JORUM

"Justifying your Library or Information Service": JORUM and the local institution

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EDiNA

JISC

cetis

MIMAS

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Structure of Presentation

- Background – about JORUM   [10 minutes]

- Where does the local institution fit in?

- Where does the library or information service fit in?
                                                          [10 minutes]

- The potential roles of library and information staff in the JORUM service – discussion   [25 minutes]

What does JORUM mean?

- JISC Online Repository for [Learning and Teaching] Materials
  - NOUN:**1.** A large drinking bowl. **2.** The amount that such a bowl contains
  (http://www.bartleby.com/61/33/J0063300.html)

- Currently research project, started October 2002

- Paving the way for service to all F/HEIs from August 2005

JISC's Exchange for Learning Programme

- This programme is exploring the re-use and re-purposing of existing content, not just from JISC, but also other sources such as NLN, UfI and NGfL

- 22 L&T content-producing projects from FE and HE

- 3 infrastructure projects, JORUM, Reload and TOIA

- http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_x4l

- X4L "One Year On" at: http://www.x4l.org

- JORUM at: http://www.jorum.ac.uk

More about JORUM

• Project partners are JISC, EDINA, MIMAS, CETIS, Xtensis e-Learning Ltd and Intrallect Ltd

JORUM has two "Areas":

• Area A: Pave the way for the JISC's long-term repository service

• Area B: Provide test-bed repository systems for content-producing projects in X4L (intraLibrary and Xtensis)
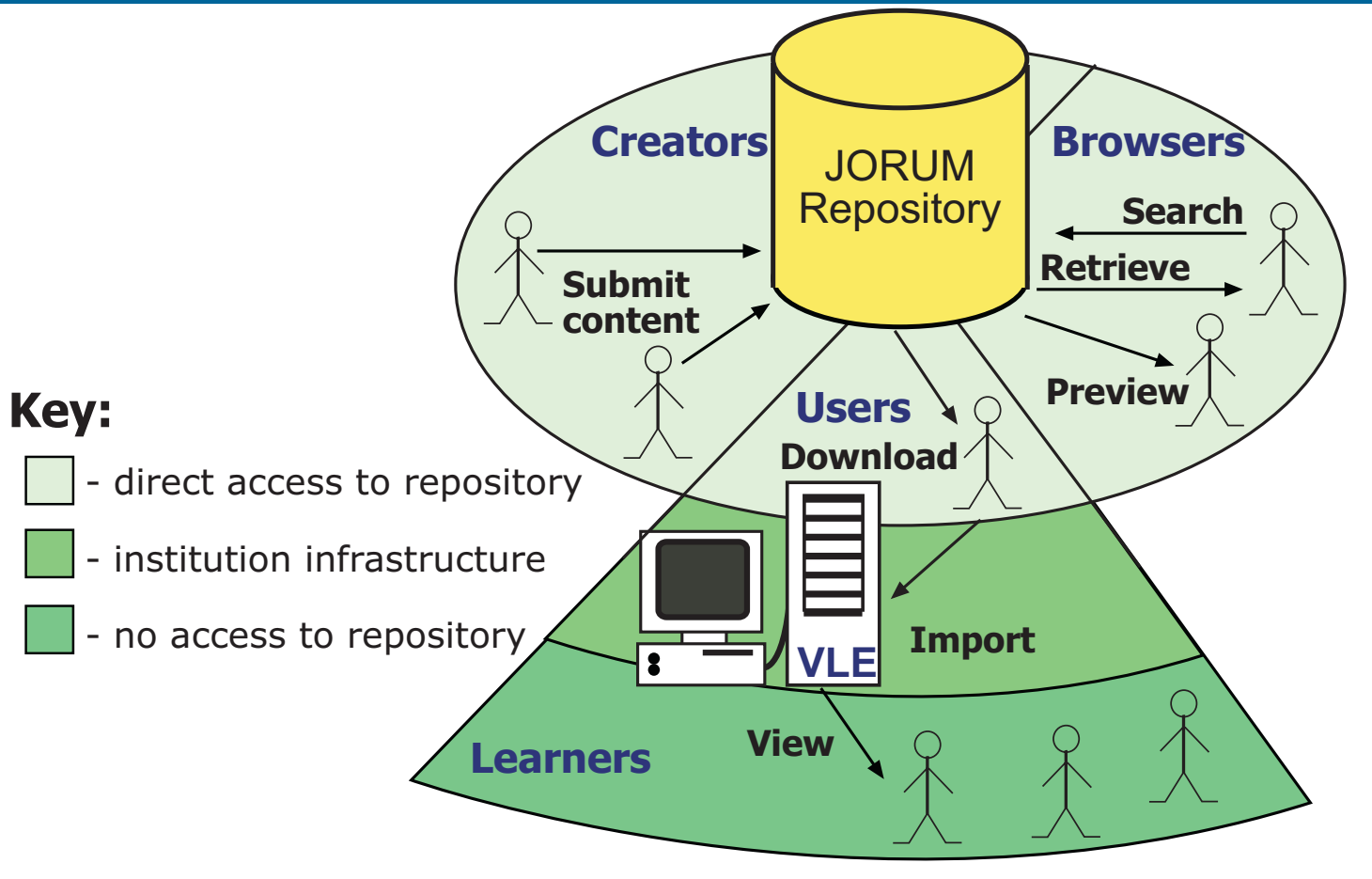
What does a L&T repository do?

- Hosts any digital resource that can be used to support teaching and learning

- Provides "virtual objects" that reference materials (on and offline) held elsewhere

- Offers the same facilities as a library i.e. *search, browse, locate, preview* and *borrow*

- Offers additional facilities e.g. upload and *publish, myLibrary* and may *package* learning objects into assemblies or *content packages*

- Supports all file formats for L&T and delivers content packaged learning objects that can be played in a VLE, or resources for use by tutors
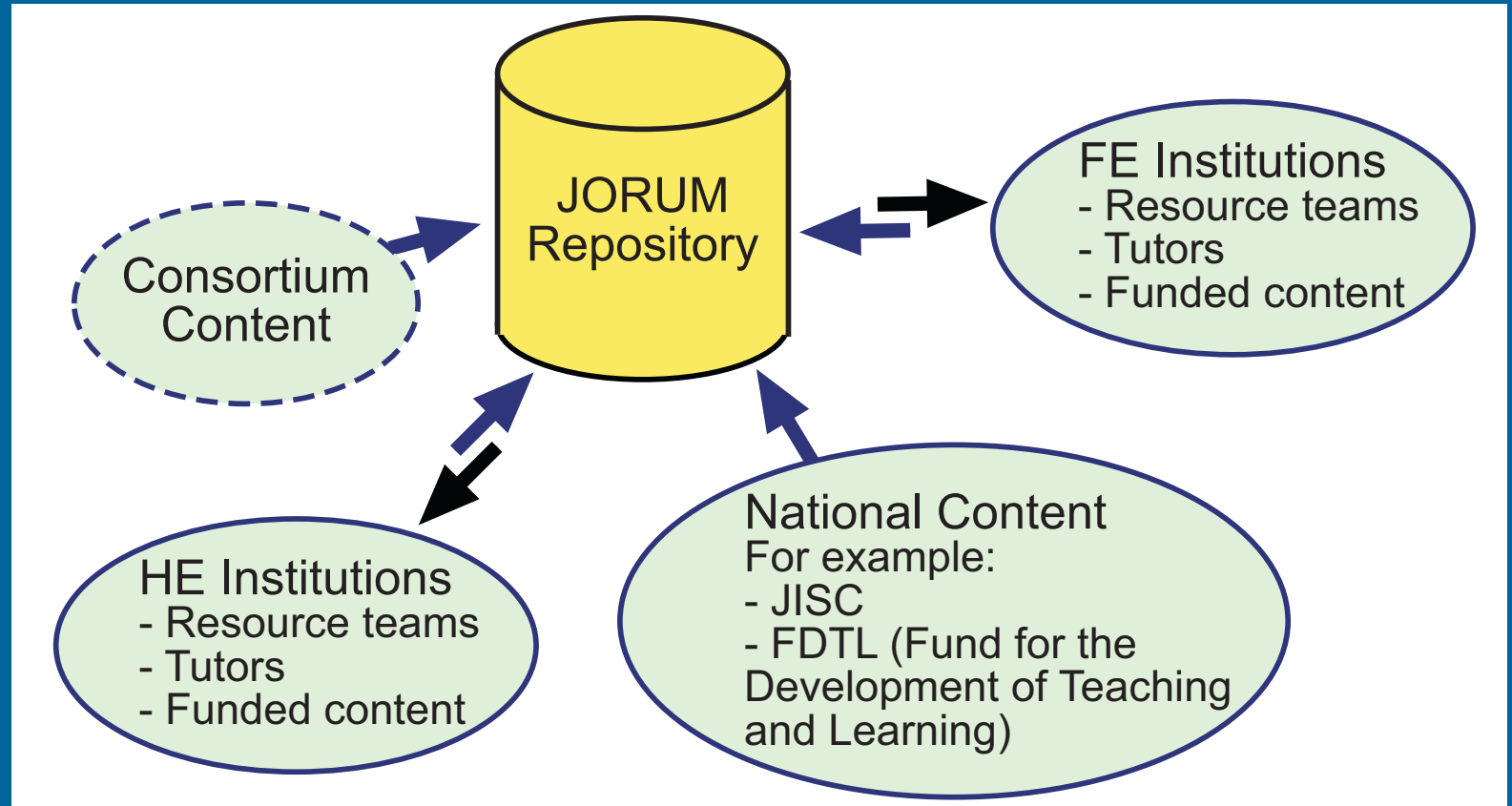
Why a JISC Repository?

- Provides long-term retention for nationally funded project outputs
- Stands as a national statement of the importance of creating interoperable, sustainable materials
- Supports individuals, teaching teams, collaborative groups and communities in their work
- Promotes the sharing, re-use and re-purposing of expensive content
- Part of a "landscape" of distributed repositories
- Data centres provide 24/7 servers and management of data on behalf of institutions and organisations
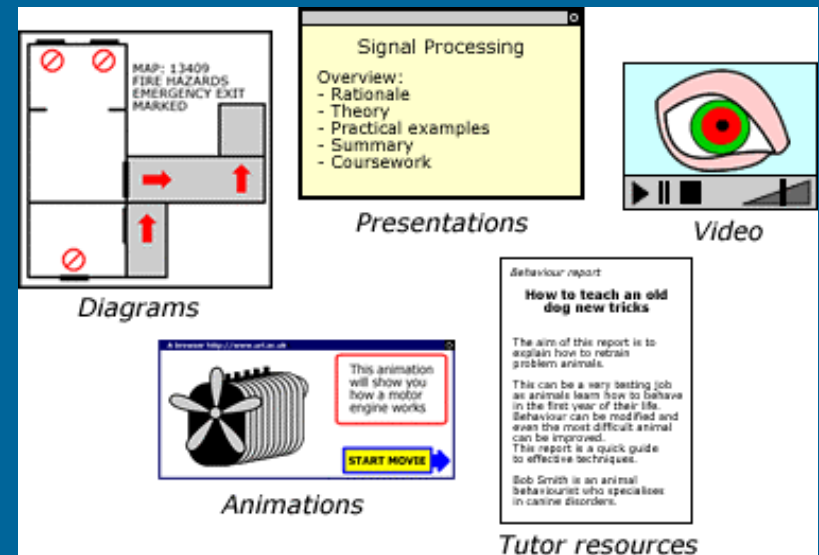
Who would use the JORUM?

Potential sources of content

JORUM Repository

Consortium Content

FE Institutions
- Resource teams
- Tutors
- Funded content

HE Institutions
- Resource teams
- Tutors
- Funded content

National Content
For example:
- JISC
- FDTL (Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning)

What materials will JORUM hold?

- Simple materials
  - Excel spreadsheet with data for lab exercise
  - Word document with lesson plan, or schedule of work
  - Images
- More complex materials
  - 3D Flash animations illustrating complex concepts e.g. chemical, geological etc
  - Learning objects, containing a number of files, some of which may provide student interactivity
- Virtual objects
  - Files that contain a reference to materials not held in the repository

What are metadata?

- "The literal meaning of "metadata" is "data about data". It is also described as structured, descriptive information.

- "Metadata can be used to describe an information resource, an image, a collection or a simulation, amongst a multitude of other kinds of resources. Metadata are often compared to a library catalogue record, which is a structured description of an information resource.

- "The MARC format was created as a way of storing catalogue records in a machine-readable format. Similarly, metadata have features that improve their function of describing a resource (semantics) and there are different ways to make the metadata machine-readable (syntax)."

[Slater, J. *A Guide to Metadata,* December 2002. Available at: http://metadata.cetis.ac.uk/guides/guide.doc]

Interoperability

- Strong support throughout the world for the use of a particular standard called IEEE LOM (Learning Object Metadata)
- Developed specifically to describe learning resources
- This standard has been mapped to Dublin Core
- Use of this standard, or sub-sets of it, mean that content can be shared between distributed systems
- Metadata can be "harvested" by portals to direct users to content
- Application Profiles of the IEEE LOM standard are sets of metadata elements for use in particular contexts
- Various JISC-funded bodies have worked together to produce Application Profiles for use in UK Further and Higher Education

Application Profiles

- Minimum common core of elements from the standard + associated vocabularies
- JORUM will use 2 Application Profiles:
  - the X4L
  - RDN/LTSN
- JACS and Learndirect subject classifications
- Subject specific schemes such as MeSH
- UK Educational Levels
- RDN/LTSN Resource Type Vocabulary
- LTSN Pedagogic Terms Vocabulary
- LTSN Policy Themes Vocabulary
  - http://www.cetis.ac.uk/profiles/uklomcore
  - JORUM report at http://www.jorum.ac.uk

Where does the local institution fit in?

- JORUM will be a service like other data centre services
- Athens authenticated
- JISC have promised no charge for first 3 years
- Institutions will be asked to subscribe to the service and create service teams locally, containing for example:
  - Site reps
  - Learning resource centre staff
  - Librarians
  - Learning technologists
  - ILT Champions
  - Local "experts"
  - Legal departments

Where does the library/information service fit in?

- Two key areas:

    - Copyright

    - Metadata

Copyright

- Resources contain copyright material owned by the institution of depositor
- May also contain third party material
- Institution will provide non-exclusive licence to data centre institution, acting on behalf of JISC
- Institution is therefore Licensor and data centre institution is Licensee
- Electronic licence will be used in JORUM
  - So we need not only electronic way of doing this in the system (ask later if you want details of how we will do it)
  - But also workflow arrangements with relevant institutional staff

JORUM licence

- Licence requires someone at institution to state that they have authority to agree to licence i.e. to sign on behalf of their institution
  - It is unlikely that a content author i.e. tutor would have this authority
- Licence asks for warranty that resources will not break any UK law or offend any third party rights holders
- Licence requires indemnification of host institution if third party rights holders object or law is broken
  - Only someone with authority to sign on behalf of their institution can give these guarantees

Metadata assignment

- If the metadata is wrong in JORUM, no-one will find resources they want
- We need quality assurance mechanisms
- Recent research in this area indicates that tutors alone – in general – will not be able/willing to provide metadata in enough quantity and of a high enough quality
  - Although they must be allowed to put in whatever they see fit
- So who will check the metadata that the tutor has put in, and who will add the other metadata that they have omitted?

Possible locations for metadata evaluators

- The institution – the library/learning resource centre?
- The data centre
    - But this may prove problematic, given the gap between us and the tutor
    - And data centre staff cannot be expert in all discipline areas
- Intermediary organisations e.g. Resource Discovery Network (RDN), Subject Centres
    - But discipline areas are not the only metadata that require to be added
- Anywhere else?

JORUM suggested workflow

- Depositor (tutor and/or support staff) deposits resource (with minimal metadata) into repository

- Repository acknowledges by email

- Resource passes for clearance by "institutional publisher" and repository issues email to institutional publisher to acknowledge

- Resource then passes to "metadata evaluator"

- Then to data centre-based "technical evaluator" for technical check and publish to community

- Email sent to original depositor to inform him/her that resource now published

Questions for discussion - copyright

- Who in your institutions would be the appropriate person/department/unit to undertake these responsibilities?

- Would they be prepared to check deposited content by members of their staff and "sign" the licence?

- What would they need in order to do their job
  - e.g. the system could ask the original depositor (the tutor, or learning support staff) to "sign" a notice stating that they have checked third party rights …

Questions for discussion - metadata

- Would institutions want involvement in metadata evaluation of deposits made by their staff?
- If so, would the library/resource centre want to be involved?
- If not, would you be happy to hand over this role to intermediary organisations or the data centres?

Some additional thoughts

– Will library and resource centre staff take on the challenge of becoming metadata experts for e-learning?

(See Barton, Currier and Hey (2003) at: http://www.siderean.com/dc2003/201_paper60.pdf

and Currier, Barton, O'Beirne and Ryan (2004) at: http://metadata.cetis.ac.uk/files/currbartobeiryan_altj_6.doc)

– Does the JORUM repository service (along with local repository developments, if any, in your institution) offer potential for greater involvement by library/learning resource staff in e-learning work (See Chelin (2004) *VLEs and Librarians – what's it got to do with them anyway?,* ALT Newsletter, Feb 2004)

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Please talk to us today if you are interested in helping us with JORUM workflow modelling