



# A Multi-Criteria Analysis Approach to Repository Evaluation

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# UofSC Libraries




# Multi-Criteria Analysis

- Multi-Criteria Analysis is a process for evaluating and weighing conflicting criteria
- Our process was adapted by Associate Dean for Technology, Heather Heckman, from a [UK government manual](#)
- Instead of using MCA software, we managed our progress in Excel



## The question

Can we replace our current digital and institutional repository software with alternatives that meet or exceed our needs for approximately equal or lesser cost?

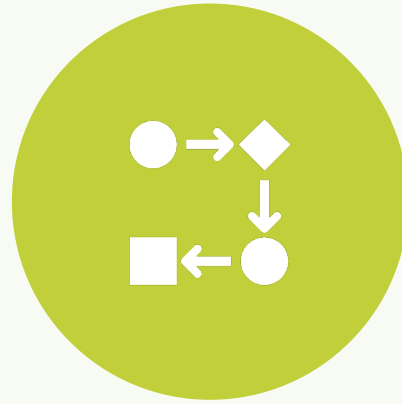




# Getting started



TIMELINE



PROCESS




GROUPS

# Timeline



# Process

1. Identify applications to evaluate
  2. Brainstorm and select criteria
  3. Evaluate applications on basis of criteria
  4. Weight criteria
  5. Discuss final scores & decision maker finalizes score
  6. Finalize weighting of categories
  7. Issue recommendation(s)
- 





# Groups



- 1) Primary group – present at every meeting
- 2) Additional stakeholders – present at brainstorming and could choose to attend additional meetings



# The matrix



20 repository options were initially considered, but we narrowed this group to 7 for evaluation.



We started with almost 100 criteria, which was far too many to discuss.



Instead of evaluating individually, we grouped these into categories for discussion

# Reviewing the MCA approach



What worked well?



What didn't?



# Reviewing the MCA approach



What worked well?

- Thorough and rigorous examination of options
- Process exposed shortfalls with our current systems
- Communication was helpful
- Agreement on which criteria were important
- Weighting criteria

# Reviewing the MCA approach



What didn't?

- Difficult to combine needs of IR and DL
- Difficult to compare open-source and proprietary solutions
- Fast and furious!
- Ratings sometimes felt artificial/arbitrary
- Documentation hard to find/understand



A photograph of a brick walkway leading through a green campus. On the right, there is a large, ornate gate made of brick and iron. The path is lined with trees and street lamps. In the background, a building is visible. The sky is blue with white clouds. A white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text "Next steps and recommendations".

Next steps and  
recommendations



# Takeaways



Open-source vs proprietary comparison is hard



Values and pragmatic concerns were sometimes at odds



Time consuming but worthwhile



Current system usage influenced the evaluation process



With this much information, visualizations help!



Communication is key



Rely on colleagues to fill in the gaps

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Thank  
You