



4C T3.3—Cost Concept Model & Gateway Requirement Specification

A very early draft of the deliverable for this task is available at

The overall structure and goals are outlined below

Please note that the document shared is an edit of the internal draft with numerous issues, questions, sections and annexes removed.

During the event you will be asked to consider some questions which will improve future versions of the deliverable as well as being welcome to provide any other feedback.

- Do you identify relevant stakeholders for your organisation? If so who are they, and how do you manage and communicate with them?
- What aspects of your organisation (your 'organisational context') do you consider critical to cost model issues?
- Do you address Indirect Economic Determinants, incentives, risks and benefits explicitly within the organisation? If so does this follow a formal approach (ISO standard, risk analysis etc.)?
- How do you structure repository activities and manage their quality?
- How do you structure your collections? Are format, complexity and quantity the critical criteria?
- Do you categorise your labour force? In terms of Qualifications, experience, training received, job description etc.

The costs of digital curation are just one aspect of a complex and evolving practice. This work in progress benefits from the work undertaken by a previous task to review existing cost models and provide a gap analysis against identified stakeholder needs.

The goal of the framework is not to create a single unified functional implementable cost modelling method, model or tool; rather it is to design a common framework based on common concepts and a generic specification (a gateway specification) that can be used in follow-up R&D projects.

From the repository manager perspective the work will help to identify what contextual information is required to select and apply a cost modelling methodology. From the cost model theorist perspective it will provide a benchmark for developing an extended cost model to underpin the development of a curation cost methodology which supports a clear set use cases and stakeholders for some portion of the digital curation lifecycle.

Core Concepts and Interactions

The primary audience for the Core Concepts and Interactions sections is repository managers in the widest sense and other implementers of curation costing methodologies.

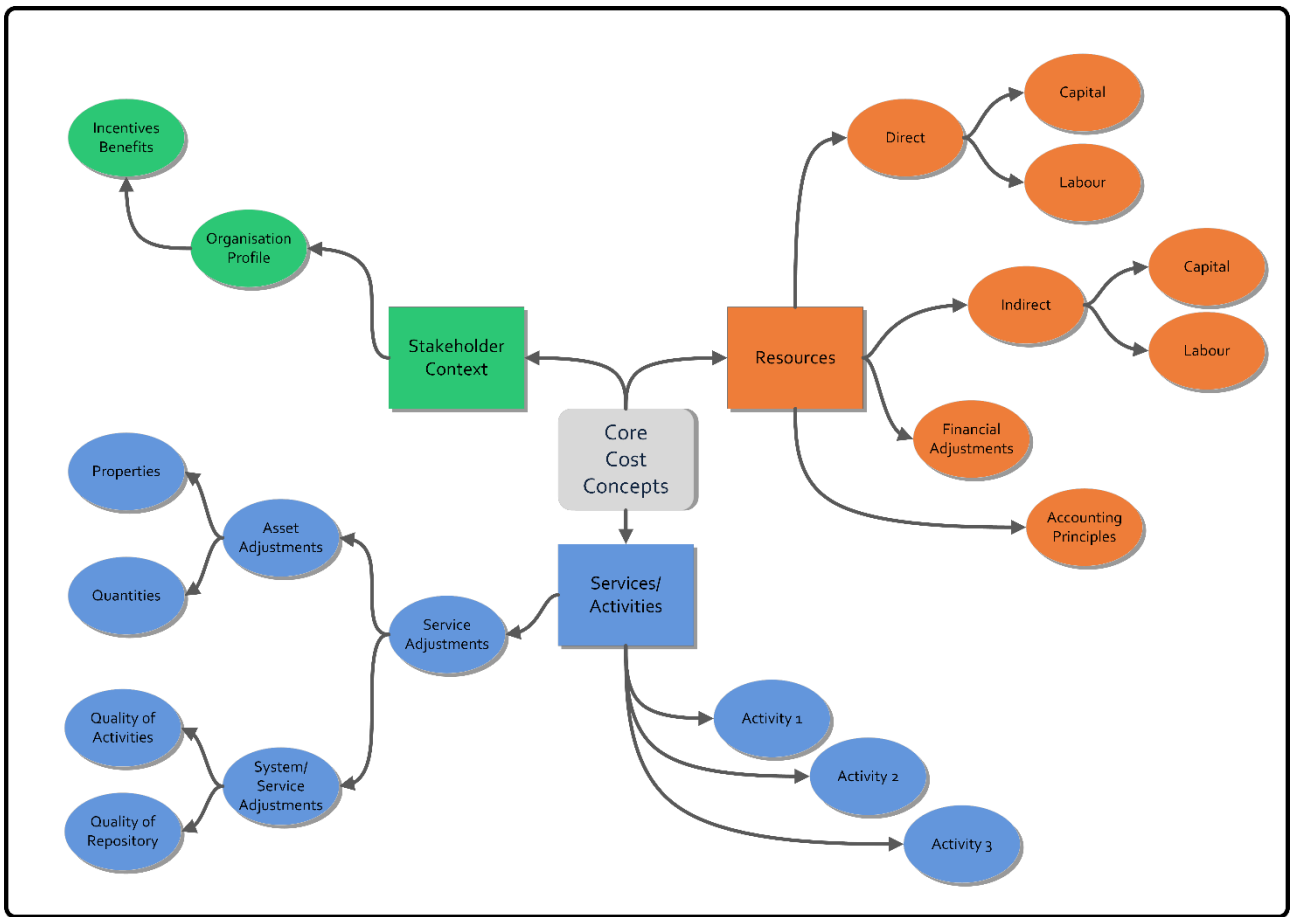


Figure 1: The Core Cost Concepts

The 'core' concepts relevant to modelling curation environments, collecting cost related information and performing relevant calculations or providing comparisons have been identified, defined and their primary interactions described.

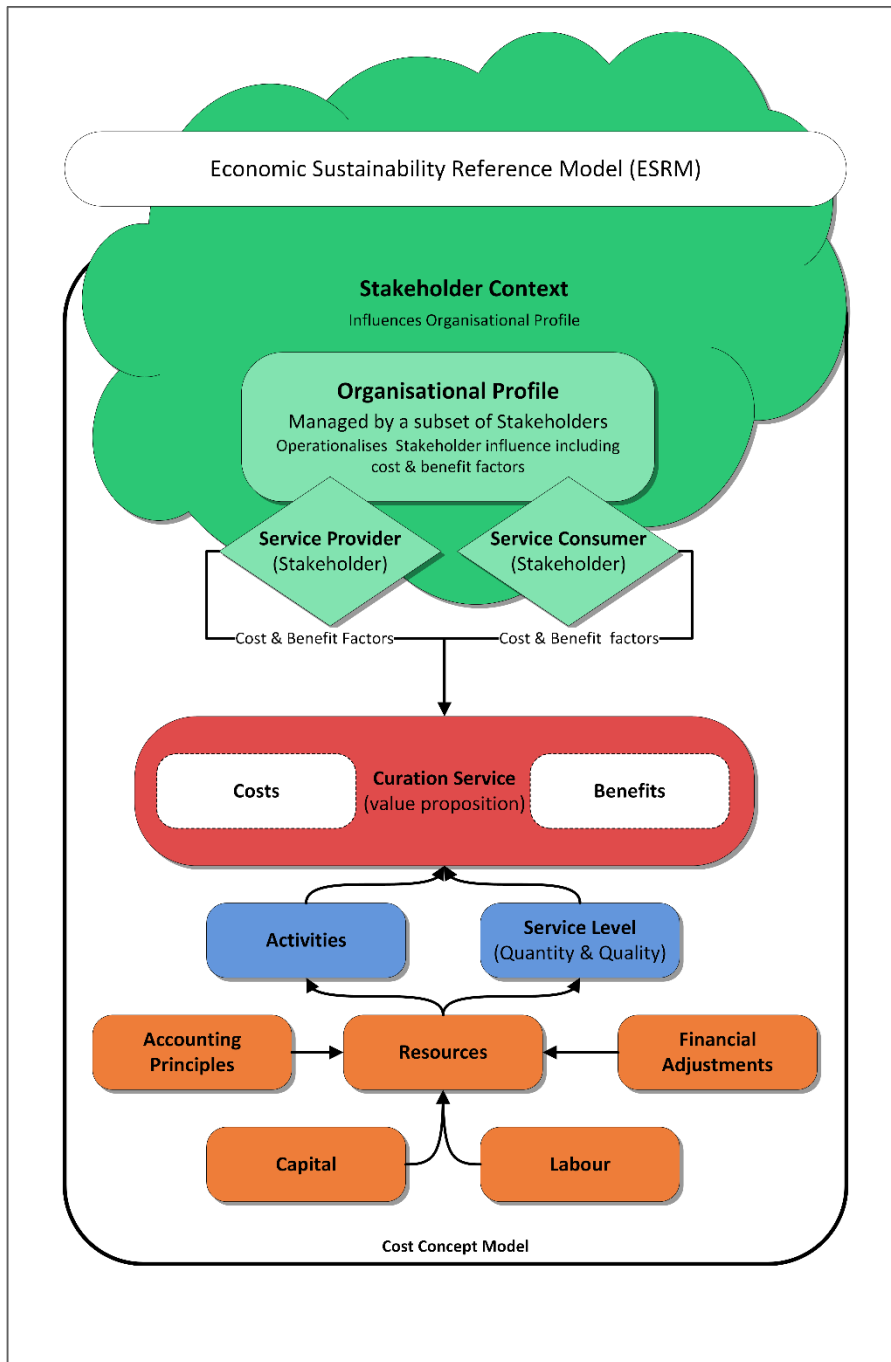


Figure 2: Interactions between the core cost concepts

The Interactions diagram and supporting sub-sections describe the interactions between the core concepts.

Within the framework these sections provides an introductory reference to repository managers considering the role of curation costing within their organisation. Beyond the Framework this section is intended for use in guidance documentation in future curation model research and development. Adoption of common definitions and descriptions across multiple curation costing efforts will fill an acknowledged gap in provision of effective documentation

A Multitude of Models

This section, intended for all users of the framework, provides an overview of some of the modelling approaches used by organisations and specifically by repositories and archives to address complex issues. The text places the core concept interactions within a wider framework of economic and benefit models and describes the lifecycle models which help guide our approach to defining the context of an organisation and a curation cost method in more detail.

Developing a Method

Targeted towards curation cost theorists, this section applies an understanding of the stakeholder context and the in-scope use cases to research in and development of a particular curation cost methodology. The core concepts are expanded upon to create an extended model with the additional detail necessary to explore the defined challenges for a clear group of stakeholders.

Implementing Functionality

Critical issues about the design of effective, usable tools to support a methodology including their design, usability, technical interoperability and supporting documentation.

Gateway Specification Template

The template provides a précis of the issues covered in the framework intended to guide cost model theorists in research and development in this area. The material should also be extensible as a common descriptive format for communicating the function and intentions of an approach to stakeholders, repository managers and other implementers of cost methods and tools.