

[Jean Sykes](#)

## From DECOMATE to NEREUS

### Keynote Item

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# From DECOMATE to NEREUS



Library

British Library of Political  
and Economic Science

Jean Sykes

Librarian and Director of  
Information Services

London School of Economics

# Outline of presentation

- What was DECOMATE?
- What were the outcomes and lessons learned?
- The DECOMATE exploitation plan (2000)
- Preparations for NEREUS
- The EC 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme
- The NEREUS vision, portal, and content
- The rationale behind NEREUS
- The NEREUS partners, core and beyond

# What was DECOMATE? (1)

- A digital library for economics
- Nowadays we'd call it a portal
- With 4 major European partners:
  - Tilburg University (lead site)
  - London School of Economics
  - European University Institute  
(Florence)
  - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

# What was DECOMATE? (2)

- Major economics research collections
- Bringing together collaborative content
- Project agreements with e-publishers
- Using subject and technical expertise
- Working with researchers
- Developing software

# Outcomes

- Front-end search software (now iPort from OCLCPica)
- Authentication software – the user had to be an economist from one of the partner universities
- Personalisation software – the researcher chooses the content
- A network of human expertise

# Lessons learned

- Technical and organisational issues
- Legal issues (eg copyright)
- Importance of identifying user requirements
- Need for more much more content
- Need for interoperability/linking/single sign-on
- Need for scalability in breadth and depth
- Not yet a truly European economics digital library

# The DECOMATE exploitation plan (2000)

- The product must still be offered to users
- The partners must stay in touch
- A new funding opportunity must come along
- The partnership needed expanding
- There must be much more content and we needed additional staff expertise



# Preparations for NEREUS (1)

- The partners wait for a suitable funding programme (2000 – 2001)
- Meanwhile, they speak to other major economics libraries in Europe
- The World Economics Institute in Kiel joins the group in early 2002
- The EC 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme is announced in Spring 2002 and looks promising

# Preparations for NEREUS (2)

- The partners discuss EoI via email
- Hans Geleijnse of EUI drafts the EoI
- Other partners make comments
- Hans submits the EoI in early June 2002
- The new project title is NEREUS – Networked Economics Resources for European Scholars
- The partners meet in London in late June

# Preparations for NEREUS (3)

- The partners discuss the project in more detail
- They agree to sponsor a project manager
- An advert goes out in October 2002
- Recruitment will take place soon
- The project manager will co-ordinate the full bid and encourage more partners to join

# The EC 6<sup>th</sup> Framework

- 2 parts of the Framework are relevant:
- Networks of Excellence/Integrated Projects
- Decided go for Networks of Excellence
- 2 thematic priorities are relevant:
- Knowledge and interface technologies
- Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society
- Call for bids expected 20 December, with submission deadline 17 March 2003

# The NEREUS vision (1)

- A single online European research library for economics
- Covering major economics libraries from most EC countries plus Eastern Europe
- Covering much more content than DECOMATE (statistics, census, datasets)
- Including more information formats than DECOMATE (e-prints, working papers)

# The NEREUS vision (2)

- Using new open source and integrationist technologies
- Including suitable commercial technical partners (SUN Netherlands and OCLCPica)
- Working with e-publishers for shared deals
- Taking user evaluation further – to understand the process of knowledge creation itself

# The NEREUS portal

- Access from on and off campus (24x7)
- Customisable user requirements/profile
- Sophisticated search techniques
- Managed and relevant content from a vast amount of data
- Access to a wide range of formats

# NEREUS content (1)

- Content will include:
- Free content from open sources validated by library experts
- E-versions of research outputs
- Commercially available e-journals
- Large datasets including census, statistics, financial data



# NEREUS content (2)

- Alerting and current awareness services
- Pooled electronic reference desk
- Online access to major catalogues and digitised historical content
- Document delivery (e and print)
- Secure passworded access to all e-sources permitted by third parties through single sign-on

# NEREUS content (3)

- Managed, layered subject search points to enable focused searching (metadata)
- Facility to share access, content, creation of new content with other researchers
- Opportunity to export knowledge created for research into learning tools for use with students

# The rationale behind NEREUS

- Research knows no geographical boundaries
- Collaborative research is on the increase
- We can assist European scholars to close the gap in economics research output with the US
- We can pool both the information resources and the human expertise across a large number of major European research libraries

# The core partners

- LSE Library (Jean Sykes)
- Tilburg University Library (Mel Collier)
- European University Institute Library (Hans Geleijnse)
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Library (Nuria Gallart)
- German National Library for Economics, Kiel (Susanne Schaeffers)

# Further partners

- Library of the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (Paris)
- Library of Universite de Paris Dauphine
- Economics Library, University of Goteborg
- Library of Universite Libre de Bruxelles
- University of Northumbria (UK)
- Sun Netherlands
- OCLCPica
- And more to come