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Large digitisation projects: the JISC experience

Keynote Item

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Large digitisation projects: the JISC experience

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The background

- £10m CSR surplus given to JCCS in 2002
- For large digitisation projects
- Working group set up
- Decision to consult HE/FE communities
- Only large projects – some proposed by JISC team
- Over 300 responses – good agreement

The winners

- 9 large projects came top of the poll
- A good overlap of HE and FE preferences
- A nice mix of text, image, moving image
- Negotiations started with providers
- Programme manager appointed
- Announcement to the community
- A contingency was kept just in case

Who were the winners?

- Artstor came in at number 1
- But the providers (US) were not ready for the UK market/technical platform
- So that will be proposed as a JCCS service
- With subsidised subscriptions for HE/FE
- Likely to be introduced in 2005

Now we are seven

- Newsfilm Online, ITN/BUFVC (3k hours):
£2.26m
- BL newspapers (2m pages): £2.02m
- BOPCRIS, Southampton (945k pages of 18C Parl. Papers): £1.43m
- BL sound archive (4k hours):
£1.07m

The magnificent seven continued

- UK population statistics, 19C and 20C, HDS (190k pages): £909k
- UK/US medical journals: £500k plus £750k partnership funding from Wellcome
- British Pathe news, BUFVC and ITN (3.5k hours): £411k
- Total: £8.6m

What happened to number 9?

- The ninth project was EEBO/TCP
- EEBO was already in the JCCS portfolio
- TCP would give the added value to users
- By creating tagged, searchable texts that link directly to corresponding EEBO pages
- But TCP is a partnership, a co-investment
- So it is a matter for ongoing JCCS budget

Programme timescale and costs

- Negotiations have been very complex
- Only 1 project started so far: Population statistics (HDS)
- Others due to start soon
- Projects will finish in 2007
- Programme support costs: £268k
- Contingency: £1.12m

What are the issues?

- Hosting the content: central (MIMAS etc), local (BL etc), dispersed
- Serving the content: central (EDINA etc), local, outsourced (e.g. NLM for Wellcome)
- Technological methods (e.g. robotic scanner for BOPCRIS)
- Ownership: partnerships, third parties, etc

More issues

- Copyright: can be complex (e.g. clips in Pathe News)
- Interface design/accessibility: some tables in 19C census papers not WC3 compliant; they'll be downloadable only on demand
- Authentication and authorisation: extra funding needed for BUFVC for Athens

What's the biggest issue of all?

■ **Sustainability after 2007**

- Adding more content
- Migrating the technology platform
- Digital preservation
- Improving interfaces
- Upgrading hardware
- Who pays? Who decides? Who owns?

Programme management costs

- Programme manager costs
- Rights study for BL sound archive
- IPR study for Pathe News
- Storage and hosting study (all projects)
- Legal advice
- QA focus and summative evaluation to come