



# Setting up a research repository: the Sheffield Hallam experience

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# outline

- Research at Sheffield Hallam
- Background to the project
  - decision to use Digital Commons
- Research repository project
  - early engagement with Faculty staff
- Future work



# Research at Sheffield Hallam University



- Post 1992 University
- 27781 enrolled students
- 9232 taught PG
- 241 research PG
- 1,200 academic staff ?? research active
- Majority of research outturn is contract/consultancy, as opposed to pure/academic research
- 2001 RAE
  - Entered 19 UoAs.
  - Grade 5 in Metallurgy and Materials; History; Art and Design

# Research at Sheffield Hallam University



- **Faculties**

  - Organization and Management

  - Arts Computing Engineering and Sciences

  - Health and Well-Being

  - Development and Society

- 2 Research Institutes and 20 Research centres
- Enterprise Centre
- Learning and IT Services: converged department

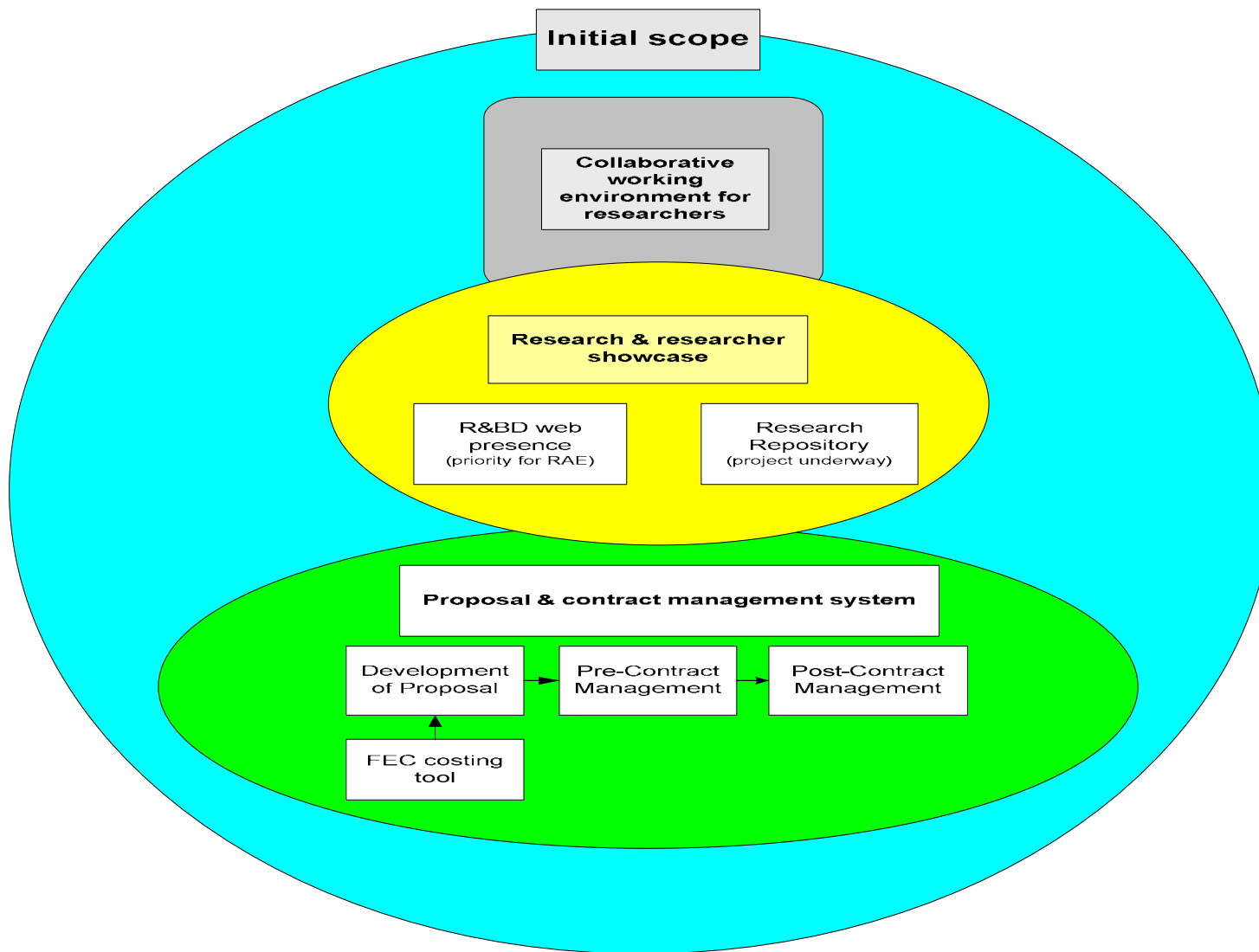
# Research at Sheffield Hallam University



- Research and Business Development is key growth strategy in 2003-2008 Corporate Plan
- 2005 discussions on Virtual Research Environment
  - Existing support processes for research fragmented
  - RAE 2008
  - Management information about research activity
  - Expertise management: knowledge about staff and specialisms
  - Identified need for an Institutional Repository
- New Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research



**Research & Business Development Information Systems  
(formerly VRE)**



# Research repository development



- Business case for VRE and repository in Annual plan for 2006-2007
- RR proposal contained costs for options
  - Developing open source system
  - Buying commercially available product and server
  - Leasing commercially available software with off-site hosting and maintenance
- Image Database software selected
- July 2006 money made available for leased option

# Research repository project



- Project objectives
  - Well-populated repository
  - Culture of self-archiving established
  - University requirements for a repository analysed and understood
  - Software evaluation completed
- Project approach
  - LITS working in partnership with the research community

# Project timescale



- **Phase 1 (October 06-March 07)**
  - Set up repository site
  - Agree policies
  - Test with sample population
  - Communication and promotion
- **Phase 2 (April 07-October 07)**
  - Populate repository
  - More communication and promotion
- **Phase 3 (November 07-March 08)**
  - Evaluate (content, process, software)
  - Develop requirements specification for a University research repository

# Digital Commons



- Produced by ProQuest and based on publishing software from Berkeley Electronic Press
- Two-year lease initially to December 2008
- Quick and easy to set up, configuration by ProQuest staff
- Hosted off-site: minimal technical setup
- Global product: Surrey, Warwick and Roehampton are UK customers
- Features include personal researcher pages, journal publishing
- Able to handle variety of file formats and supplementary information
- Repository site is live at <http://digitalcommons.shu.ac.uk/>



# Issues to be addressed

- What we call the repository / branding
- What types of research outputs will be included
- Include bibliographic details for all outputs (some won't have the full text)
- Establishing responsibility for quality control within subject areas

# Engaging with Faculty




met with:

- PVC (Research)
- Assistant Deans (Research and Business Development)  
Heads of Research Centres / Institutes

initial survey:

- Questionnaire for staff engaged in research



# Survey results – issues identified

Of concern to respondents

- extra work
- adequate quality control

Also identified

- requirement to deposit would be burdensome
- confusion / misunderstanding
  - about the purpose of the repository
  - about current ease of access to articles
  - about the potential audience – "is it worth the effort?"

# what next?

Our priorities are

