Le IR, c’est mort.
Le IR, c’est mort.

Vive le IR!

Dorothea Salo
Repository Fringe
31 July 2008
We thought...

IF YOU BUILD IT...
... they will come!

... they will come!
We thought...

“Everybody wants open access!”

“We did all the planning. So everything will be just fine.”

“All we’ll take is the peer-reviewed research literature.”

“Resources? Staff? It’ll mostly run itself.”
We thought...

“Customization? It works out of the box!”

“Resources? Staff? It’ll mostly run itself.”

“Oh, come on, they can just hack it to do that!”

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“Document versioning? But all we want is the final version, right?”
We thought...

"Resources? Staff? It’ll mostly run itself."

"Customization? It works out of the box!"

"Dublin Core is plenty good enough."

"Document versioning? But all we want is the final version, right?"

"Oh, come on, they can just hack it that!"

"Everybody wants open access!"

"We did all the planning. So everything will be just fine."

"Sure, they’ll type keystrokes!"
And so we built it.

They didn’t come.
My job timeline

March 2007: I start.

June 2007: Repository budget slashed by one-third.

October 2007: I am asked to chair WG on repository future.

Part of WG charge: "Figure out how we’ll fund you.”
Hey, wait up!

“How do I cite this?”

“What is the authoritative version of record?”

“Will someone plagiarize me?”

“Will my publisher be upset?”

“Will someone violate my copyright or steal my idea?”

“Is my institution trying to be Big Brother?”

“Will I be sued for violating copyright?”

“Will I get credit toward tenure and promotion?”

“What do I put here?”
Hey, wait up!

“How do I cite this?”

“What is the authoritative version of record?”

“Will someone plagiarize me?”

“What do I put here?”

“Is my institution trying to be Big Brother?”

“Will I be sued for violating copyright?”

“Will I get credit toward tenure and promotion?”

“I don’t understand.”
The other downer

The top two words I utter about the software platform the repository is based on:

“I’m sorry.”
The shape of opportunity?

Death throes
Software hammerlock

- Our software made the same bad assumptions we did!
- So now we’re stuck with...
  - ... workflows that don’t work...
  - ... defaults and designs that make no sense...
  - ... protocols that don’t do enough...
  - ... services we want to offer but can’t...
  - ... stunning, appalling amounts of redundant effort aimed at redressing these problems.
Hey, get with the program!

- We are on the Web, but not of it.
- We are not mashuppable. Not even with other library services!
- We are ugly and unusable.
- We’re not 2.0. We’re not even 1.0b.
- We are missing opportunity because of this! How much more can we afford?
What are we, anyway?

- Researcher
- ETD coordinator
- Systems administrator
- Systems analyst
- Research programmer
- Liaison librarian
- Scholarly communication coordinator
- Repository librarian
- Metadata librarian
- Grant administrator
- Data curator
What are we, anyway?

How do we work together?
Let's take a step back.

Then two steps beyond!
Beyond “green OA”

- Self-archiving will not save us.
- Peer-reviewed research is not all we care about.
- Useful research products happen long before publication! Who will care for them?
- Open access as byproduct, not end-product
- If we’re part of the process, we have better claim to the results.
Beyond silos

‡ All of this is about more than where the stuff resides! That’s the least of our worries.
‡ We have to get stuff, give stuff, mash up stuff, expose stuff, manage stuff, help with stuff. No matter where it lives!
‡ The self-archiving paradigm didn’t have a management component, much less offer any cogent help.
Beyond eternal demos

- I’m tired of watching good code fly by!
- How do we share innovations more widely? How do we mainstream them?
- Not just about code!
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March 2008: WG makes radical suggestion: “Le IR, c’est mort.”

July 2008: WG report suggests “Vive le IR!”
   AS A SUITE OF SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS.
Variations on a theme in
Harvesting

✈ The content is out there. We just have to get our hands on it.
✈ APIs? (What if they won’t use ours?)
✈ Rights?
✈ Relations with commercial services? With disciplinary repositories?
✈ Compiled statistics for duplicate deposits? (We know they want ’em!)
Healing

Contused metadata
- If we’re swapping metadata and whole items, why aren’t we correcting each other?

Dislocated silos
- Paper plus data
- Your institution, my institution, their discipline
- IR, digital library, research storage...
- Again: are we of the Web, or just on it?

Bruised egos
- We haven’t covered ourselves with glory here. It’s time to mend some fences.
Helping

- Idealism isn’t enough. We have to make ourselves useful.
  - ... to our administrations
  - ... to our faculty

- How?
  - Early intervention?
  - Add-on services?
  - Or maybe we just don’t know yet—so let’s turn people loose to help others!
Funders are on the move.
Faculty have trailblazers to consider.
Librarians are taking note of process, not product.
Programmers are moving toward flexibility.
We are all rethinking our initial assumptions.
Starting to fit in... finally!
“The principal objective during the creation of this archive was to ensure adoption by embedding the repository so deeply in the institution’s working practices, that barriers to adoption were significantly lowered, if not removed.”

—Fereshteh Afshari and Richard Jones
“EPrints 3.1 is a little different... to make administering it easier. We've introduced web-based configuration editing, many more configuration files... reload if changed (saving restarts), and... an issue discovery system (duplicate titles etc).”

—Christopher Gutteridge
“EPrints 3.1 is a little different... to make administering it easier. We've introduced web-based configuration editing, many more configuration files... reload if changed (saving restarts), and... an issue discovery system (duplicate titles etc.).”

“We... apply a Spock approach—the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. So end-users are most important, followed by depositors, followed by editors, followed by librarians, etc.”

—Christopher Gutteridge

“Sucks less than Hotmail!” —Les Carr
Chris Rusbridge:
-ve clicks, +ve value!
Andy Powell, “Web 2.0 and repositories: have we got our repository architecture right?”
Paul Walk: Fitting in with the Web

“I wonder if the user-centric/institutional/global debate around repositories is just symptomatic of a tension about to become apparent all over the (institutional) Web?”

—Paul Walk

Paul Walk, “Repository Architecture #83”
SPARC, DRIVER and JISC

“... a common lobby at a national and international level to leverage change...”

“... joint commitment to promote a European network of repositories... across institutional and national boundaries....”
SPARC, DRIVER and JISC

"... a common lobby at a national and international level to leverage change...

"... joint commitment to promote a European network of repositories... across institutional and national boundaries...."

Repository Fringe 2008
We can do this.

Have sense!

Have fun!

Have at it!

Allons-nous!
Credits

http://flickr.com/photos/laffy4k (We thought...)
http://flickr.com/photos/oneservant2go (We built it)
http://flickr.com/photos/emdot (Software hammerlock)
http://flickr.com/photos/philon (Hey, wait up!)
http://flickr.com/photos/moriza (Hey, get with the program!)
http://flickr.com/photos/peasap (Beyond eternal demos)
http://flickr.com/photos/annia316 (Beyond green OA)
http://flickr.com/photos/darynbarry (Beyond silos)
http://flickr.com/photos/cyron (Harvesting)
http://flickr.com/photos/gaetanlee (Helping)
http://flickr.com/photos/erkcharlton (Healing)
http://flickr.com/photos/wetsun (Hope)
http://flickr.com/photos/archie4oz (Imperial College, London)
http://flickr.com/photos/kevincollins (ePrints)

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