

SDLC and SCURL:

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SCURL future priorities

- Collaborate in preparatory work for next generation LMS
- Explore technical infrastructure of repositories
- Investigate long term collaborative collection management
- Digital asset management



SDLC

- 12 organisations subscribe to a range of services
- Based on strategic thinking about the digital library
- Services include
 - Library catalogue (Voyager)
 - Federated search (WebFeat)
 - Repository (DSpace, Hosted Repository Service)
 - Digital library tool (Luna Insight)
 - Catalogue discovery tool (Aquabrowser)
- Importance of sharing expertise on digital library services



SDLC structure

- Established 1999, has grown organically
- Complex governance and contractual arrangements
- Different types of software
 - Proprietary, remotely hosted
 - Proprietary, locally hosted
 - Open source
- Based on contract extensibility clauses



...some quotes...

“For a relatively small library like ourselves, the management overheads of installing and running our own library system can be disproportionately high. By joining the Consortium, we were only required to purchase some additional space on an established server environment for our data, and to purchase additional software licenses at the reduced Consortium rate.”

“The benefits of being in a consortium were apparent during the implementation phase of the project when we had the support and experience of the Consortium team to draw on and we could compare notes and learn from other member libraries.”

“[we] chose the SDLC ... because it was a Scottish option seen to be working effectively for other library services, and because the lead site, University of Edinburgh, had strong experience of the softer issues surrounding institutional repositories, including involvement in UK national projects.”



experience
Knowledge
Resource sharing
Cross-sectoral
Cost effectiveness
Economies of scale
Experienced staff
Building blocks
Short cuts to excellence
Shared development
Best of breed digital library tools
Support
Sharing expertise
Larger institutions support smaller ones
Synergy
Strategic solution/vision
Shared product evaluation
Hosting services
Sectoral knowledge
Product discount
Access to suppliers
Value for money
Frees up local staff
Coat tails
Stable environment
Brownie points
Negotiating
Shared services
Scottish
Collaboration

Discussions between SDLC and SCURL

- SCURL and SDLC have discussed possible collaboration
- Jointly appointed group has met twice
- Agreed to bring to SCURL Plenary for wider discussion



Possible future activities for SDLC in a SCURL environment

- Wider set of software, eg several LMS
- Integrated platform for all these activities, including SHEDL
- New generation LMS
- Preservation
- Digitisation
- Establishment of standards for interoperability, incl Open Source and proprietary solutions (cf Scottish Common Information Environment/ Digital Access Scotland)
- Supporting “federated university of Scotland”

But the most important activity is SHARING EXPERTISE



an aside...

- Think about a future model
 - Move Scotland to the cloud
 - All Scottish library holdings in WorldCat
 - Use OCLC newly announced Software as a Service model



Questions to think about if SCURL and SDLC to come closer together...

- Stakeholders
- Structure
- Legal and organisational issues
- Financial issues



Stakeholders

- SCURL member institutions as users of services
- Existing SDLC members, including non SCURL members using services
- Customers (non SCURL members using services)
- Wider stakeholder group, eg SFC, US, SG



Possible structure models

- Collaboration
- Company

- Research pools (no legal entity)
- Stand alone not-for-profit company (eg DPC)
- OCLC (collaboration)
- Ontario Scholars Portal



Organisational and legal issues

- Collaborative not-for-profit organisation (any profit ploughed back into development)
- Need to decide on legal status
- “Board of Directors” represent stakeholder/ownership group; ?independent chair; set strategic direction
- Executive staff needed
- Need to consider risk to various stakeholders



Next steps

- Seek advice from University/NLS commercialisation units about structure and implementation
- Consider legal status; financial implications; risks
- Take ideas to SCURL and canvas opinion; questionnaire
- Take ideas to universities, and other stakeholders (Universities Scotland, SFC)
- Consultancy to establish?
- Seek funding to take forward



Questionnaire

- Would your University/HEI be interested in more collaborative activities?
- Which activities would your University/HEI be interested in?
- What would be the benefits to your University/HEI?
- What level of involvement would you want to commit?
- Should this be run as a company or collaboration?





Possible organisation

- Universities as stakeholders/owners through SCURL
- Central (executive) group
- Members of central group have threshold for entry (see next slide)
- Members of central group are also customers, as are other SCURL members
- Some customers from outside SCURL
- Central executive group do the work; held accountable for delivery; and receive income commensurate with this
- In effect, 2 levels of membership: “A” shares held by central group, “B” shares held by SCURL customers/stakeholders
- Could call this basic membership and Board membership



Entry threshold for central group might include:

- Bringing significant or valuable expertise to table
- Backing of highest decision making body (essential)
- Prepared to commit resource (could be either money or staff time)
- Prepared to share funding of central administration

