DSpace - The Not-So-Final Frontier

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We planned and worked from the ground up.
LOCKSS
Open source software that turns PC into preservation tool which
- collects new information in targeted ejournals (collections)
- compares and updates cached content and updates differences
- web based admin
- allows access after original item has vanished
- linked sites backup

http://lockss.stanford.edu.au
LOCKSS - Potential model
We work with the Library
Why it’s critical to work together

- Excellent working relationship
- They bring knowledge and tech and support
- We bring the content and the evangelists
- But the 3rd important party is still in process
Getting our University ISD to also come to the party

• We plan(ned) to implement LOCKSS
• Presentations and corridor discussions
• Strategies and project plans
• Making DSpace a priority for the University
We work with the Library
Why it’s critical to work together

- Access to complimentary knowledge and systems
- Differences in background stop it from being a “yes” committee
- How to ruin a Librarians’ party
Classification issues

- Dewey makes people unhappy, training issues
  But
- Scholars look along the shelf in the Library
- We used RFCD codes i.e. 420208
Why focus on the Humanities?

- masses of intellectually valuable / commercially uncontentious research
- life-cycle of scholarly interest in humanities research
- research based on information, not data
- Support from Head of Humanities, ground-up approach
The Archivists

- 5 x .5 PhD students working Nov 20 - Feb 3
- .5 Project Manager - oversees practical aspects
- Humanities Research Centre and Library planned for one year - seed planted
Archiving Printed Materials

our workflow

- Text must be searchable, compliant:
  - copyright checked
  - cut sheet scanner
  - Omnipage Pro
  - footer added,
  - read, tagged, coded,
  - converted into PDF
  - uploaded...
Issues of Adoption

• So far goodwill, but University funding needed
• Trying to work out what DSpace will do.
• Trying to work out how to force our content into the prescribed process
• Only have 2 out of the critical 3.
• Researchers remain attached to traditional publication systems. (ejournal plug-in?)
• Scepticism about digital modes of storage and dissemination is reinforced by existing academic evaluation and reward systems. Bad IT experiences.
2 Useful Tenets

1. We are “freezing Walt Disney”. This is not the final object. It is part of something larger. It must be portable and logical. Above all, it must exist. Don’t get so granular that you can’t move. Make basic rules, and try to stay away from arbitrary decisions.

2. RQF = Millennium Bug. We must not be distracted from the task at hand by double guessing the reporting system. What we are doing is worthwhile, regardless.
What Worked
- Having a “play space”
- Working with the Library
- Giving the Academics a year
- Hiring Archivists
- Starting Small
- Sending out several calls for content
- The Flat Screen Bribe
Looking to the Past, Present and Future

- exploring conversion of Word documents into XML (WordML to DocBook)
- implemented Creative Commons Licence - just waiting for the raw research
- addressing ‘crisis’ of academic publishing, (demonstrating and disseminating information about new models of academic communication)
- actually moving forwards so that we know the bigger system that this is a part of. Reduce guesswork, show what can be done.
Thanks for listening.

Questions??
No? Great, Let’s go to lunch and discuss this crazy diagram.