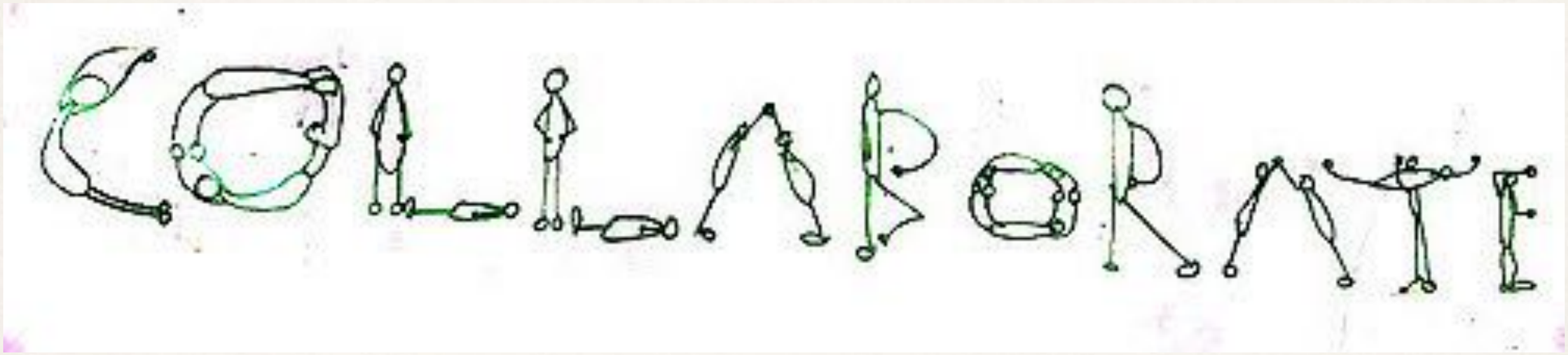


Peter Durand (2006) Word challenge: collaboration, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

Making repositories work through collaboration (in all its guises)

Chris Awre

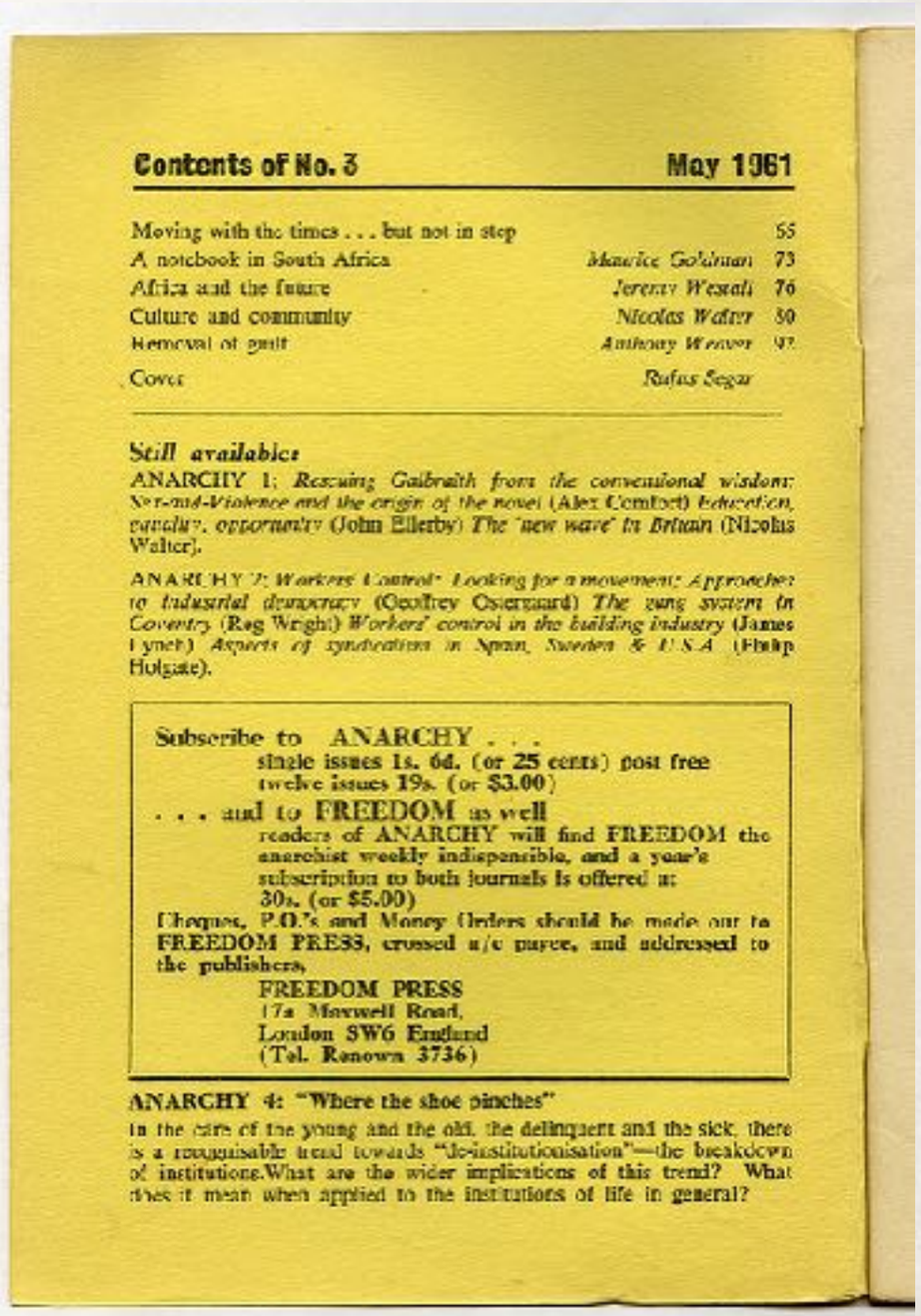
Head of Information Services

University of Hull

3rd July 2018

To cover

- Background and scope
- What is a repository?
- Collaboration (in all its guises)
- Putting it in context



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Cover	*Rufus Segar*	

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In the care of the young and the old, the delinquent and the sick, there is a recognisable trend towards "de-institutionisation"—the breakdown of institutions.What are the wider implications of this trend? What does it mean when applied to the institutions of life in general?

Joseph Morris (2009) Issue #3 table of contents, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

Background

- FAIR Programme Manager, 2002-4
  - Different meaning of FAIR! Focus on Access to Institutional Resources
- Working with repositories ever since
  - Focus on Fedora and subsequently Hydra/Samvera
  - RDSS EAG / Samvera Steering Group

- Open access and data curation lead at University of Hull
- Opinions my own. And I'm not a gardener…!

Scope

- Looking at the development of repositories from a Library perspective, but trying to consider other views
- Understanding other views fosters collaboration
- How can we make collaboration serve our repository needs?

Michael Sterber (2014) Biocular scope, flickr.com CC-BY

Different views of an elephant

Mandy Goldberg (2007) Best elephant photo, flickr.com CC-BY

Different views of a tree

- Looking at the same thing differently
- Ask someone what a tree means or is to them
- Ask someone what a repository means or is to them
- Trees need and contribute to an ecosystem
  - Collaboration in natural action

Debs-eye (2010) Bluebell wood oak tree, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

New sapling

Sebastian gone-arch (2015) Beech in bloom, flickr.com CC-BY-NC

Repositories starting out

- Repository systems developed, and implemented, as applications
- Initial focus on institutional content (FAIR Programme) led to Digital Repositories Programme etc.
- New implementations carefully tendered to get them up and running
- Specialist staff/teams within the Library
- Collaboration through funding and project support

Looking for blossom

Tom Magliery (2013) Cherry blossoms, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA

Developing new services

- Repositories aligned with open access developments
  - Showcase of what Universities publish, new ways of disseminating research outputs
- Exchange of experience, information and ideas amongst repository managers (new role!) and within libraries
  - Creation of UKCoRR and Repository Fringe, etc.
- Collaboration through coming together and sharing practice

Tree lovers

Ewar Woowar (2007) Tree hugger, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA

Learning to love your repository

- Challenges
  - Getting Library colleagues to love your repository
  - Getting academics to love your repository
- Development of projects to engage different stakeholders
- Open access champions / Mediated deposit
- Collaboration through targeted partnerships

The rival tree

Emil Athanasiou (2012) Parallel lives, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

Other repositories?

- Development of Current Research Information Systems (CRIS)
  - Led by, often, Research Office, remit to manage research workflows, including outputs
- Academic data repository developments
  - National and international in scope and practice
- Collaboration within parallel activities, often following similar paths - cross-service collaboration?

Landowners

Daniel Menerich (2009) Ludwigslust - Barockschloss, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

Repository as institutional service

- National policy developments (Finch, RCUK, HEFCE) lead to repositories (or the CRIS) having raised value with institutional senior management (or do they…?)
- Putting repository services on different footing to ensure policy compliance
- Collaboration through policy enforcement - you *will* engage with the repository ;-)

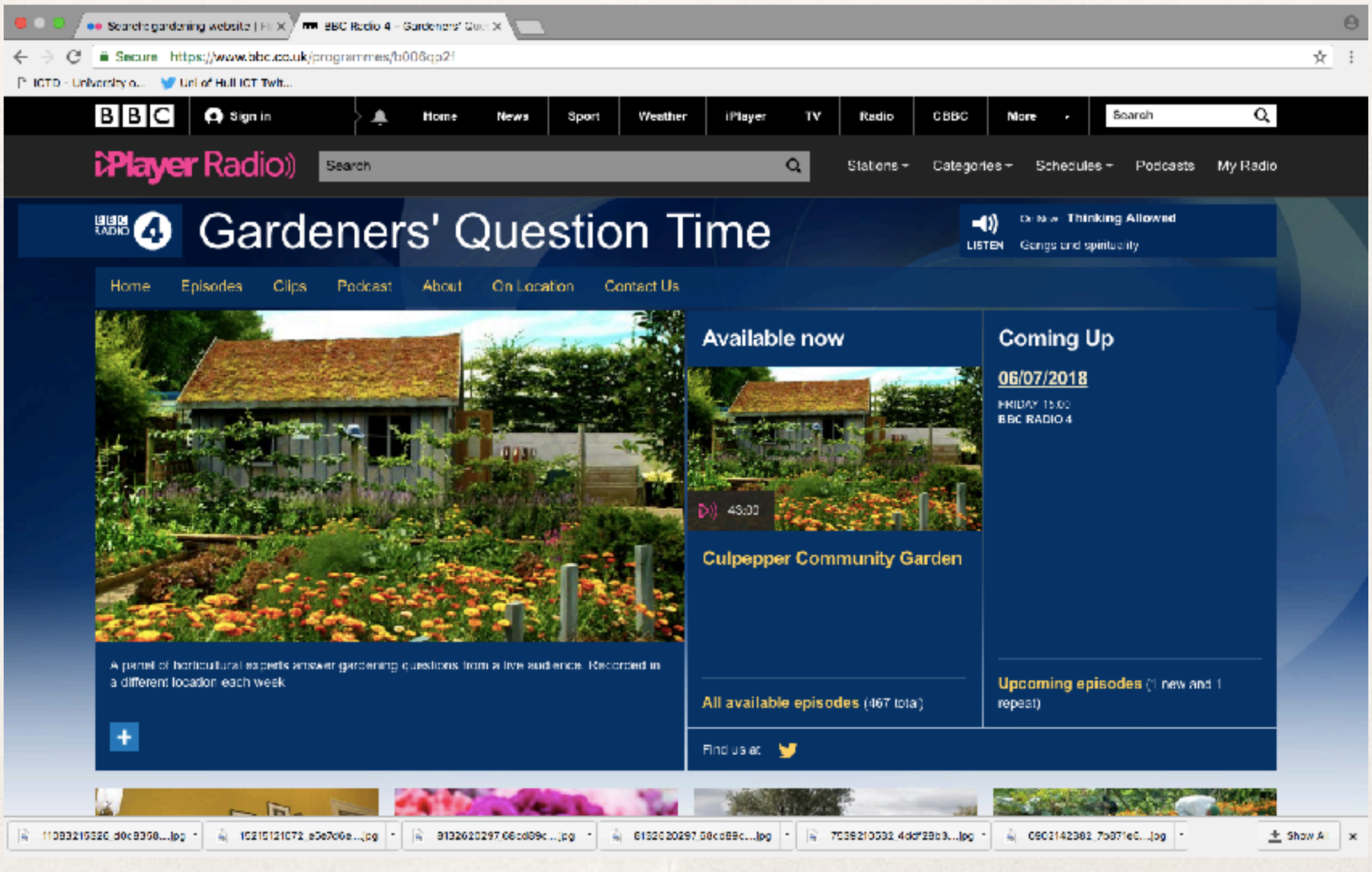
Local gardener

Adrian Fu (2012) Gardener, flickr.com CC-BY

Maintaining the repository

- Reliance on a key individual, or known support through ICT, often key to successful running of a repository
- Build-up of local skills and knowledge
- Can be linked to software provider, can be ‘go it alone’
- Collaboration with technical staff, wherever they may sit

Gardening website



Developing skills through sharing

- Software system communities through open source provision, akin to online communities of practice

- Learning from others, contributing based on experience

- Challenge of getting support staff to engage with others outside the immediate place of work

- Collaboration through sharing with others

Gardening club

Ron Young (2014) Duchess Street Middle Club Garden, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

Working together

- Practical engagement in repository community to create jointly developed solutions

- Contribution of time and resource

- Developing skills through doing, benefitting others and yourself at the same time, sharing the workload

- Collaboration through working together on shared, common goals

Tree surgeon

Bryan Ledgard (2013) just a trim, flickr.com CC-BY

The role of vendors

- A core part of how libraries operate through the provision of a range of systems and services
  - Repositories are no different (?)
  - Beware scope creep!
- Vendors for commercial vs. open source options - level playing field
- Collaboration in building a vendor relationship

Garden centre

nstohlma (2013) Micropolis - garden center, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA

Subject communities

- A subject-view on the world, bringing everything that is needed together for ease of reference and use
  - Including different types of repository and related service
- Focused drive based on shared common goals
  - Some more nebulous than others
- Collaboration underpinned by subject link

Growing further?

JohnsonGoh (2017) No title, pixabay.com CC0

What repositories do we want?

- This will depend on what they are being used for
  - But this means determining what we need our repositories for, and planning accordingly
- Is the focus on the repository or the content?
- We need repositories that allow the content to be sustainable, manageable, available, and usable
- Repository as infrastructure

Back to the original tree

- Whenever we look at a tree we see different things
- When we look at repositories we can view them from different perspectives
- Informed by the different collaborations that lie behind how repositories have evolved, are used, and are maintained and developed

Debs-eye (2010) Bluebell wood oak tree, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-ND

Collaborations

- New sapling - funding and project support (from Jisc or other), repository as application
- Looking for blossom - coming together as repository managers and sharing good practice and ideas
- Tree lovers - targeted partnerships to get others to love our repositories!
- Rival tree! - working with others across the institution where common goals and crossover appears
- Landowners - collaboration through policy
- Local gardener - local technical resource maintaining repository as an application
- Gardening website - Learning through sharing at a technical and detailed content management level
- Gardening club - software communities jointly developing and enhancing repository solutions
- Tree surgeon - building a vendor relationship
- Garden centre - subject focus to working together
- Growing further? - repositories as infrastructure

But all trees die!

AntoinePound (2018) Dead tree, flickr.com CC0

Yet they live on…

Reza (2009) Carved beauty, flickr.com CC-BY

Landscape gardening

Rob n Rae Cornelius (2013) Rock garden pool, flickr.com CC-BY-NC-SA

Where is collaboration needed now?

- Work between fellow repository managers to further establish the role and purpose of repositories for the future

- Linking to other parts of our own institutions addressing related areas of activity, and bringing them together

- More engagement with technical staffing, wherever that may be, to increase understanding of what repositories can or should do

- Being open to collaborating and learning through ‘doing’ - working together on joint projects towards common goals

To summarise (without trees!)

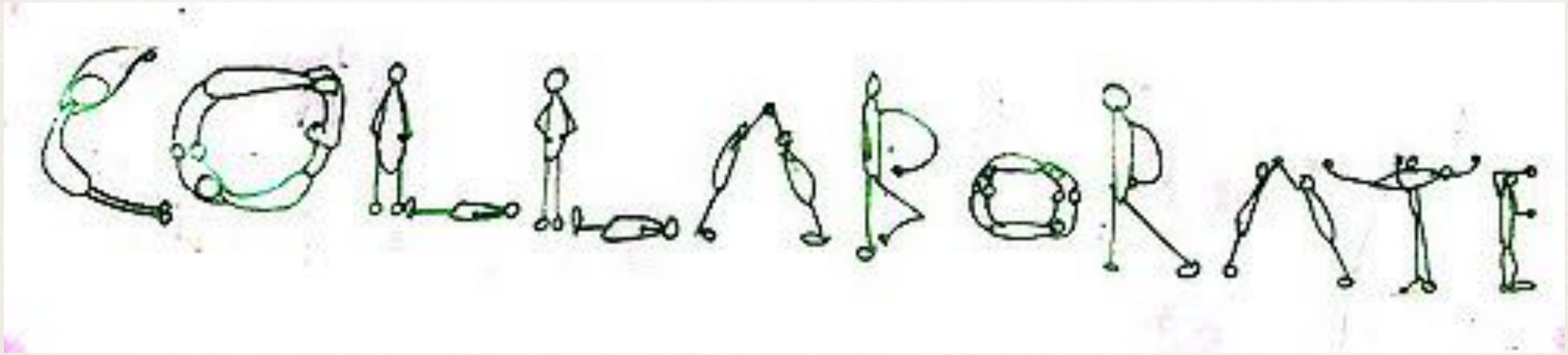
- Our repositories are well-established after a decade of development

- Different views of repositories have highlighted that they can develop in different ways

- Collaboration in all its different guises is vital to the sustainability of repositories and making them part of the infrastructure we work with

Thank you

Chris Awre, c.awre@hull.ac.uk



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…and just one more tree