



Collaboration to Clarify the Costs of Curation



4C Focus Group

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Relexa Hotel Stuttgarter Hof, Berlin

Curation Costs Exchange: Framework

A place for all kinds of information on the costs and economics of curation and for everyone interested in understanding them.

- Information on **cost and benefit models**
 - Get to know the existing ones and what they're aimed at
 - Get to know what they lack
 - Get to know how to build one or get a warning if you want to!
- **Literature and articles** database
- Users' room: **Opinions, blogs, forum, networking, contacts, news, events**
- **Beyond Costs**: IED's, benefits, risks and **economics of curation**
- **User-oriented 4C-products**: Economic Sustainability Reference Model, Cost Concept Model, Gateway Requirements Specification, Curation Costs Exchange, Terminology, Business Model
- **Suppliers and services**
- **Curation Costs Exchange (CCEX)** → Much More on this later...

Curation Costs Exchange: Purpose

- Fostering a common understanding of the costs and economics of curation
- Giving insights into existing work and future work
- Creating a confluence space
- Facilitating communication and exchange
- Changing the mentality: Costs are sensible, yes, but the disclosure of them can be (are) an important driver for development, for increases in efficiencies and for quality enhancements



Com privilegio ad decernendum

Curation Costs Exchange: Sustainability & Hopes

- **Community-driven space**
- **Key messages delivered:** Use the same concepts; use the same vocabulary; use the same models, use the same methods; render costs transparent; reach and reason with our two most important stakeholder groups: The managers and the financial directors
- **Inspiration for other spaces:** Why does the community have many, many different web-presences holding identical information?
- **Sustainability:** Digital Preservation Coalition? Nestor? A post-4C-project collaboration? Others?

Curation Costs Exchange: Benefits – use cases #1

- **Research funder:** Use as stand-alone tool. Put through costs of past projects; aggregate them and shed light on averages, deviations and activity-costs
- **Big data:** Enable the identification of relevant costs in terms of domains, scale and activities, to assist with effective budgeting for new projects and making reasonable estimates from the outset.
- **Digital preservation vendor:** Display of real cost data related to operating a digital preservation service (either as a third party service or in-house solutions) and enabling of comparisons of expenditure with that of competitors and peers, providing a greater understanding of the reasons for significant disparities in costs, and enabling the implementation of possible remediation.
- **Government agency:** Provision of cost model descriptions which will help to inform which cost models to use, as well as enabling the comparison of government organisations' expenditure to assist in supporting proper planning of new content streams and ensuring budgets are spent efficiently.
- **Publisher or content producer:** Enabling of the comparison of cost structures with those of other companies, highlighting areas of potential cost-reductions in day to day activities.

Curation Costs Exchange: Benefits – use cases #2

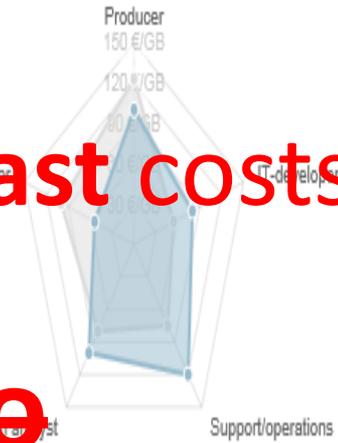
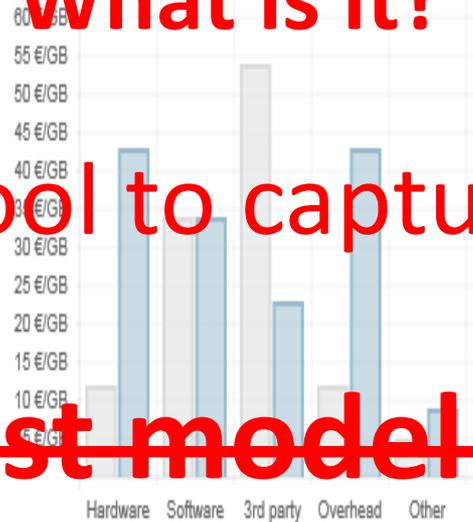
- **Data intensive industry:** The CCEx will show what large national organisations are spending to preserve access to collections so that access may be guaranteed to data for as long as it is required, while reducing risk in a cost-effective way.
- **Memory institution or content holder:** The CCEx will offer controlled contact and comparisons between large and small institutions with a view to assisting in managing limited budget resources, creating business cases for future activity and benchmarking - with accuracy indicators to manage the different scales of operation.
- **Small or medium enterprise:** The CCEx will provide an assessment of different available cost models in order to identify the most suitable for different organisations.
- **University:** The CCEx will provide access to resources which will assist in meeting funders' expectations about Research Data Management and will help secure funding for additional resources.
- **Cost Model Experts:** The CCEx will enable users to find details about cost models and provide appropriate guidance so that refinements may be made based on additional feedback, making models more valuable for users
- **Community member:** The CCEx has prospects to grow and thrive as a community resource.

Curation Costs Exchange: The Machine

What is it?



-A tool to capture past costs



~~NOT a cost model – no~~

~~budgeting, no time periods,~~

~~no estimations~~

- Production
- Ingest
- Archival storage
- Access

Know yourself

Global comparison

Peer-to-peer comparison

Inspect how you are spending your budget on curation related activities.

Compare your costs with the average of all users. Choose to compare with organizations with the same objectives, asset types, data volume, etc.

Find and compare your costs with a similar organization. Get in contact and learn with them.

Curation Costs Exchange: How it works

1. User submits cost information, e.g. organisation type, data types, volumes, etc.
2. User puts in costs from their financial accounting
3. User normalises costs
4. Tool generates different results, i.e. self-assessment, peer-to-peer and global comparisons
5. The tool gives indirectly access to other, cost relevant information: Other stakeholders' cost structures, activities, strategies, methods, financial accountings, volumes, etc.
6. The CCEx platform provides the possibility of contacting other users that are found interesting!

Curation Costs Exchange: Main challenge

Each step represents a challenge, but the main one is:

How to make users submit their costs? – requires both easy submission, guaranteed anonymity/confidentiality and interesting results

Other challenges:

1. Which pieces cost information are necessary to shed sufficient light on cost figures and provide interesting results?
2. How do users easily get hold of figures from their financial departments?
3. Is the normalisation exercise easy enough? Do the normalisation categories represent reality? (Ingest, IT-developer, Hardware, etc.)
4. Are the results interesting, usable?