LIFE$^3$

# LIFE3: Predicting Long Term Preservation Costs

Paul Wheatley

Digital Preservation Manager

The British Library

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# LIFE projects overview

- Collaboration between University College London (UCL), the British Library (BL) and HATII at the University of Glasgow
- Co-funded by Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Research Information Network (RIN)
- The LIFE Project:
  - 1 year project
  - Completed in April 2006
- The LIFE$^2$ Project:
  - 1.5 year project
  - Completed August 2008
- The LIFE$^3$ Project:
  - 1 year project
  - Began August 2009

LIFE = **L**ife cycle **I**nformation **F**or **E**-literature

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# Overview of the LIFE Projects so far

- **The LIFE Project:**
  - Aim: to explore a lifecycle approach to costing the preservation of digital materials
  - The Project developed:
    - A generic model of the digital preservation lifecycle
    - A methodology for assessing lifecycle costs against this model
    - 3 case studies, examining and costing a range of digital lifecycles
- **The LIFE$^2$ Project:**
  - Aim: to evaluate, refine and further develop the techniques developed in phase one of LIFE
  - Key elements:
    - Review by external economics expert
    - Revision of the lifecycle model and costing methodology
    - 3 new lifecycle case studies

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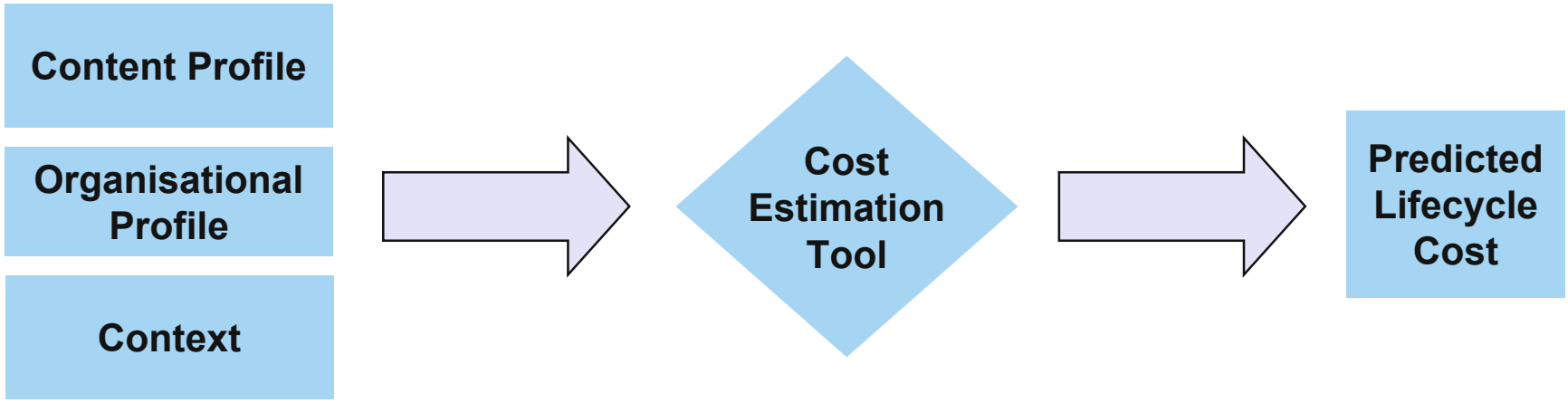
# LIFE$^3$: Estimating preservation costs

- **The LIFE$^3$ Project:**
  - Aim: To develop the ability to estimate preservation costs across the digital lifecycle
  - The Project is developing:
    - A series of costing models for each stage and element of the digital lifecycle
    - An easy to use costing tool
    - Support to enable easy input of data
    - Integration to facilitate use of the results



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# LIFE3 costing tool inputs

Content Profile

Organisational Profile

Context

- **Content Profile**
  - Type of Content
  - File format
  - Complexity
  - Volume
- **Organisational Profile**
  - Existing infrastructure
  - Preservation policy
  - Legal constraints
- **Context**
  - Inflation
  - Hardware costs and trends
  - Staff costs

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# LIFE$^3$ costing tool outputs – estimated costs

| Lifecycle Stage | Lifecycle Elements | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Creation or Purchase | Acquisition | Ingest | Bit-stream Preservation | Content Preservation | Access |
| .... | Selection | Quality Assurance | Repository Admin | Preservation Watch | Access Provision |
| .... | Submission Agreement | Metadata | Storage Provision | Preservation Planning | Access Control |
| .... | IPR & Licensing | Deposit | Refreshment | Preservation Action | User Support |
| .... | Ordering & Invoicing | Holdings Update | Backup | Re-ingest | |
| | Obtaining | Reference Linking | Inspection | Disposal | |
| | Check-in | | | | |

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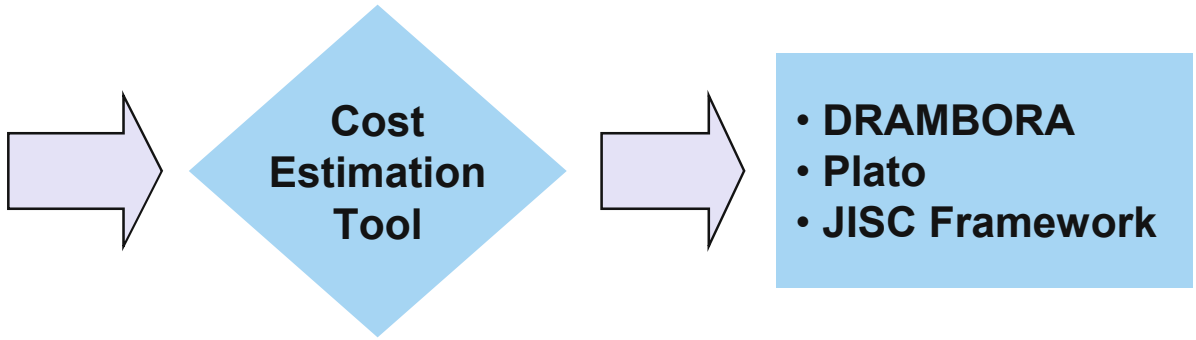
# Integration

- DROID
- Planets Content Profile
- FITS

- DRAMBORA
- Planets Preservation Policy
- Data Audit Framework

- Context




- DRAMBORA
- Plato
- JISC Framework

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# Template approach

- Templates for typical content and organisational profiles
- Lower barrier of access for none DP experts
- Auto completion of specific inputs
- Custom profiles

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# Strategic Issues

- Challenging context
  - Hybrid world
  - Non-digital not dying, in fact usage is increasing
  - Greater variety of digital content
  - Scale
- Allocation of resource: ratio of digital to non-digital spending
  - Non-digital preservation : Digital preservation
- Digital as a preservation medium for non-digital content
  - Preservation of non-digital content
  - Risk, cost
- Supporting the lifecycle approach
  - Evidence of efficiencies over the medium to long term

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# Preservation Planning

- Collection management decision making
  - Whether to purchase/acquire/digitise?
- Selecting an appropriate preservation solution
  - Plato
  - Cost – Risk – Value
  - Preservation requirements
- Budgeting for expected preservation costs

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# LIFE-SHARE

- LIFE-SHARE Project
  - Focus on digitisation
  - Activity costing and analysis
  - Skills audit
  - Supporting a preservation and lifecycle approach to digitisation
- www.leeds.ac.uk/library/projects/lifeshare (available soon)

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# Key challenges, and request for help

- Content complexity
  - Categorisation of content type / complexity and impact on effort required to preserve
- Data, activity costing
  - Capturing / contributing costing data
- Trialling the models, feedback

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# More information: www.life.ac.uk

- A finite amount of funding is available for digitisation, ingest and preservation of a collection. How many items should be digitised without overspending?
- A digital collection is due to be ingested into an organisation's digital repository. Migration to a new file format offering superior compression and savings in storage cost is a possibility, but the operation itself will also have a cost. Should the organisation migrate the collection?
- An organisation is considering outsourcing the storage, preservation and access of a digital collection. The service provider gives a quote. Will outsourcing save the organisation money?
- A digitisation project within an organisation is not following best practice. What will be the cost of picking up the pieces in 5 years time?