

Repositories in an institutional context

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Welcome and Introductions

Go round the table!

- Name, institution, repository status
- Where applicable, please address the following question:
 - ‘How is your repository presented within your institution (technically)?’
 - website, URL link, through M2M interfaces, etc.

Repositories in an institutional context

Repositories are often viewed from the perspective of supporting open access - a broad view

- Repository ecology (as described by R. John Robertson this morning) allows for different perspectives to better understand the interactions a repository will be involved in

Looking at the repository from the perspective of the institution can alter how we think about the system

- What is the benefit to the institution?
- What does the repository need to function as an institutional system?
- What is the relationship between the repository and other systems within the institution?
- How is the repository seen and regarded by staff?

Purpose of the repository

Exemplars of repository use

- Open access
- Preservation
- Digital content management (incl. creation)
- Controlled access (internal and external)

The purpose of a repository will affect its perspective

- Different user groups
- Different expectations
- Different institutional need

Current position of the repository

Institutional repositories are often

- Standalone web applications
- Linked from somewhere else in the institution (e.g., as a Library service)
- An additional institutional system that requires understanding and, potentially, training to use effectively

Isolation can lead to a lack of involvement and take-up by users

Learn from other institutional systems

- How have they been integrated?
- How have they been promoted and adopted?

Integration with institutional environments

Access to a repository through an institutional or other portal framework

- e.g., uPortal

Access to a repository from within a virtual learning environment or course management system

- e.g., Sakai, Blackboard, etc.
- These systems may also fulfil a role as a virtual research environment

Access to a repository through whichever web environment you would normally expect, and maybe guide, users to use.

- This may be the repository as a linked web interface (e.g., from within the Library website)

Different levels of integration

Surfacing

- Presenting the repository, or a window onto the repository, within a different environment
 - Probably the most common approach

Interaction

- Allowing different environments and systems to make use of content within the repository through recognised (standard?) interfaces
 - e.g., a CRIS accessing full-text records

Mounting

- The repository as a seamless, integral part of another environment
 - e.g., a VLE using a repository for all its content

Technical options for integrating a repository

URL link to website

- Static or dynamic (OpenURL), high-level or targeted

Z39.50/SRW/U etc

- The repository as a target within a cross-search

RSS

- Alerting from the repository

JSR 168/WSRP 1.0

- Portlet standards for presentation of a repository within a portal or other compliant framework

Building blocks/specific mechanisms

Technical options II

Web services

- Integration of a repository via standard APIs
- Possibly as part of a wider service-oriented architecture

Separation of application from GUI

- Allows flexible interaction with the repository not limited by the GUI
- Allows M2M interaction

Facilitates interaction with other systems with web service APIs

RepoMMan

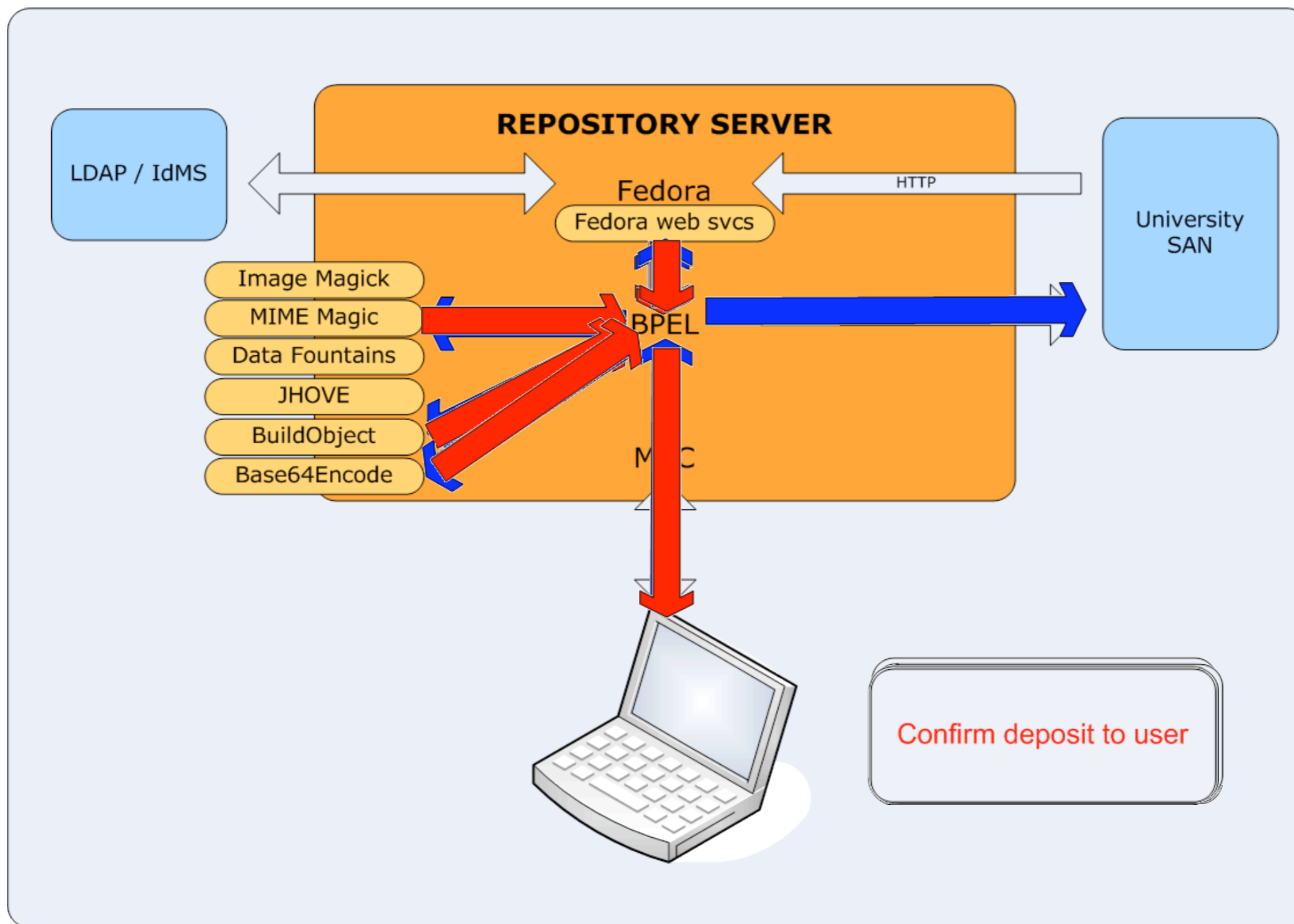
RepoMMan is JISC-funded from June 2005 to May 2007

The project has two main strands:

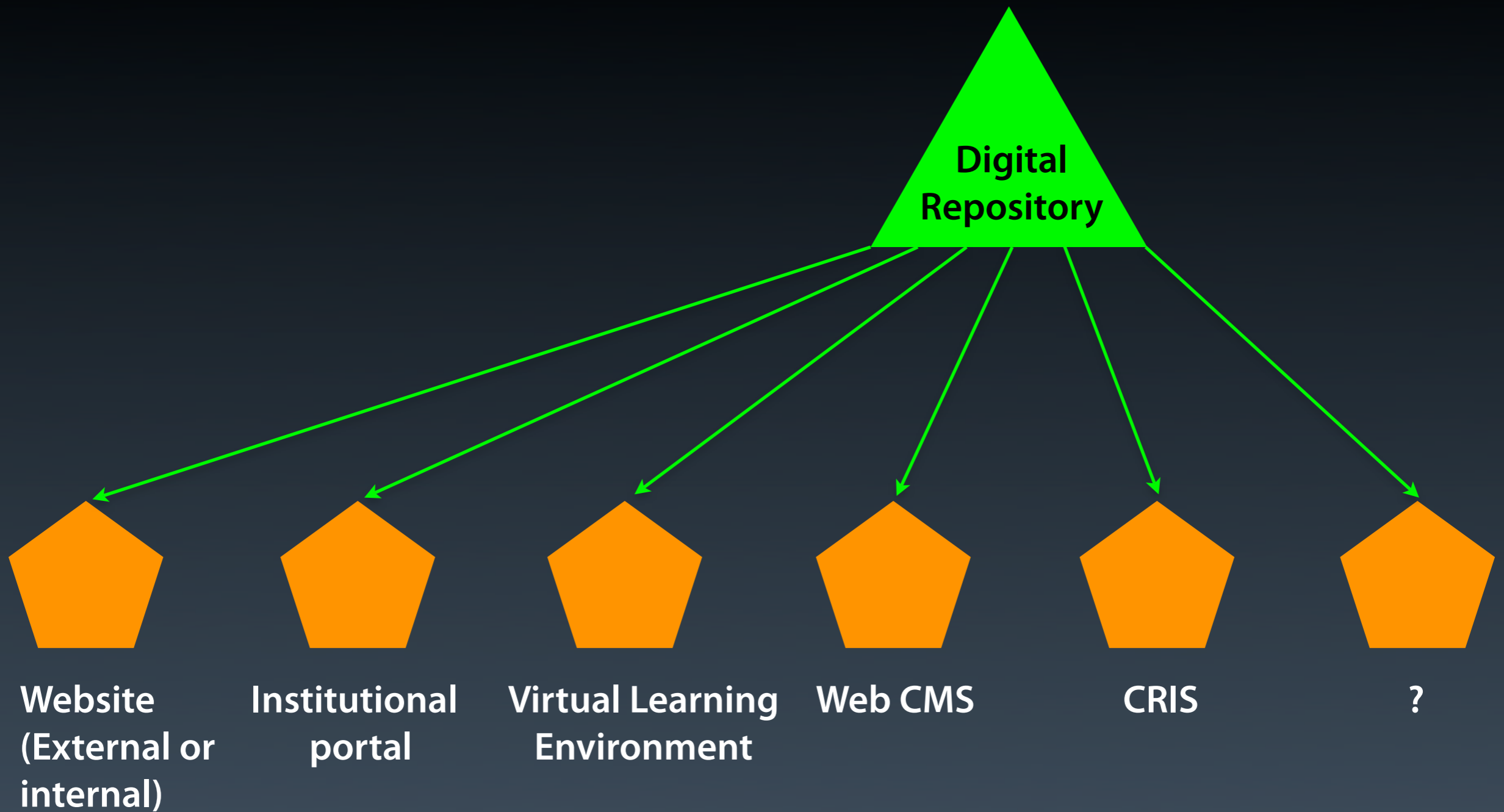
- The construction of a tool to allow an individual user to interact with a digital repository as part of their regular working practices, and
- To provide a level of automation which assists the process of creating a formal digital object from completed material – especially the automatic production of metadata.

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/esig/repomman/>

BPEL and web services

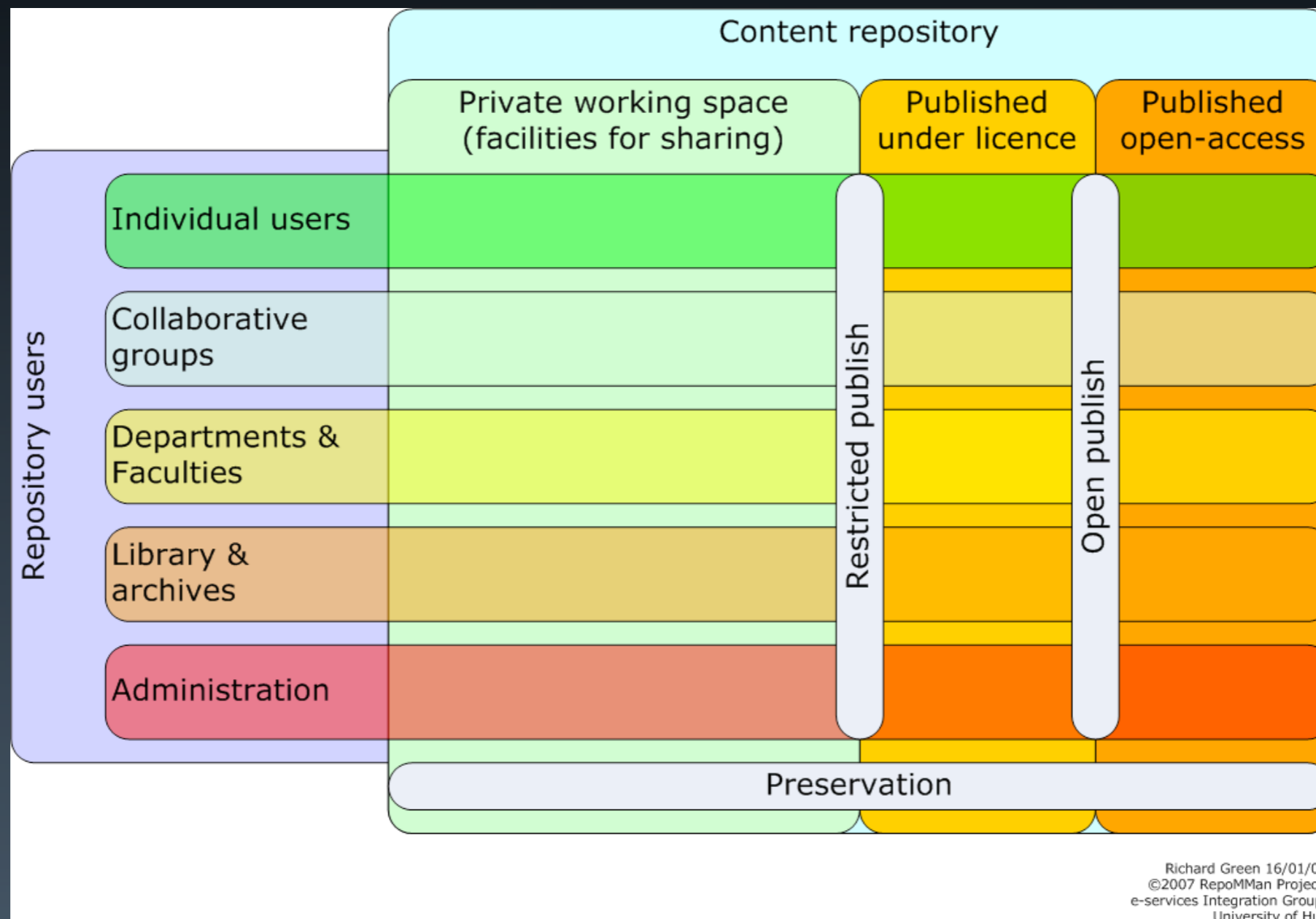


Repository as agnostic content provider



A repository as a working tool for all

Hull's view of a repository encompasses storage, access, management and preservation of a wide range of file types from concept to completion



Other types of integration

Integration through shared authentication infrastructure

- Single sign-on and authorisation
 - Shibboleth etc

Integration through exposure of repository content via Web 2.0 mechanisms

- RSS
- Through defined API (a la Google)
- Social tagging
- Community reviews

These also represent integration with personal environments and contexts

Factors affecting integration

Quality of data

Appropriate interfaces

Presence of relevant environments

...

A second question

How would you like to present your repository?

- Internally
- Externally

Thank you

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