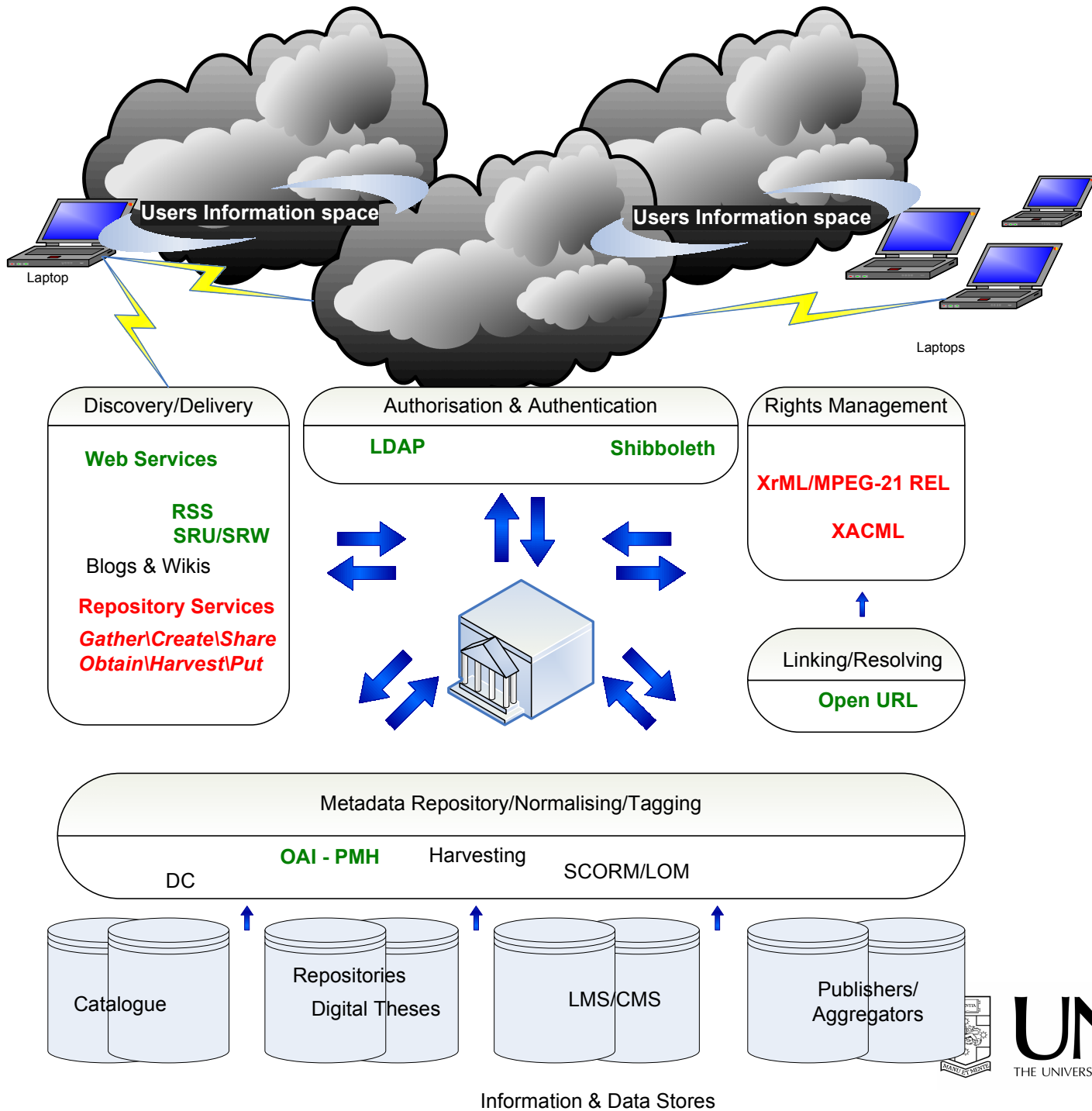
- From Hybrid Library to IRAMS
 - Seamless integrated access, independent of time or place
- Re-organising from pre-digital era
 - The catalogue is no longer king
 - Merging external with internal resources
 - Service Delivery Team restructure
- Digital Libraries Program
 - New services and products
 - Aggregation of resources
 - Feed into the users information space
 - Integration with Enterprise repositories for both e-learning & e-research



Moving forward

- Build skill sets
- Help define architecture/service framework
- Identify standards
- Uncouple access from the ILMS
- Break down Silo activities
- Extend interactions/intersections between local & remote resources





Moving forward

- Where to from here
 - Build services over numerous data stores
 - External + Internal resources
 - Catalogue is one of many
 - Extend delivery services
 - RSS feeds Mashups (<http://www.BookJetty.com>)
 - Deliver to PDAs, Researchers desktops
 - Allow for personalisation of services
 - Simplify and “Amazooglise”
 - Melvyl Recommender Project:
(http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/melvyl_recommender/)



Moving forward

- Services are the same, only different
- What is the role of the catalogue
- Understand what users want to do
- Remember things will change
 - Only variable is the pace of change
 - Need flexible modular systems



Thank you

Questions ?



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