

UKRDS The way forward for research data management?

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4th December 2008



Background

- To test the feasibility of a shared service for the management of research data across the UK
- Avoid reinventing the wheel in any proposed solution
- Employ consultants to research requirements



The Approach

- Serco appointed as consultants
- Governance from Steering Committee and Project Management Board
- Over 40 Stakeholder institutions identified and representatives interviewed
- Four case study institutions: Bristol, Leeds, Leicester and Oxford
- Questionnaires and focus groups at first three
- Internal complementary project at Oxford see their URL <http://www.ict.ox.ac.uk/odit/projects/digitalrepository/>
- Total number of individuals consulted so far: over 700



What did we learn?

- Data storage: low demand for short-term storage (1-12 months), and considerable demand for 1-5 and 5+ years
- Data volumes: over 360% growth anticipated over the next 3 years
- Data life/usefulness: c50% of data is estimated to have a useful life of under 10 years; 26% seen as having indefinite retention value

What did we learn?

- Data location – most research data is held locally, with 21% of respondents using a national or international facility
- Most researchers share data (12% do not), but mainly within research network teams and collaborators; 18% share via a data centre
- 43% would like access to others' data
- Different attitudes towards a UKRDS often boil down to the presence or not of a national data centre for the subject

What did we learn?

- There's a lot of good stuff out there
 - Repositories with considerable skills and resources e.g ADS, UKDA
 - DCC Life Cycle model
 - Data Management Plan structures
 - Etc.
- Funders are increasingly supportive: RCs slightly suspicious but Wellcome already offering direct funding of data management plan development
- Much work going on in this area in Germany, USA, Canada and most notably Australia (ANDS)
- Data **management** not data storage is the issue
- A service that brings coherence to current provision and a framework for future development is probably feasible
- A large centralised service is very unlikely to be helpful or practical

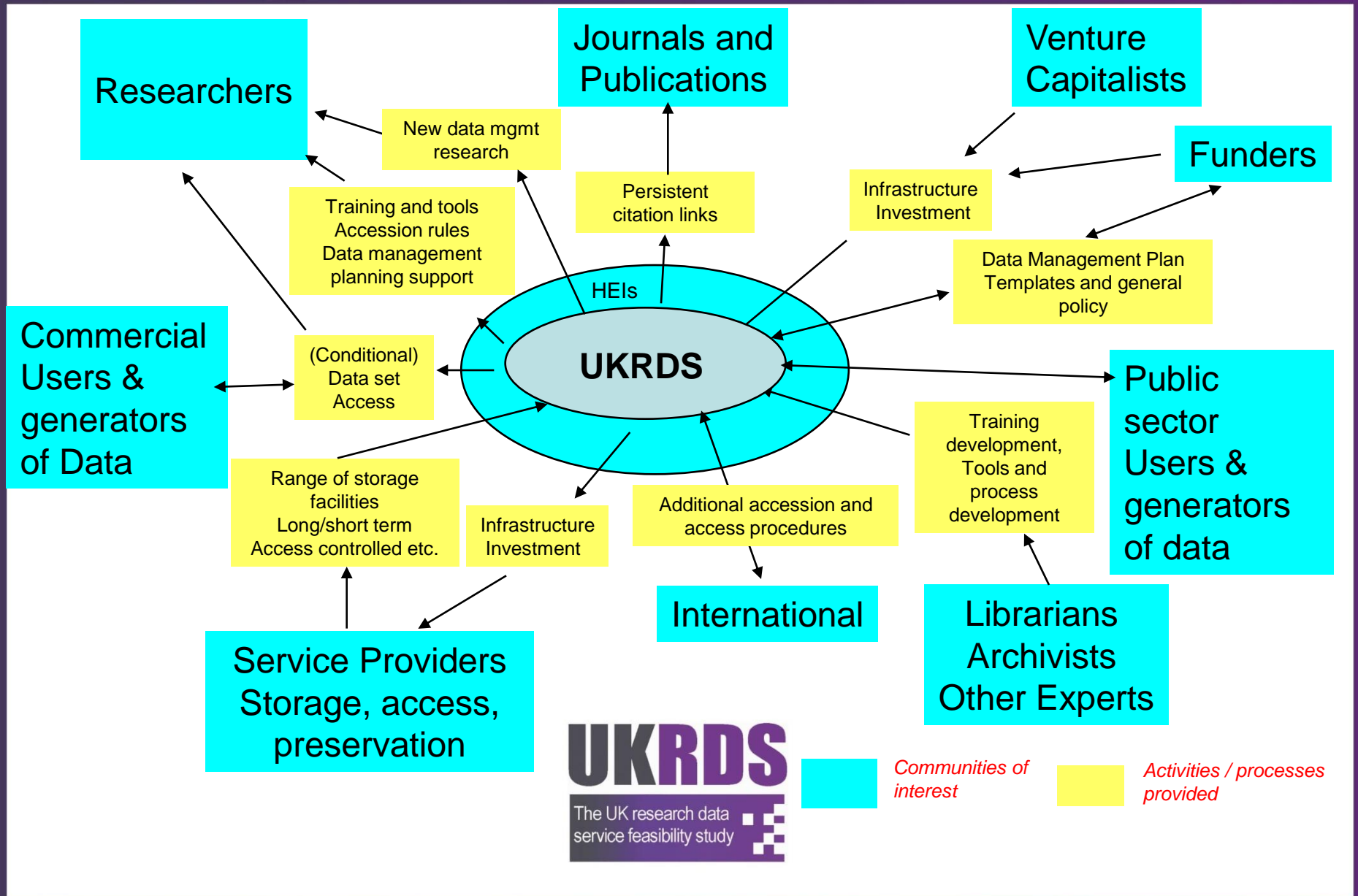
Where do we go from here?

Interim Report presented to Steering Committee with recommendations now agreed:

UKRDS should first add coherence to what is already there. It should be a service which:

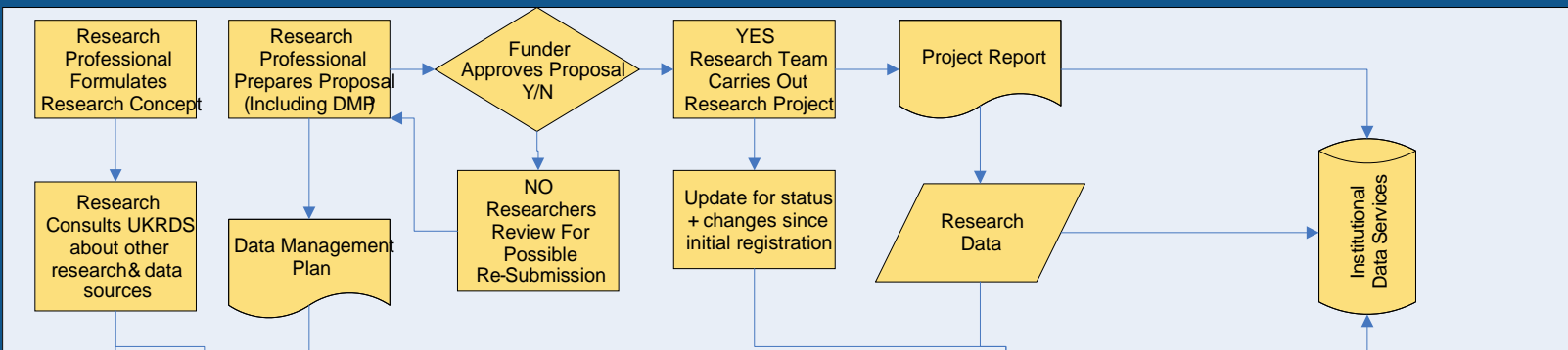
- Is governed by a set of policies
- Delivers a set of processes based on the DCC Lifecycle
- Supports a set of standards
- Is measured by an agreed set of KPIs
- Is funded to ensure it can be relied on long term
- May encourage commercial investment



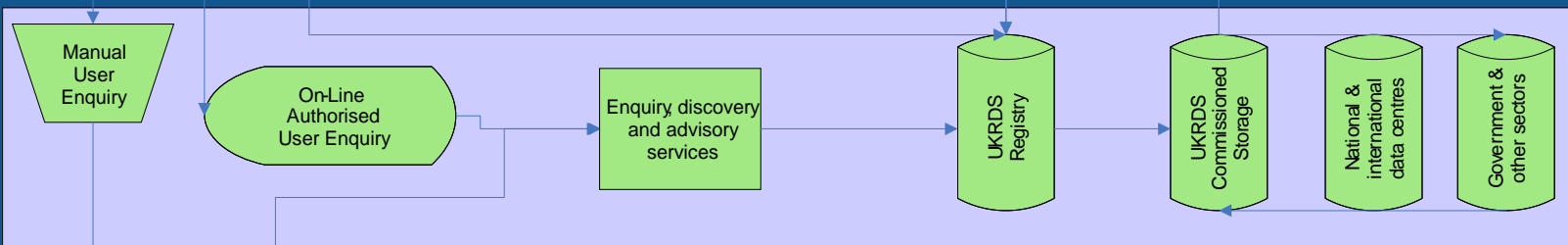


UKRDS Basic Processes

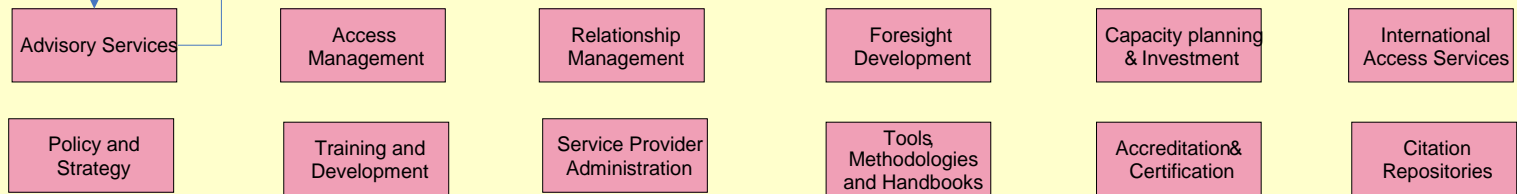
Research Project Process



Research Data Sharing Process



UKRDS Services and Administration



UKRDS Management and administration

The Next Steps

- Design a service portfolio, organisation and legal structure and find it a home.
- Develop a business case and related funding proposition
- Engage stakeholders in the detailed proposals
- Produce final report for HEFCE December 2008
- Seek interim funding in 2009 for a start up service in co-operation with Case Study Institutions and some existing providers
- Organise an international conference in February 2009 to promote the proposed service and the recommendations to HEFCE and spread knowledge of the issues here and abroad



Conclusion

- A UKRDS is likely to be feasible
- We have the bones of a practical business case and organisation to make it happen
- Need support of funders and HEIs and other stakeholders to get it established and stable for the long term

