

DSpace Vision and High Level Roadmap Meeting

May 9

A Contribution from members in New
Zealand

Prepared by Leonie Hayes University of
Auckland New Zealand

Agenda

Expected Outcomes.

- a. What do we hope to achieve by the end of these planning sessions?
- b. What happens next?

Sidebar.

- a. Diversity in the DSpace community

Vision and Product Placement.

- a. What is unique about DSpace?
- b. What important niche does it fill for you?
- c. What about it provides value to your institution?
- d. What is your vision for DSpace over the next five years?

Pain Points.

- a. What has been most frustrating about the use of DSpace at your institution?
- b. What characteristics of DSpace stand in the way of fulfilling your vision for the product?


Brainstorm: Use Cases and Associated Features.

- a. What Use Cases are important for your institution over the next five years?
- b. What are the associated features that need to be supported?
- c. What kind of content needs to be supported?

Expected Outcomes

- The vision needs to be relevant to all the user community
- The vision identifies the **needs** of the community. The **wants** of the community are secondary but addressed
- The vision should highlight DSpace not as a set of technical solutions for software development but a community of many different users – practitioners, end users, developers, decision makers, project managers etc.

What happens next – draft a vision to share

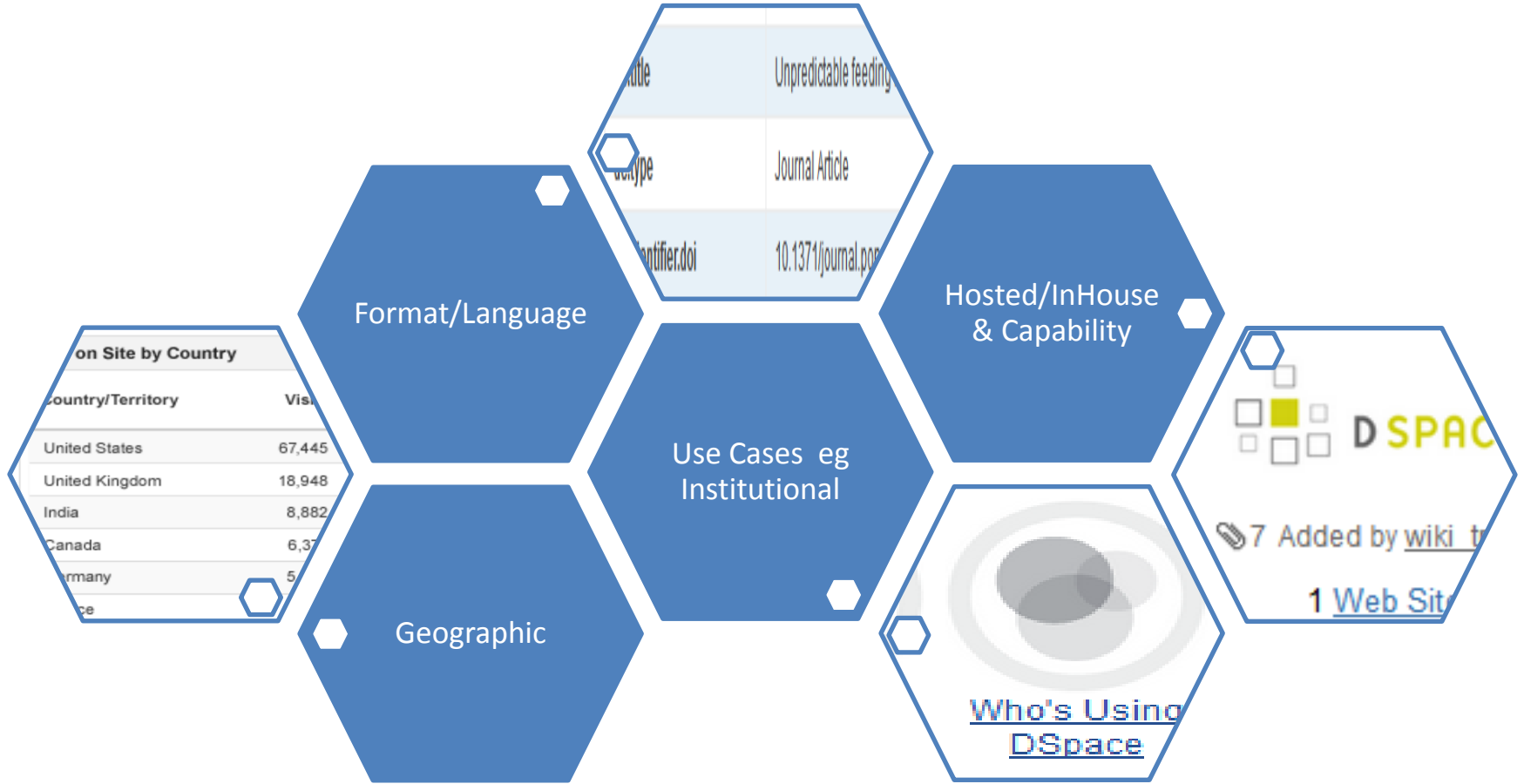


The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article page for "Vision document". At the top right, there are links for "Create account" and "Log in". Below these are navigation tabs for "Article", "Talk", "Read", "Edit", and "View history", followed by a search box. The article title "Vision document" is prominently displayed, with a subtitle "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia". A yellow warning box with an open book icon and a question mark states: "This article **does not cite any references or sources**. Please help [improve this article](#) by [adding citations to reliable sources](#). Unsourced material may be challenged and [removed](#). (March 2007)". The main text defines a Vision Document as a software process document that describes the overall 'vision', or plan, for a particular piece of software. It defines the stakeholders view of the product to be developed, specified in terms of the stakeholders key needs and features. Containing an outline of the envisioned core requirements, it provides the contractual basis for the more detailed technical requirements. It is much shorter and more general than a [product requirements document](#) or a [marketing requirements document](#), which outline the specific product plan and marketing plan respectively. A section titled "Purpose" follows, with an [edit] link. The text explains that the Vision provides a high-level, sometimes contractual, basis for the more detailed technical requirements. It captures the "essence" of the envisaged solution in the form of high-level requirements and design constraints that give the reader an overview of the system to be developed from a behavioral requirements perspective. It provides input to the project-approval process and is, therefore, closely related to the [Business case](#). It communicates the fundamental "why and what" for the project and is a gauge against which all future decisions should be validated. Another name used for this artifact is the Product Requirement Document. The article concludes by stating that a vision document generally contains:

- Introduction
- Business Needs/Requirements

The left sidebar contains the Wikipedia logo and navigation links: Main page, Contents, Featured content, Current events, Random article, Donate to Wikipedia, Interaction (Help, About Wikipedia, Community portal, Recent changes, Contact Wikipedia), Toolbox, Print/export, Languages (Português), and Edit links.

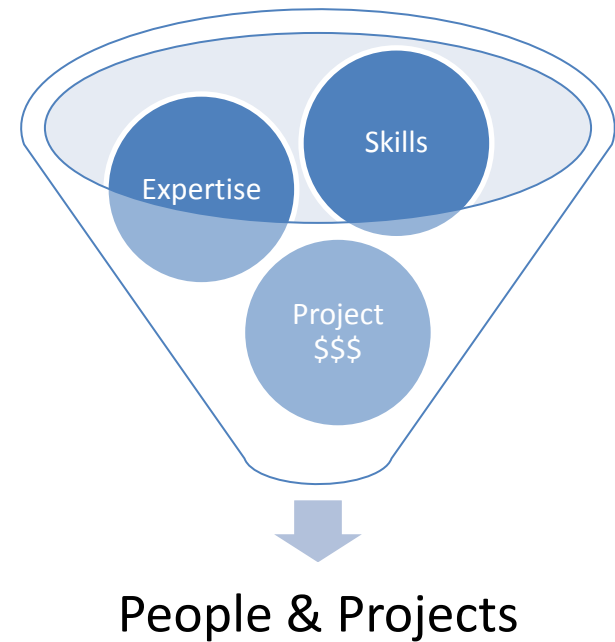
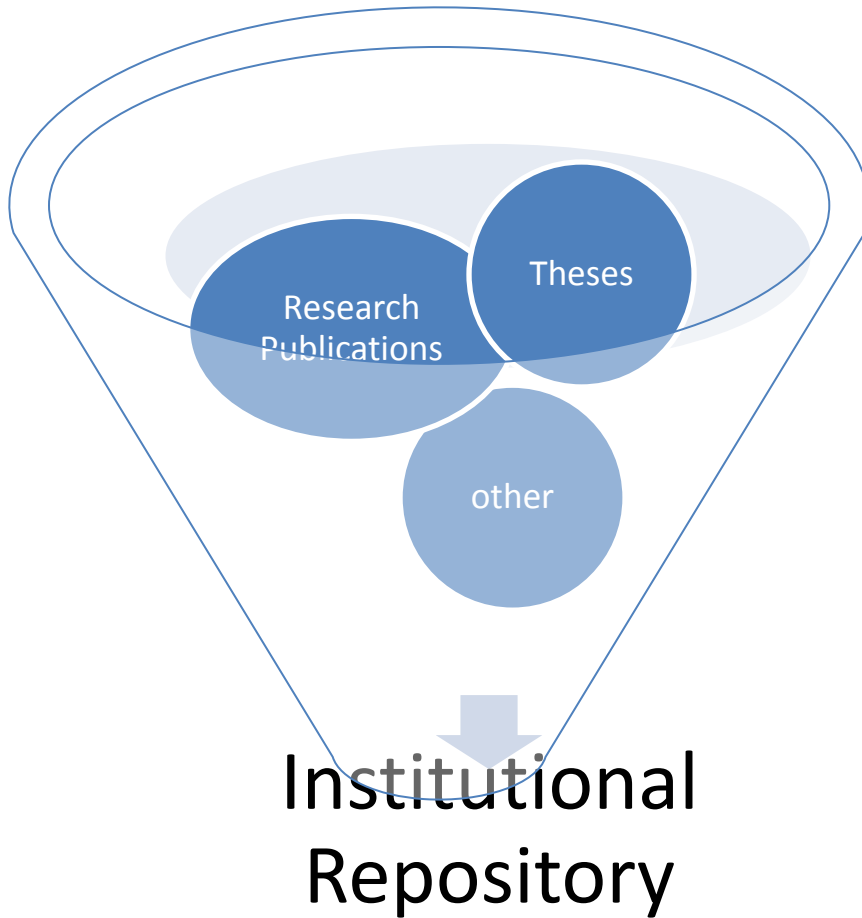
Diversity



What is Unique about the DSpace community?

- Large community of users
- Most Repository Managers or Administrators are not active in the code development process
- It is a mature community – in place for 10 years+
- High expectations for functionality require a big commitment of time and resources from a community of volunteers

Niche: both a system and a way of creating digital libraries



Value to our Institution

Values

- Benefit of a large community of users where peer assistance is available
- Minimised the risk of outlaying a large sum of money on a repository solution from a vendor
- Out of the box – able to get up and running quickly

Costs

- At certain periods - Large investment of time by our development staff in the community
- Could not guarantee functionality developed in-house would make it into the core software
- Systems integration can be difficult

Vision 3-5 Years

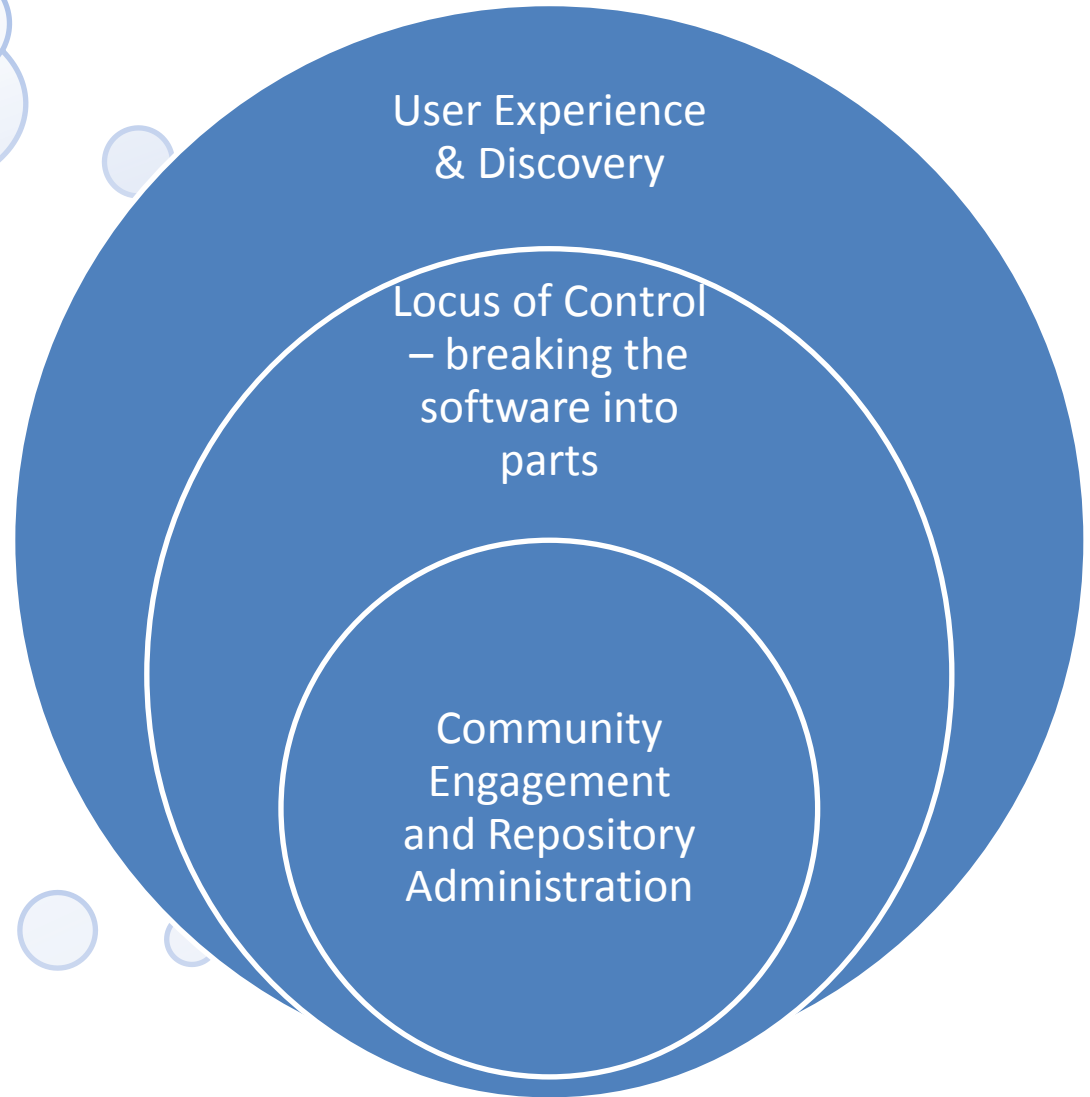
The experience of users enhanced by the ability to interact with the system using crowd sourcing options like “suggest correction/enhancement to metadata” and “right click upload” - ability to upload files (citizen science)

The front end of a DSpace repository unbolted from the core software facilitating

- Front ends ranging from fancy, all bells and whistles to a vanilla out of the box option that fits the format of the content
- Minimising customisations to the core and the ability to easily upgrade

A confident engaged community driven by

- like-minded practitioners forming partnerships to develop the product
- the needs of the community expressed freely in a transparent and supportive forum



Pain Points - Frustrations

- Difficulty in being involved in the community from New Zealand - unfriendly time zones
- The same threads/conversations/arguments stifling the community – progress suffers
- Lack of autonomy for administrators – tools for empowerment require dedicated developer input

Characteristics standing in the way

- Skill set for developers – the pool of available people shrinking
- Diminishing community - sustainability issues, makes it risky to keep investing in the product
- Community concerns – a place to air these –
Story mapping to group themes,
communication transparency, feedback
culture

Use cases to sustain

- Integration with: Research Publications Management System - Symplectic Elements
- Associated features to support are:
Interoperable with authentication systems, SWORD, Open URL, Referencing export and import, Crowdsourcing, Custom Web & OAI harvesting etc
- Scholarly research outputs: theses, books, chapters, journal and conference items