

The Joint Archive Service: A firm foundation

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What are archives?

The documentary by-product of the activity of individuals and organisations retained for their long-term value.

A contemporaneous record

Evidence & Information

Authenticity – it is what it claims to be

Reliability - accurately represents event from a point of view

Integrity - sufficient to give a coherent picture

Usable



What is digital preservation?

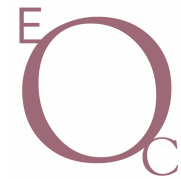
Digital Preservation is the series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary

An organisational as well as a technical challenge



An exemplar service

- Rich collections
- Diverse engagement – inc universities, Romany, Jewish and LGBT communities
- Early adopter - Leader in digital preservation
- Good relationships- 'agile, responsive, easy to work with, innovative'
- Energetic networker – Archives First
- Strong income generation – nearly matching Councils' individual contributions



Unfulfilled potential

- Internal business support – managing records, digital preservation, FOI and GDPR, accessing & using records
- Audiences across the County
- Supporting health, well-being and community agendas
- Contributing to cultural tourism
- Being an intellectual hub



Governance issues

- ! Meeting once a year
- ! Budget focused
- ! Need for more active role in:
 - Strategic development
 - Internal advocacy
 - Brokering relationships
- ! Conduit for communication between the JAS and BCP only via Library Service
- ! JAS not recognised as a crucial business service



Governance recommendations

Enable an active, engaged body that supports & promotes JAS to enable it to serve both Councils across all departments

- New terms of reference
- Broader membership & Observers - Portfolio holders, officers, DAT
- More regular meetings
- More informed – presentations, guests, ebulletin
- Strategic engagement with JAS



Audience development recommendations

Limited capacity so consciously choose and grow, harnessing digital technologies

- *Grow* – localities, DC, health, museums, libraries
- *Maintain* – Individual researchers, those who naturally engage locally
- *Seed* – tourism, young adults, diverse communities, BCP Council

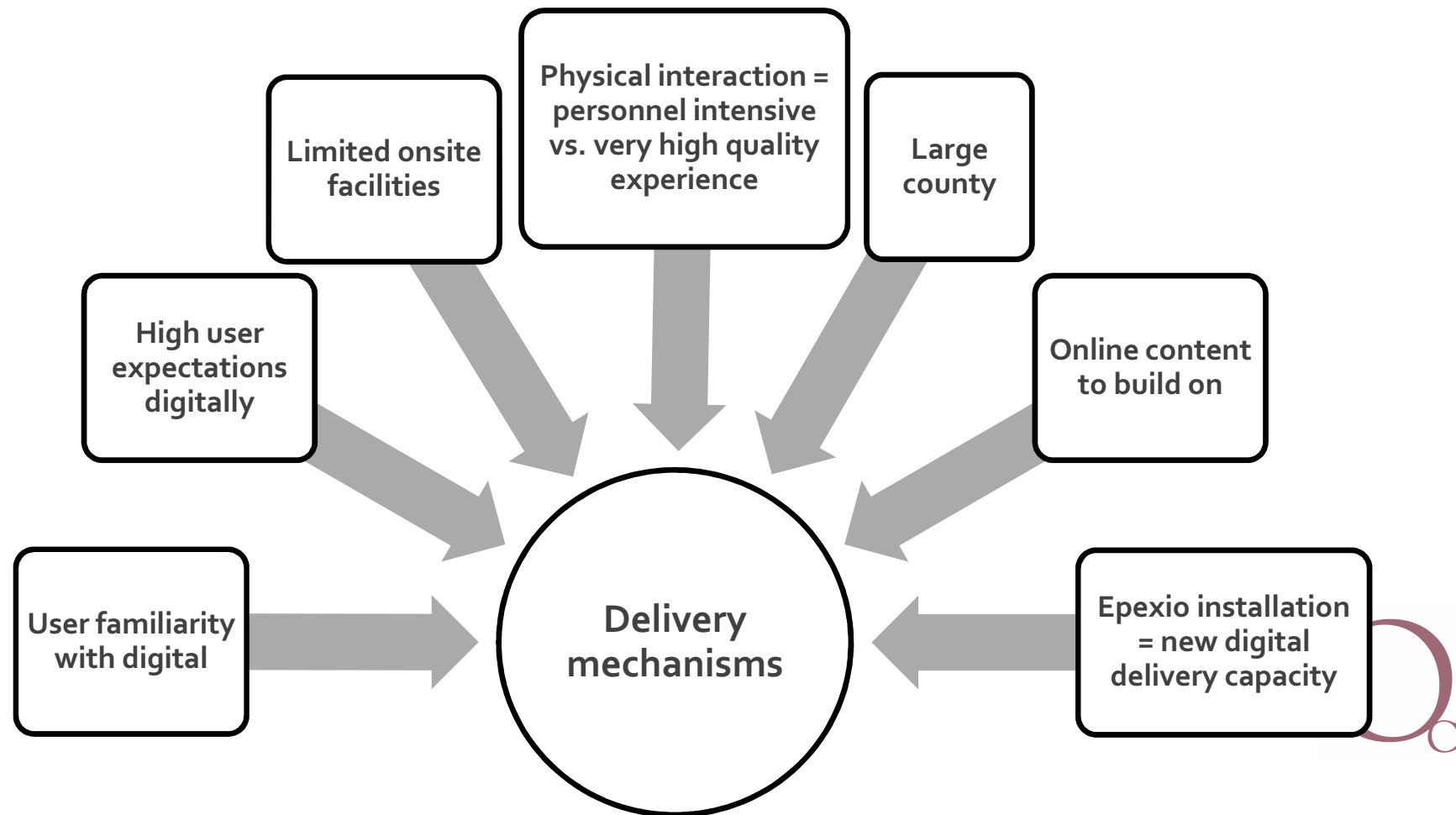
Work in partnerships

Expert adviser

Not schools



Balancing digital and place-based services - context



Service delivery recommendations

Digital becomes the primary delivery channel

- Clearly signposted internal service of digital preservation, digitisation and records access (DC Children's Services)
- Image bank, curated content, digitize whole collections selectively
- Local content for local communities – 'Know your place'
- Two-way user engagement
- Guides & skills development
- Linked into related providers – cultural & health



Service delivery recommendations

Judicious place-based services

- Trial appointments only searchroom & reduce number of seats
- Annual talks programme
- Combined delivery - working with tourism, social care, health, museums & libraries
- Going out to Council staff to explain the JAS offer



Income generation Context

- ✓ Good at income generation – c. 80% of a council's contribution
- ✓ Matches other high performing services
- ✓ 75% fall in electricity costs – Passivhus changes & photovoltaic cells
- ✓ Very good at bidding for grants
- ✓ Has exploited all obvious sources
- ✗ **There is no magic bullet**

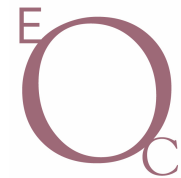


Income generation Context

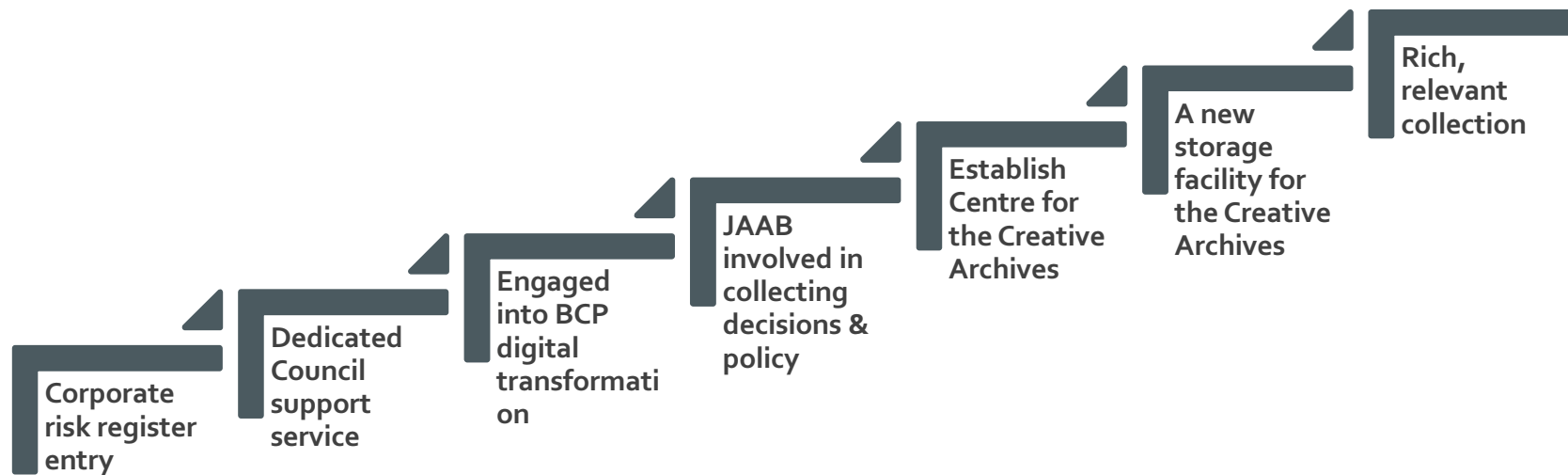
Primary 'generator' is cost savings through better records management & digital preservation internally

Plus much smaller revenue generating activity:

- Continue existing income activities
- Increase paid-for activities e.g. activities, online content
- Commissioning & self-funders?
- A commercial manager???

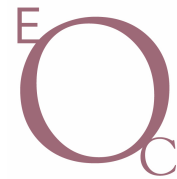


Collection management recommendations



Resultant qualitative value

- Secure civic record
- Robust and accessible cultural asset
- Safe civic space
- Meeting point for diverse community actors
- Enhanced understanding of heritage and sense of place
- Mechanism for engaging vulnerable and harder to reach groups
- Ability to harness the skills and knowledge of volunteers



Resultant value

- Minimize legal non-compliance - Kensington and Chelsea fined £120,000 by ICO for publishing details of empty property owners.
- Lower storage costs and carbon footprint – 30—70% of records in an organization are duplicates?
- An enterprise employing 1,000 knowledge workers wastes \$48,000 per week, or nearly \$2.5M per year, due to an inability to locate and retrieve information (National Association of Productivity and Organising - <https://aclearpath.net/productivity-stats/>)
- Currently BCP commission architects to redraw plans historical plans, as they transferred these across to DHC 20 years ago, but many people don't know what is there or how to accessing that info
- Evaluation of a social prescribing pilot in Rotherham in 2014 concluded that if the full benefits last for five years they could lead to total cost reductions of £1.9 million: a return on investment of 3.38 (i.e. £3.38 for each pound invested)

Conclusion

A high quality asset which has significant potential for further supporting its Councils in business operations and serving residents

