Capturing the UK City of Culture: bringing Hyrax and Archivematica together to deliver preservation and access workflows

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The UK City of Culture

The UK Government awards the title of UK City of Culture every four years.

➢ In 2017 the title was awarded to Hull.

The title is conferred for a four year period, but there is a focus in the first year on showcasing the culture of the city and using culture as a means to stimulate re-generation and growth.

➢ Over 2,800 events across the city throughout the year.
The story of a city finding its place in the UK, a city coming out of the shadows and re-establishing its reputation as a gateway that welcomes the world. The story is of Hull – a city that is proud of its people and wants to share its sense of freedom and space with the rest of the UK.

2017 Hull Tell the World: “The countdown has begun”, 2014
The records

- Various depositors, including the university and artists, with the Culture Company being the biggest
- Almost exclusively digital
- Main systems we are harvesting records from:
  - Asset Bank (DAMS) c18,000 HQ photos and videos
  - SharePoint c80,000 organisational records
  - Box
  - Email
  - Over 150,000 files in total
Journey towards an archive

• Business case made to the University
• Production of archive part of the University’s commitment to supporting City of Culture
• Collaborative relationship with Culture Company
• Centered tender around use of Samvera
• Design with a view to expand to other archives
Passing the baton

Filling the digital preservation gap

• [https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/projects/archivematica/](https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/projects/archivematica/)
• A Jisc project looking at how Archivematica could be used to help preserve research data

The project successfully showed how Archivematica could be used alongside a repository to add preservation value to research data

Architecture designed provided a starting point for the City of Culture Digital Archive
Designing a Solution
The Brief: Build a Digital Archive for Hull City of Culture

(preferably using Samvera’s Hyrax and Archivematica)
Then we talked ...
User doesn’t have to leave the History Centre Catalogue

Comet Radiovision Services Ltd Minute Book

Reference No:
C DBCO/1/1/1

Dates:
18 Nov 1975-12 Jun 1979

Description:
Format:
Archive Item
Extent:
1 volume
Language:
Access Conditions:
Access will be granted to any accredited reader
Repository:
Hull City Archives
Collection:
Records of Comet Group PLC (1933-2012)

Availability
This item is available online.
Downloads:
- U_DPO-1-5-4.jpg (image/jpeg)
- U DPO-1-5-4.jpg (image/jpeg)

They don’t know (and don’t need to know that) these files are derivatives, managed by Hyrax, with preservation copies stored elsewhere by Archivematica
What this approach to the archive will deliver

- Keen to use open source – customisable, flexible, tap into existing communities, exercise control
- Desire to provide access to range of users – academic, artistic response, local reminiscence...achieve this through integration with our existing systems
- Scope to extend to other University of Hull digital collections
Repository infrastructure

The infrastructure designed makes active use of a repository at its heart

➢ But this repository does not live in isolation, it only works effectively when connected to the other systems around it
➢ These system interactions can serve different workflows according to need
Next steps

• Archival steps
  ○ Appraisal / cataloguing / access

• Technical steps
  ○ Identify the best way of delivering the project as a service re: hosting, support and ongoing development

• Business steps - HEIF funding
  ○ Develop business model for ongoing service delivery
  ○ Identify revenue opportunities through provision of service
  ○ Link archive to broader collections management
Thank you
For more information visit
www.hull.ac.uk

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