The UK Research Reserve: from concept to realisation

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UK Research Reserve

“a collaborative, co-ordinated and sustainable approach to long-term retention, storage and access to low-use print journals”
The UKRR aims to enable:

- Co-ordinated *retention* of print journals
- Collaborative *storage* of printed journals
- Quick and easy access to research material
Where did the concept start?

Informal discussions about:

- Impact of e-journals on use of printed journal collections
- Pressures on space
- Strategic opportunities for collaboration over collection management of journals
- Vision of a nationally coordinated approach, partnership between Universities and British Library
What steps to realising the vision

- Meeting of library directors to test the idea (Dec. 06)
- Discussions with UK higher education funders to present strategic benefits and potential for efficiencies and savings across the sector
- Submitted funding bid to HE Funding Councils for UKRR ‘early adopters’ project
The UKRR project

- Two phases
- Phase 1 funded by UK HE Funding Councils
- £709,164
- January 2007 - August 2008
Phase 1 Project Partners

- University of Birmingham
- The British Library
- Cardiff University
- Imperial College London, lead institution
- University of Liverpool
- University of St Andrews
- University of Southampton
Governance for Phase 1

- **Phase 1 Advisory Board**
  - Library and research communities represented on Advisory Board
  - Oversees development of Phase 1
  - Develops a full governance model for Phase 2 and beyond
  - Advocacy for the UKRR in Phase 1
UKRR project: Phase 1

- Develop prototype
- De-duplicate (low-use) journals
- Test an operational service for researchers
- Evaluate the prototype
- Develop Phase 2
Achievements to date (1)

- Over 11,000 journal titles reviewed
- Holdings at BL and in HE network checked
- Approx 400 titles identified as ‘last copies’
- Central co-ordination of ‘last copies’
- Supplementary group of 20 libraries formed
- Evaluation completed
Achievements to date (2)

- BL take in, process and store ‘last copies’
- Approx 2% of HE selections taken in by BL
- Majority are filling gaps in titles already held by BL
- Service level for Phase 1 agreed
- Business model ready
Achievements to date (3)

- Space gains
  - 8400 linear metres of shelf space cleared (by Oct 2007)
  - Enables re-purposing of library space
  - Improved physical environment
  - Influences thinking about longer term plans for collection management
Business model (1)

- Two strands
  - Document supply
  - Storage and UKRR

- Document supply: 2 options
  - Current transactional model continues (increased rates)
  - Subscription model - volume-based, banded system
    - HEIs choose which band to join
    - Ability to move up or down in subsequent years
    - Covers all current document supply services
Business model (2)

- Storage & UKRR subscription
  - Available at 3 JISC-banded levels (£5k, £7.5k, £10k p.a.) – additional to document supply costs
  - 5 year commitment required
  - BL contributes 50% of total storage costs
  - HEFCE meets any shortfall in cost recovery over 5 years (up to £260k p.a.)
  - Gives libraries access to UKRR de-duplication fund
Imperial College – case study

- Imperial de-duplication complete
- 3,000 metres of journals removed
- Enabled repurposing/refurbishing of space at a medical campus library
- Created 39 new student study spaces
- New library teaching space
- Complete reorganisation of physical collection and study/learning space
Some issues and findings (1)

- Advocacy is crucial
- Time commitment
- Approach to journal selection
  - Number of individual journal titles selected is high
  - Reluctance to select long runs of ‘big name’ titles
  - Sustainability of e-versions still uncertain
  - ‘odds and ends’ syndrome
  - What is a journal?
Some issues and findings (2)

- Quality of bibliographic records for journals
  - Detail
  - Accuracy
  - Holdings information
  - ‘Shared services’ feasibility study

- Scale of SCONUL’s central co-ordinating role
  - Testing of the co-ordinated retention model is underway
  - Workload and sustainability
Some indicative figures

- Staff costs: £12 per linear metre
- Staff time: 44 minutes per linear metre
- Covers:
  - Project management
  - Holdings analysis & collection evaluation
  - Title measurement & holdings shelf check
  - Comparing with BL holdings
  - Local catalogue amendment
Phase 2

- Bid for Phase 2 funding (£9.35 million) submitted March 2008
- 3 components
  - Access service enhancement (£3m)
  - Shared storage: bridging fund to support UKRR subscription over 5 years (£0.75m)
  - Collaborative collection management to release up to 100,000 linear metres over 3 years (£5.6m)
- BL provides £3m matched funding over 5 years
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