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From DECOMATE to NEREUS

Keynote Item

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From DECOMATE to NEREUS

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Outline of presentation

• What was DECOMATE?
• What were the outcomes and lessons learned?
• The DECOMATE exploitation plan (2000)
• Preparations for NEREUS
• The EC 6th 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 Autonoma 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 OCLC Pica)
• 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 (e.g., copyright)
- Importance of identifying user requirements
- Need for 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 6th 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\textsuperscript{th} 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 OCLC Pica)
- 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
• 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 Autonoma 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