Making repositories work through collaboration
(in all its guises)

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To cover

- Background and scope
- What is a repository?
- Collaboration (in all its guises)
- Putting it in context

Joseph Morris (2009) Issue #3 table of contents, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND
Background

- FAIR Programme Manager, 2002-4
  - Different meaning of FAIR! Focus on Access to Institutional Resources

- Working with repositories ever since
  - Focus on Fedora and subsequently Hydra/Samvera
  - RDSS EAG / Samvera Steering Group

- Open access and data curation lead at University of Hull

- Opinions my own. And I’m not a gardener…!
Scope

- Looking at the development of repositories from a Library perspective, but trying to consider other views

- Understanding other views fosters collaboration

- How can we make collaboration serve our repository needs?
Different views of an elephant

Mandy Goldberg (2007) Best elephant photo, flickr.com CC-BY
Different views of a tree

- Looking at the same thing differently
- Ask someone what a tree means or is to them
- Ask someone what a repository means or is to them
- Trees need and contribute to an ecosystem
  - Collaboration in natural action
New sapling
Repositories starting out

- Repository systems developed, and implemented, as applications
- Initial focus on institutional content (FAIR Programme) led to Digital Repositories Programme etc.
- New implementations carefully tendered to get them up and running
- Specialist staff/teams within the Library
- Collaboration through funding and project support
Looking for blossom

Tom Magliery (2013) Cherry blossoms, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA
Developing new services

- Repositories aligned with open access developments
  - Showcase of what Universities publish, new ways of disseminating research outputs

- Exchange of experience, information and ideas amongst repository managers (new role!) and within libraries
  - Creation of UKCoRR and Repository Fringe, etc.

- Collaboration through coming together and sharing practice
Tree lovers

Ewar Woowar (2007) Tree hugger, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA
Learning to love your repository

هى Challenges

- Getting Library colleagues to love your repository
- Getting academics to love your repository

- Development of projects to engage different stakeholders
- Open access champions / Mediated deposit
- Collaboration through targeted partnerships
The rival tree
Other repositories?

- Development of Current Research Information Systems (CRIS)
  - Led by, often, Research Office, remit to manage research workflows, including outputs

- Academic data repository developments
  - National and international in scope and practice

- Collaboration within parallel activities, often following similar paths - cross-service collaboration?
Landowners
Repository as institutional service

- National policy developments (Finch, RCUK, HEFCE) lead to repositories (or the CRIS) having raised value with institutional senior management (or do they…?)

- Putting repository services on different footing to ensure policy compliance

- Collaboration through policy enforcement - you will engage with the repository ;-)
Local gardener
Maintaining the repository

- Reliance on a key individual, or known support through ICT, often key to successful running of a repository
- Build-up of local skills and knowledge
- Can be linked to software provider, can be ‘go it alone’
- Collaboration with technical staff, wherever they may sit
Gardeners' Question Time

Available now

Culpepper Community Garden

All available episodes (467 total)

Coming Up

06/07/2018
Mondy 15:00
BBC RADIO 4

45:00

Upcoming episodes (7 new and 1 repeat)

Find us at
Developing skills through sharing

- Software system communities through open source provision, akin to online communities of practice
- Learning from others, contributing based on experience
- Challenge of getting support staff to engage with others outside the immediate place of work
- Collaboration through sharing with others
Gardening club

Ron Young (2014) Duchess Street Middle Club Garden, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND
Working together

- Practical engagement in repository community to create jointly developed solutions
- Contribution of time and resource
- Developing skills through doing, benefitting others and yourself at the same time, sharing the workload
- Collaboration through working together on shared, common goals
Tree surgeon
The role of vendors

- A core part of how libraries operate through the provision of a range of systems and services
  - Repositories are no different (?)
  - Beware scope creep!

- Vendors for commercial vs. open source options - level playing field

- Collaboration in building a vendor relationship
Garden centre

nstohlma (2013) Micropolis - garden center, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA
Subject communities

- A subject-view on the world, bringing everything that is needed together for ease of reference and use
  - Including different types of repository and related service

- Focused drive based on shared common goals
  - Some more nebulous than others

- Collaboration underpinned by subject link
Growing further?
What repositories do we want?

- This will depend on what they are being used for
  - But this means determining what we need our repositories for, and planning accordingly

- Is the focus on the repository or the content?

- We need repositories that allow the content to be sustainable, manageable, available, and usable

- Repository as infrastructure
Whenever we look at a tree we see different things
When we look at repositories we can view them from different perspectives
Informed by the different collaborations that lie behind how repositories have evolved, are used, and are maintained and developed
Collaborations

- New sapling - funding and project support (from Jisc or other), repository as application
- Looking for blossom - coming together as repository managers and sharing good practice and ideas
- Tree lovers - targeted partnerships to get others to love our repositories!
- Rival tree! - working with others across the institution where common goals and crossover appears
- Landowners - collaboration through policy
- Local gardener - local technical resource maintaining repository as an application
- Gardening website - Learning through sharing at a technical and detailed content management level
- Gardening club - software communities jointly developing and enhancing repository solutions
- Tree surgeon - building a vendor relationship
- Garden centre - subject focus to working together
- Growing further? - repositories as infrastructure
But all trees die!

AntoinePound (2018) Dead tree, flickr.com CC0
Yet they live on…

Reza (2009) Carved beauty, flickr.com CC-BY
Landscape gardening
Where is collaboration needed now?

- Work between fellow repository managers to further establish the role and purpose of repositories for the future
- Linking to other parts of our own institutions addressing related areas of activity, and bringing them together
- More engagement with technical staffing, wherever that may be, to increase understanding of what repositories can or should do
- Being open to collaborating and learning through ‘doing’ - working together on joint projects towards common goals
To summarise (without trees!)

- Our repositories are well-established after a decade of development

- Different views of repositories have highlighted that they can develop in different ways

- Collaboration in all its different guises is vital to the sustainability of repositories and making them part of the infrastructure we work with
Thank you

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...and just one more tree