



Digital-Services-to-Support-Research

Appraisal of existing and future infrastructure

<http://damaro.oucs.ox.ac.uk/outputs.xml>

13 July 2012

Saïd Business School

14.40h: Classification of Services

Paul Jeffreys

- Start by asking whether there are crucially important services for supporting research data which are missing?
- Then we will go through services one by one and classify them (1 minute each)

Research Data Management Website

Past funding	0.2FTE over 2 years
Future Funding	None confirmed at present?
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Developed, needs re-fresh and re-launch shortly
SLA?	No
Documentation?	n/a
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Yes
If not, when?	
SRF?	n/a
Help desk support?	n/a
Sustainable?	Requires long-term funding for refreshing and development
Conclusion:	<i>Production quality, does not need SLA etc, does need modest long-term funding to update and develop further, needs info coordinators</i>

X5 – Research Initiation

Past funding	UAS Information Systems Board / Cambridge
Future Funding	UAS
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Core project will be completed on 7 September
SLA?	Not yet
Documentation?	Yes
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Not yet
If not, when?	February 2013
SRF?	N/a
Help desk support?	Yes
Sustainable?	Need to fund 1st and 2nd line Help Desk support, infrastructure, operations support, licence fees etc and
Conclusion:	<i>X5 will be a production quality services, funded through UAS ISB, and on-going developments and maintenance will be funded from UAS</i>

DMP Online – Research Initiation

Past funding	£91k from JISC from October 2011 for 1 year
Future Funding	None at present
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Under development, go live in September 2012, feeding back progress to DCC
SLA?	No
Documentation?	No
Described as Prod ⁿ . Qual.?	No
If not, when?	Will be, not known when...
SRF?	No
Help desk support?	Through DCC
Sustainable?	University needs to underwrite early adoption period, where does it fit logically?
Conclusion:	<i>Still being developed, aim is for production quality service, in close collaboration with Research Services, will need University underwriting, integrate closely with RDM pages</i>

Backup, archiving, St-a-a-S – During Research

Past funding	Core services funded centrally
Future Funding	Core services/ <i>chargeable..</i>
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Long-running production service for HFS Backup and HFS Archive; <i>developing StaaS (2 POCs)</i>
SLA?	Yes, for 15 years; <i>not for StaaS yet</i>
Documentation?	Yes for HFS
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Yes for HFS
If not, when?	<i>StaaS – decision point after POCs; this year?</i>
SRF?	Considered, and revisited, not so far
Help desk support?	Yes
Sustainable?	Yes, as Core service and <i>chargeable (free tier?)</i>
Conclusion:	<i>Production quality long-running Core service, offering data security, needs to be promoted for researchers; StaaS need to consider whether viable business model...</i>

Database as a Service ORDS – During Research

Past funding	Share of: (£323k + £1363k +£99k)
Future Funding	Further JISC funding possible (under discussion)
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Pilot service, with c.10 users
SLA?	Yes
Documentation?	Yes
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Almost
If not, when?	From November 2012, but still being developed
SRF?	Yes
Help desk support?	Yes
Sustainable?	SRF with support from team based in IT Services, requires £249k p.a., underwriting needed; but delivered as chargeable service (£600 p.a.)
Conclusion:	<i>Pilot service with users, plan in place to deliver production quality service from Nov 2012, underwriting needed; chargeable service ***</i>

Colwiz – During Research

Past funding	None from University or Research Councils
Future Funding	Free to University
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Service delivered by private company, programme of development planned
SLA?	No
Documentation?	Yes
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Yes; but under continual development
If not, when?	
SRF?	N/a
Help desk support?	N/a
Sustainable?	Private company
Conclusion:	<i>Service delivered by private company, which will have close links to University services and will offer research-friendly front-end to University services</i>

VM Hosting – During Research

Past funding	VIDaaS hardware budget – c. £300k
Future Funding	Cost recovery, some university subsidy, potentially need investment to deliver additional functionality
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Production service since June 2012, ongoing work on self service user interfaces; two tier
SLA?	Being written, based on current NSMS hosting SLA
Documentation?	Yes
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Yes
If not, when?	
SRF?	Yes, as part of University Shared Data Centre
Help desk support?	Yes, via NSMS
Sustainable?	Yes, based on experience of previous NSMS hosting; chargeable – full plan not developed yet
Conclusion:	<i>Production quality, next generation of long running NSMS services, based on industry standard technologies, two-tier chargeable service</i>

Supercomputing Centre – During Research

Past funding	£850-900k p.a.; mainly from MPLS, some MDS
Future Funding	Indirect univ. + research grant + commercial
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Production quality service; roadmap of upgrades; 400TB active space – not backed up (>1PB total)
SLA?	
Documentation?	Yes
Described as Prod ⁿ . Qual.?	Yes; but data not managed (no metadata)
If not, when?	
SRF?	MRF
Help desk support?	Yes
Sustainable?	Significant HPC providers across Oxford. Univ needs to guarantee a level of continued investment
Conclusion:	<i>A mature service (one of a number across Oxford), production quality, with planned upgrades, and established funding model, but needs University guarantee of future investment; coherence needed; not know what to do with data held...</i>

DataStage – During Research

Past funding	Share of £591k from JISC –(with DMPOnline and DataBank) – finished in May 2012
Future Funding	Share of 0.15FTE for 1 year
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Beta version available, few active users in Zoology Drag-and-drop service to manage datasets
SLA?	no
Documentation?	no
Described as Prod ⁿ . Qual.?	no
If not, when?	Unclear
SRF?	n/a
Help desk support?	no
Sustainable?	Requires further round of funding to make sustainable; where does it fit within our services; commercial partners solution?
Conclusion:	<i>Valuable service (does not operate in its own right)that needs further resources in the near term and long term guaranteed investment; commercial?</i>

Data Finder – Completing Research

Past funding	JISC DaMaRO project - £50k to libraries
Future Funding	Unclear
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Building technical structure, defining minimal set of metadata; records plus discipline specific sets
SLA?	n/a
Documentation?	n/a
Described as Prod ⁿ . Qual.?	No, under development
If not, when?	Launch from spring 2013; may require project work beyond DamaRO before production quality...
SRF?	No
Help desk support?	Not yet
Sustainable?	Business model being built as part of DaMaRO, will require >0.4FTE on on-going basis
Conclusion:	<i>Key component, under development within DaMaRO project; likely to require further funding before production quality, needs long term financial commitment from University</i>

DataBank – Competing Research

Past funding	Share of £591k from JISC – with DMPOnline and DataStage – finished in May 2012
Future Funding	Uncertain
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Beta version available, routinely used by Bod; substantial list of potential users: UK/elsewhere..
SLA?	no
Documentation?	no
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	No
If not, when?	Unclear
SRF?	n/a
Help desk support?	no
Sustainable?	Requires further round of funding to make sustainable
Conclusion:	<i>Key. Valuable service that needs further resources in the near term and long term guaranteed investment</i>

Symplectic – Completing Research

Past funding	Five years annual subscription - £26k p.a.
Future Funding	Uncertain following REF conclusion in Dec 2013
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Operational, potentially unsupported after 2013? Primarily administrative tool.
SLA?	n/a
Documentation?	
Described as Prod ⁿ . Qual.?	Yes
If not, when?	
SRF?	n/a
Help desk support?	Yes
Sustainable?	Requires institutional commitment to service beyond 2013 to deliver coherent vision for interconnected research outputs
Conclusion:	<i>Research information software suite provided on a rolling subscription basis, managed by PRAS. Required for REF. Long term institutional commitment required.</i>

Oxford Research Archive – Completing Research

Past funding	From Bod; c. 3 staff
Future Funding	Part of digital library services
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Production quality service with continuing development
SLA?	
Documentation?	Yes
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	Yes
If not, when?	
SRF?	n/a
Help desk support?	Yes
Sustainable?	Univ needs to guarantee continued financial support
Conclusion:	<i>A production quality service, under continual development, needs guarantee of continued financial support at least at current levels</i>

DAMASC – Completing Research

Past funding	None so far; project not yet started
Future Funding	Development funding sought, £26k initially; OUP will do work free
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Not started; principle would be expandable for use by other authors/publishers
SLA?	n/a
Documentation?	n/a
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	No
If not, when?	Unclear, 9-10 months for basic development
SRF?	No
Help desk support?	No
Sustainable?	Speculative at this stage
Conclusion:	<i>Important concept, project funding must be found to make a pilot service; work with OUP (initially)</i>

Electronic Archive – Completing Research

Past funding	£55k to develop pilot service
Future Funding	Will require cost recovery model
Status, roadmap for developmt?	Planning stage ahead of pilot service using a third-party archiving service
SLA?	n/a
Documentation?	n/a
<i>Described as Prodⁿ. Qual.?</i>	No
If not, when?	Unclear at present
SRF?	No
Help desk support?	No
Sustainable?	Part of project is to develop sustainable cost model; chargeable?
Conclusion:	<i>Start of an extensive investigative pilot project period with the aim of developing a cost recovered sustainable service – or University investment?</i>

Conclusions – Status/sustainability

RDM Website	Requires continuing modest investment
X5	Essential; UAS funded
DMPOnline	Not production q., needs University funding
St-a-a-S	<i>Chargeable</i> , Pilot service; bus model and underwriting needed
ORDS	<i>Chargeable</i> , Production quality (Nov); needs underwriting
Colwiz	Private – special case?
VM Hosting	<i>Chargeable</i> ; Production quality
Supercomputing	Production quality; ‘data plugged in’; long term commitment
DataStage	Not stand-alone: Further resources needed short and long term
DataFinder	Absolutely key: Further resources needed short and long term
DataBank	Key: Further resources needed short and long term
Symplectic	Long term commitment required; beyond REF?
ORA	Production quality; requires guaranteed support
DAMASC	Investment required for initial service; work with OUP
Digital Archiving	<i>Chargeable?</i> ; Investment required – University investment?