

Archives: Challenges and Responses

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RLG Programs
2008 Partner meeting

Paris
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Collections Grid

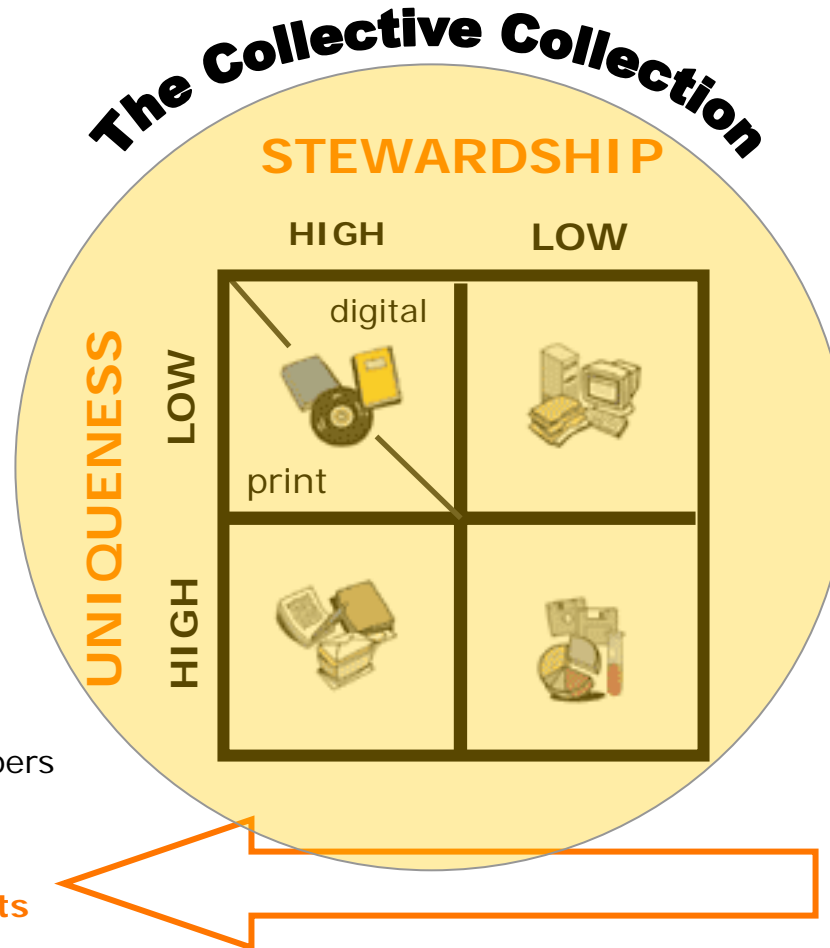
A framework for representing content

Published Content

- Books
- Journals
- Newspapers
- Gov. docs
- CD, DVD
- Maps
- Scores

Special Collections

- Rare books
- Local/Historical newspapers
- Local history materials
- Photographs
- **Archives & Manuscripts**
- Theses & Dissertations
- Museum objects



Open Web Content

- Freely-available web resources
- Open source software
- Newspaper archives
- Images

Institutional Content

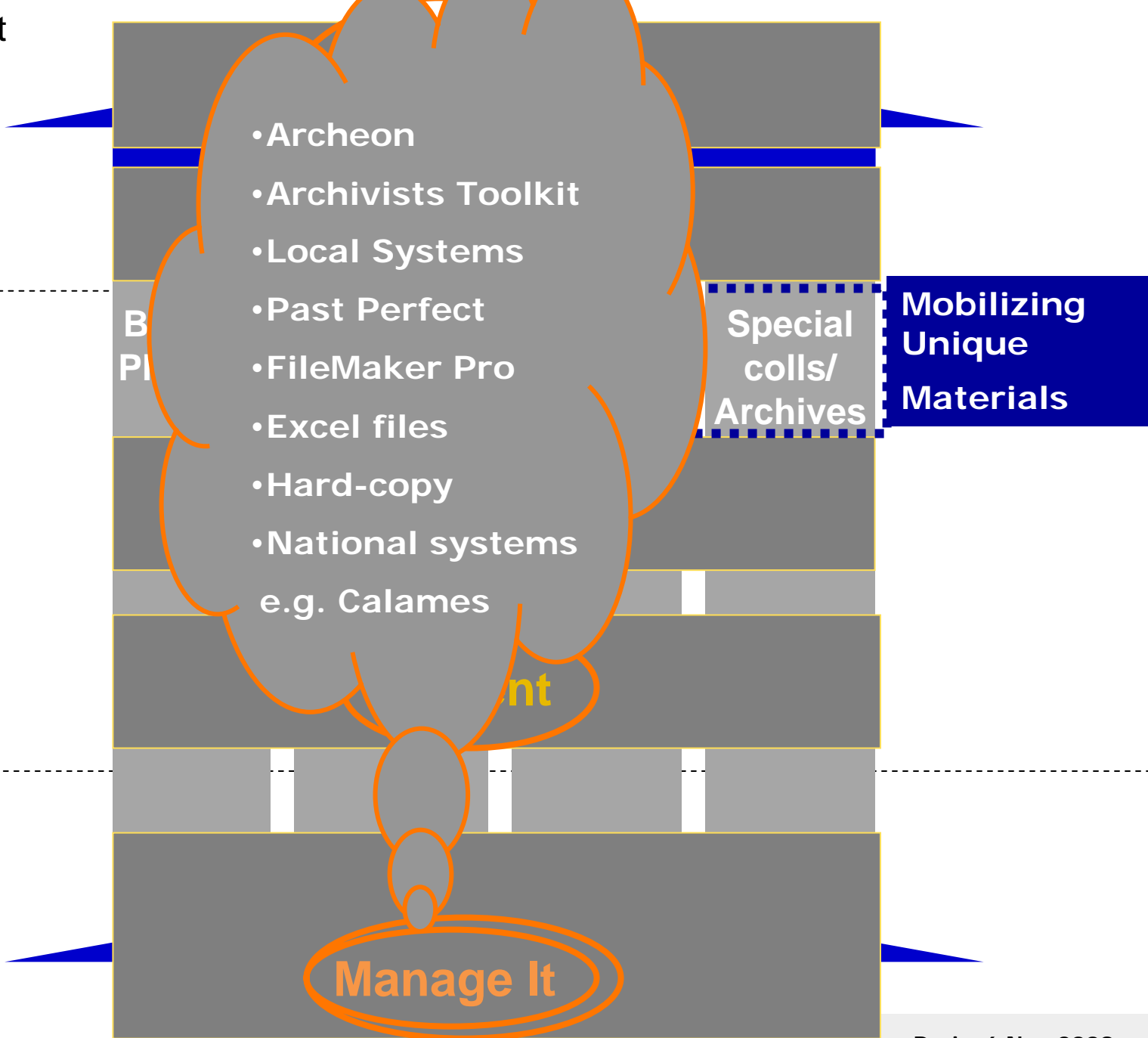
- ePrints/tech reports
- Learning objects
- Courseware
- Local government reports
- Training manuals
- Research data
- **personal STUFF**

Source: OCLC Office of Research 2003

User Environment

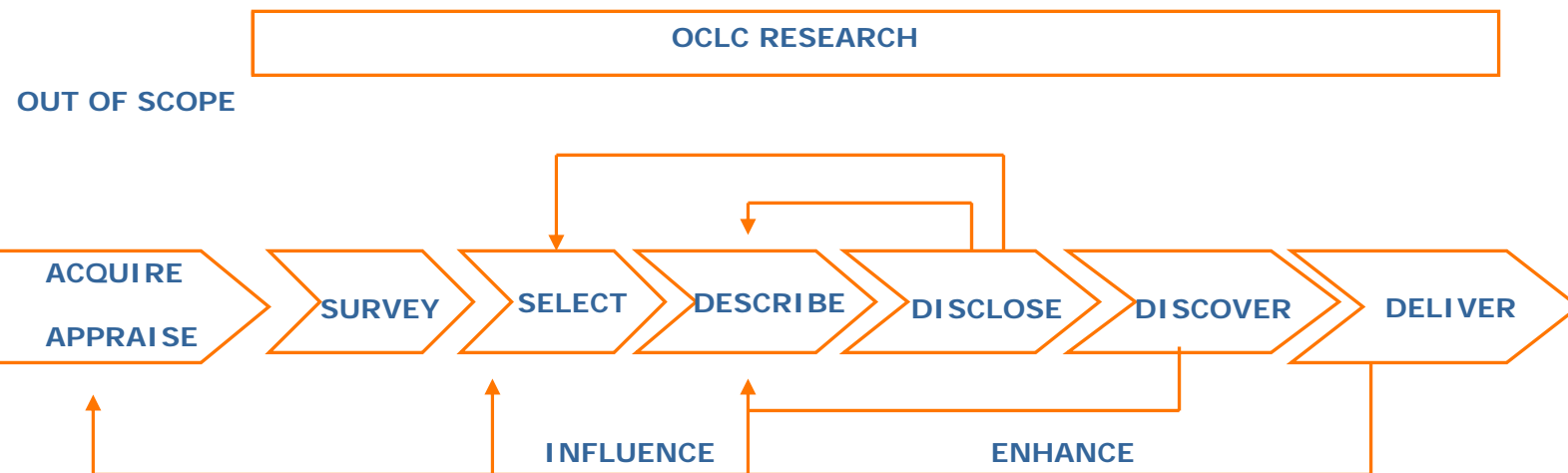
Library &
Network
Resource

Management
environment



NEED, TIMING, AND RENEWED ATTENTION

- Shared Print and Mass digitization
 - Interest in hidden collections
 - Potential connection to institutional value
- inefficiencies
- integration
 - of management environment
 - and user environment
- disclosure
- RLG Partnership
 - US and European synergies
 - and differences



End-to-End Archival Processing Flow





Assess Archival Backlog Survey Tools

IF Accurate census of processing backlog

THEN Standardized practice

- deliverables, encourage surveys, aggregate view

**...survey existing instruments and practices
including units of measurement**

...identify the range of deliverables from these instruments

**...recommend best practices
including re-appraisal that would
permit aggregation of results**



IF determine what collections are currently described

THEN guidance on where to invest scarce resources

...Provide a system-wide view by geography

subject

extent/size

...Determine descriptive data patterns for extensive collections

...Comparative studies?



**IF understood application of existing norms AND
understood what is valued and necessary**

THEN changes in practice

**...Define the State of Holdings and Description for Archives
determine system-wide patterns
which elements used – when, how often**

**...Analyze Existing EAD Creation and Editing Tools
survey and report**

**...Define the State of "Hidden Collections" for Archives
US-centric effort
not described
described but not online
online but not disclosed**



IF understood researcher, user and search engine requirements

THEN limit investment to description that optimizes

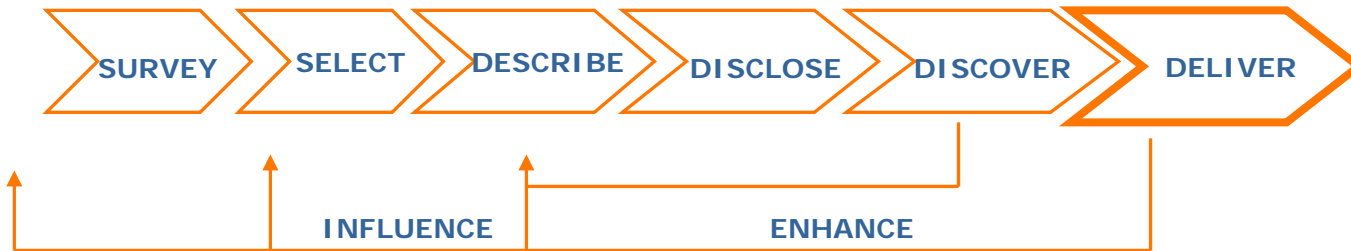
Analyze Specialized Archival Discovery Environments

...survey specialized discovery environments for archival materials

...analyze how descriptions flow into these environments

...synthesize search data from the environments
to determine user behaviors and expectations

...determine optimal data and elements for success

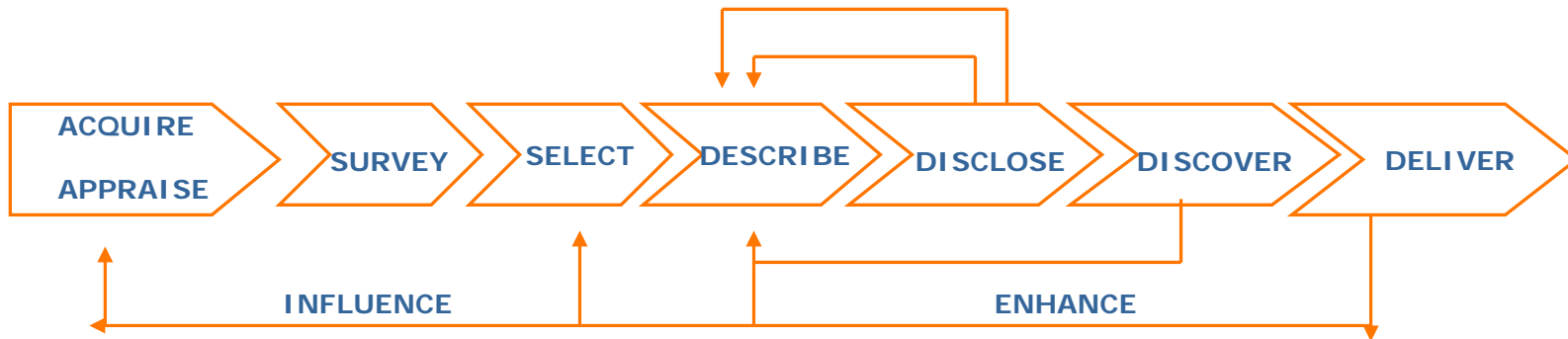


IF understood successful delivery

THEN establish best practice and common expectations

**...Synthesize the Current State of Delivery Practices
survey, identify user obstacles, understand digitization**

**...Increase the Scale of Special Collections Digitization
work with Partnership on special formats**



OPPORTUNITIES?

GUIDANCE?

INTEREST?