Where next?

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Criteria for Activity
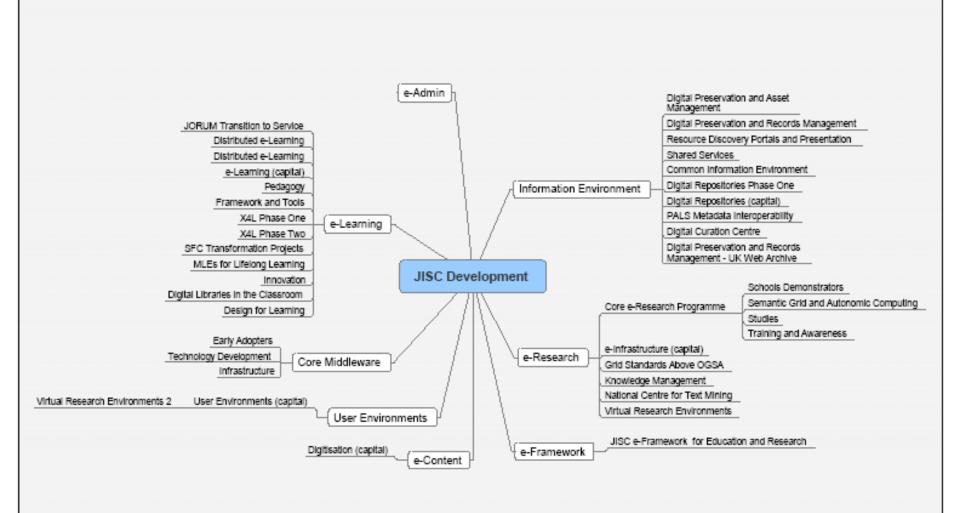
- **Technology based**

- **Provides a UK wide benefit, adding value through economies of scale**

- **Unfeasible without central support**

Outcomes

1. Build capacity, knowledge and skills and stimulate positive and informed change in the sector through piloting new technologies and approaches

2. Provide guidance to the sector on 'best practice' models for using technology that can be used at departmental, institutional, regional or national levels

3. Provide expert strategic leadership to the sector and other bodies in specialist areas and influence national and international agendas

4. Gain knowledge and experience as a basis for future funding decisions for the JISC and its sub-committees

5. Develop services, infrastructure or applications that may be used at departmental, institutional, regional or national levels

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JISC Development

JISC Development (central node)

e-Admin

Information Environment
- Digital Preservation and Asset Management
- Digital Preservation and Records Management
- Resource Discovery Portals and Presentation
- Shared Services
- Common Information Environment
- Digital Repositories Phase One
- Digital Repositories (capital)
- PALS Metadata Interoperability
- Digital Curation Centre
- Digital Preservation and Records Management - UK Web Archive

e-Learning
- JORUM Transition to Service
- Distributed e-Learning
- Distributed e-Learning
- e-Learning (capital)
- Pedagogy
- Framework and Tools
- X4L Phase One
- X4L Phase Two
- SFC Transformation Projects
- MLEs for Lifelong Learning
- Innovation
- Digital Libraries in the Classroom
- Design for Learning

e-Research
- Core e-Research Programme
  - Schools Demonstrators
  - Semantic Grid and Autonomic Computing
  - Studies
  - Training and Awareness
- e-Infrastructure (capital)
- Grid Standards Above OGSA
- Knowledge Management
- National Centre for Text Mining
- Virtual Research Environments

Core Middleware
- Early Adopters
- Technology Development
- Infrastructure

User Environments
- Virtual Research Environments 2
- User Environments (capital)

e-Framework
- JISC e-Framework for Education and Research

e-Content
- Digitisation (capital)

Priority areas

- Open standards (and standard development)
- Institutional systems e.g. repositories
- Access to information e.g. Access management systems
- Connecting users and resources e.g. Information Environment
- Cycle of engagement between users and developers

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Supporting education and research

Sustainability

- Perennial issue for funding organisations such as the JISC

- For last ten years, have developed and refined approaches to sustainability

- Can still do better …

Sustainability: some problems

- Limited resources
- So much to do …
  - IT systems now pervasive in education and research
- Everyone wants to do more, better
- Government funding has to follow rules
  - Not be anti-competitive
  - Open and fair competition etc.
- Tension between innovation and sustainability

Supporting education and research

Sustainability approaches used

- Ongoing support by institution
  - Require formal support for a project by senior managers
  - Problem: senior managers move on; priorities change
  - Solution: project thinks about sustainability from the start and focuses on activities like developing a good user base
  - Encourage a culture of sustainability

Approaches used

- Move some projects to JISC-funded service (e.g. JORUM, Shibboleth)
  - Problem: Requires good planning from the start – but don't always know what will be successful at the start
  - Solution: Requires iterative models to move from project, to transition, to full service (maybe)
  - Problem: Can only be applied to a limited number of projects
  - Solution: Projects need to be selected based on clear criteria and driven by community need (or forecast need)

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Approaches used

- Project runs and then 'dies' (Darwinian principles)
- Problem: knowledge is lost
- Solution: capture outcomes / outputs and share them

Where does Open Source fit in?

- Used / developed in many projects and programmes
- Stimulating and support existing OS projects and systems
  - Community 'votes with its feet'
  - DSpace, Fedora, Moodle, LAMS, Bodington …
- Open Source policy
  - Making publicly-funded resources available under appropriate licences e.g. ePrints, RELOAD, etc etc
- OSS Watch
  - To advise, guide, inform, provide practical support

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What the JISC can't do …

- Or not on its own …
- Identify gaps in the market
  - Need to know what is needed and why
- Sustain open source software
  - Not a software house
  - But can support models to do that
- Create better synergy between developers and users
  - This is surely a key to sustainability?

What the JISC can do …

- Help the community to support OS products (where the community 'votes with its feet')
- Ensure that its funded activities are made available as widely as possible through OS licences
- Provide programme models that encourage sustainability e.g. build up capacity and knowledge in the sector
- Provide advice and guidance

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The future

- Commissioned a study to look at successful models of OS
    - Will also link up with the Ithaka study
- Taking more explicit approach to the design of our programmes
    - Considering sustainability from the start
    - Looking at different models that may be more sustainable
        - Adoption models

Some suggestions

- Use OSSWatch as a way to share information about what OS products are being used in the UK

- Help more collaboration / sharing between institutions – share practice, collaborate on products if appropriate?

For discussion

- Develop models for collaboration between institutions?
  - Might the Sakai model work in the UK?
  - Does it need central intervention to make it work?
  - (and remember the MAC initiative …)
    - Ref. Jim Farmer about institutional collaboration
- Engage commercial suppliers and support companies?
  - JISC can't engage directly with the commercial sector
  - But educational institutions / consortia can do