



Setting up a research repository: the Sheffield Hallam experience

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Sheffield
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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

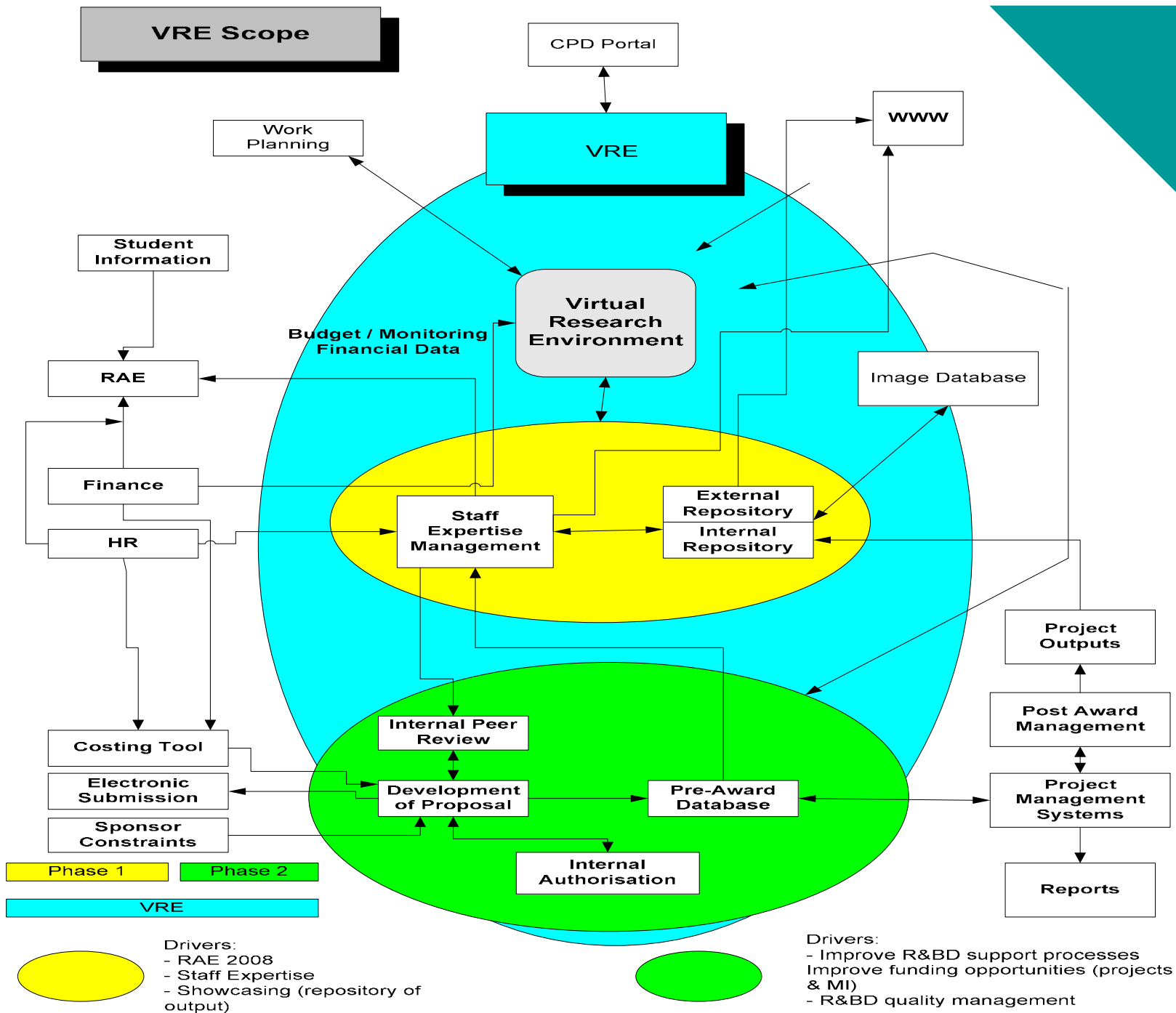
 - Development and Society

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

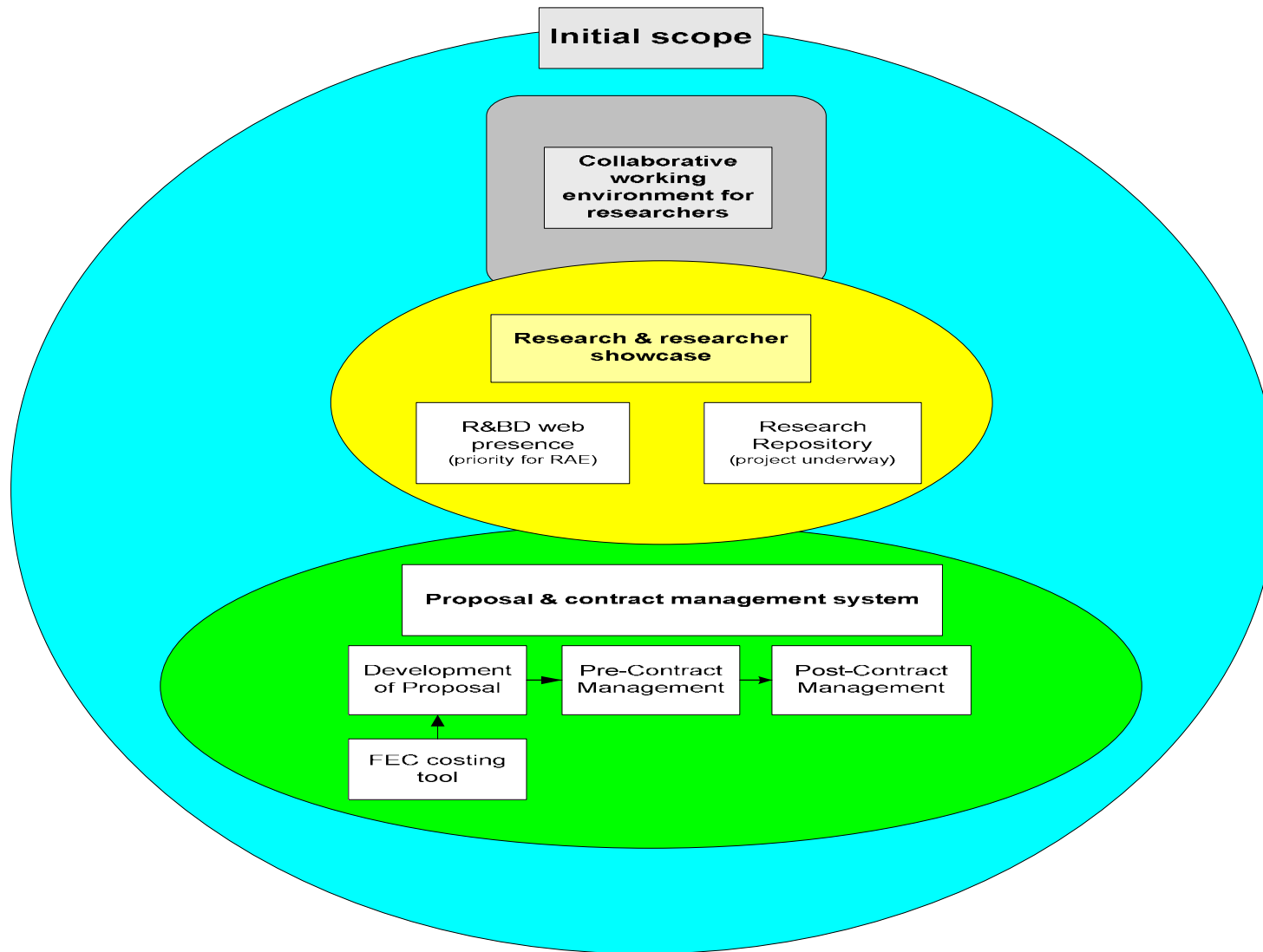
Research at Sheffield Hallam University



- 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

