

## Information Resilience - Final Report



2018/19 ECR Project

# Information Resilience in a Digital Built Environment.

Final Reporting.

9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

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## **Abstract**

Information is the underpinning driver in the Digitised Built Environment and crucial to the Centre for Digital Built Britain's agenda. Threats to information affect the intrinsic, relational and security dimensions of information quality. Therefore, the DBE requires capabilities of people, and requirements of the process, software and hardware for threat prevention and reduction. Existing research and protocols seldomly outline the capabilities and requirements needed to reduce threats to information. The aim of this report is to develop an information resilience framework which outlines the capabilities and requirements needed to ensure the resilience of information throughout its lifecycle; creation, use, storage, reuse, preserve and destroy. The findings highlight the need for people's (stakeholder) competencies and behaviours which are driven by cognitive abilities such as attention, learning, reasoning and perception. Furthermore, process' requirements such as embedding validation check process, standard requirements for Level of Detail, digital upskilling, among others, were identified. Additionally, identified software requirements include its ability to be customised to meet the project needs, detect conflicts and provide context of information. Finally, hardware requirements encompass facilitating backup, having a high capacity system and being inaccessible to peripherals. This research will be further extended to the development of a decision-making assessment tool to measure capabilities and requirements in the entire lifecycle of built assets.

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## 1.0 Research Background

Information is useful only if it fulfils its intended function and it requires socio-technical enablers to assure information quality. However, information is vulnerable throughout its lifecycle due to its exposure and sensitivity to internal and external sources of threats. Therefore, information needs capabilities and requirements to ensure its resilience.

For this research, Information Resilience (IR) is defined as the process of reducing the vulnerabilities affecting the intrinsic, relational and security dimensions of information quality through the identification of capabilities of people and requirements of process, technology and hardware. Information vulnerabilities are caused by stakeholders (people), process, software and hardware, and these challenge information quality throughout its lifecycle. Project stakeholders, though key contributors to information vulnerability, can also be key drivers for vulnerability reduction if frameworks are developed to enable them to change their behaviours, reduce bias and maximise their capabilities towards information vulnerability reduction given that, precise detail of the vulnerabilities is often unforeseen. In addition, software and hardware capacity requirements needed to ensure effective compliance requirements and other controls are required. Though studies to reduce security threats, example; Safa *et al.* (2016) and Moody *et al.* (2018) exist, they primarily focus on the information storage and reuse stage and incorporate little focus on the other information lifecycle stages. As such, they mainly focus on processes required to assist in implementing measures to reduce information loss or disclosure which could impact the safety and security of occupants, built asset and asset information. However, there is currently a lack of a holistic vulnerability reduction lens and the identification of capabilities and requirements needed to reduce information vulnerability through its lifecycle in the Digital Built Environment (DBE). This research presents a holistic sphere towards IR which guards against emergent vulnerabilities to information quality caused by project processes, stakeholders, software and hardware in addition to safeguarding the capabilities and requirements needed to reduce vulnerabilities throughout the information lifecycle.

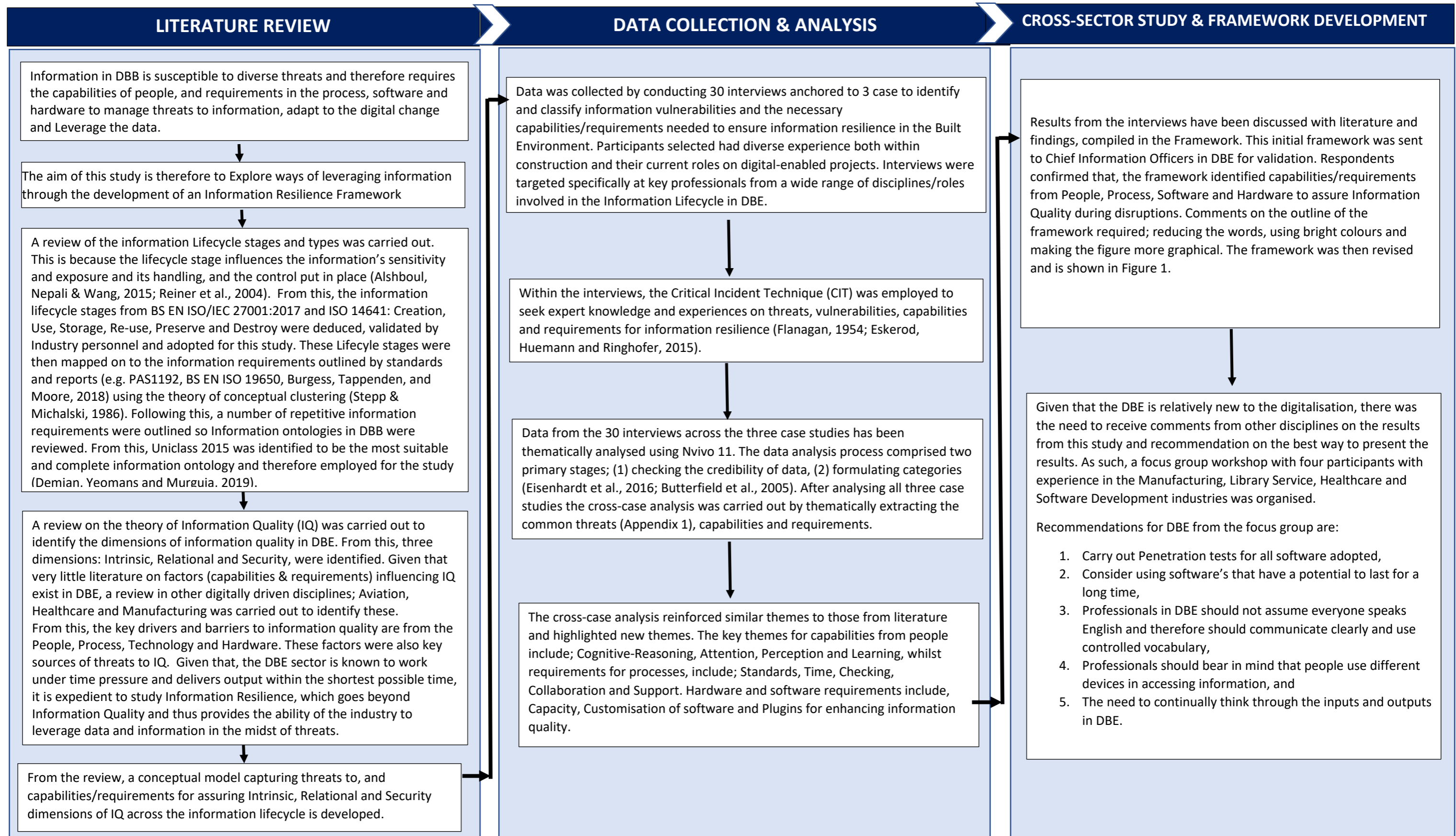
The developed IR framework is intended to maintain and enhance information quality in the midst of threats and help assets to be managed more effectively over their extended lifecycles, as well as the reuse of information in future assets even after the original asset has been disposed. IR is central to the collaborative digitised asset development process in the Built Environment and therefore it is necessary to identify the capabilities and requirements needed to enable adequate decision making and planning. Thus, contributing to the capability and requirements for smart construction and digital design agenda in the Construction 2025 (Gov.uk, 2013 & 2017) and the following CDBB areas of focus: Data and Information - 'Data provenance and quality towards maintaining social values embodied in the data against threats' (numbers 13 and 14, under CDBB Focus areas), Complex Integrated System – Insight, understanding and management of information resilience (number 8, under CDBB Focus areas) and Stakeholders, purpose-setting and decision making- understanding and working with 'uncertainty' in a variety of forms, all within the context of insights and capabilities (number 2, under CDBB Focus areas) with the potential to inform future digital policies.

### **1.1 Research Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this research is to develop an Information Resilience (IR) framework to leverage information to deliver a Digital Built Britain (DBB). To achieve this aim, the research sought to:

- 1) Categorise information types in the Built Environment;
- 2) Identify and classify information vulnerabilities;
- 3) Identify capabilities and requirements to ensure information resilience and
- 4) Develop an IR framework for Digital Built Environment.

## 2.0 Research Design Overview



### 3.0 Research Outcome

## INFORMATION RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

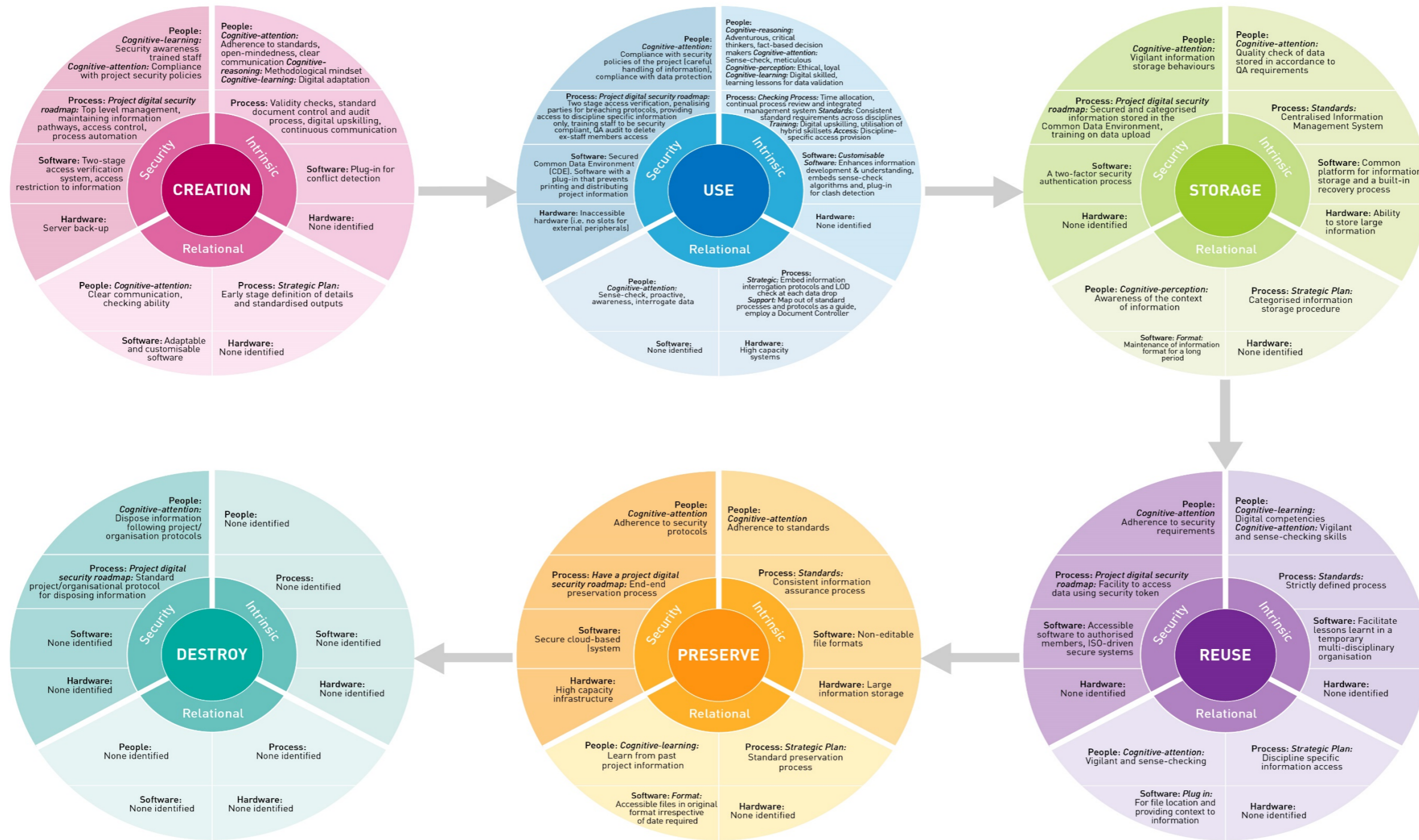


Figure 1. Information Resilience Framework

### **3.1 Framework Explanation**

In the framework, there are 6 main circles which each represent the information lifecycle stage. Within each circle are the three areas of information quality: intrinsic, relational and security. Under each of these areas are listed the capabilities from people and requirements from processes, software and hardware needed to ensure information resilience and assure information quality during a digitally enabled asset delivery process.

#### **Terms**

- ***Intrinsic***: Internal attributes and characteristics in relation to some reference standard (Accuracy, Validity, Completeness)
- ***Relational***: When performing a task, the user must be able to retrieve, interpret and make decisions (Accessibility, Coherence, Format, Compatibility, Relevance, Timeliness)
- ***Security***: Information is protected from unauthorised access



## 4.0 Research Implications

The main implications of the research include:

### **Capability and Requirement Identification for Information Resilience**

This study has identified:

- Capabilities and the required cognitive drivers of people (Project Stakeholders, Asset Stakeholders) needed for Information Resilience and to assure information quality across the information lifecycle in a Digital Built Environment. The identification of these abilities addresses the needed team capabilities stated in BS EN ISO 19650-1 section 8.2. The findings highlight the need for people's competencies and behaviours which are driven by cognitive abilities such as attention, learning, reasoning and perception. Stakeholders (people) are required to use their senses, be thinkers and judges when interacting with information. For example, during information creation through to the destroy stage, stakeholders are required to; judge by contextualising the data and based on facts, comply with standards, have an open-mind and a willingness to learn; be a thinker by sense-checking the information, be vigilant and digitally savvy.
- Process Requirements needed to ensure information resilience in the midst of threats across the information lifecycle and adds on the Information Requirements outlined in the UK Government BIM Working group report on Information Requirements (Burgess, Tappenden, and Moore, 2018). Examples of additions to process requirements are: a Common Data Environment with a built-in recovery process, a clear definition of Level of Details (LoD), allowing for time to check the accuracy of work done, new sections covering digital upskilling/training, utilisation of hybrid skill set, embedding processes to ensure adequate LoD at each stage (data drop) in a timely manner, mapping out of standard processes and protocols to enable parties to follow process automation, showing parties the implication of their behaviours and employing roles with document controller skills. Security-wise, addition to Built Asset Security Information Requirement and Built Asset Security Management Plan of PAS1192:5 include project digital security roadmap and process automation among others.
- Software and Hardware Requirements, such as its ability to be adapted and customised to meet project's needs, detect conflicts and provide context of information. These requirements can be included in the data and file store section of the Asset Information Requirement Document set up by the UK BIM Task Group. The results of this study iterate the need for software to be customised to meet user needs as stated by Underwood (2016) and highlights the usefulness of this ability to reduce threats through its conflict detection and provision of context to information abilities. Hardware requirements such as facilitating backup, having a high capacity system and being inaccessible to peripherals are required to ensure information resilience.



### **Decision Making checklist for Chief Information Officers in Digital Built Environment**

The Framework will provide Chief Information Officers information about the cognitive abilities needed by the team and the requirements of the process, software and hardware to ensure information resilience and assure quality.

### **Standards and Policy**

Specifically, this study identifies the capabilities needed for assuring the intrinsic and relational information quality dimensions in the midst of threats and adds to requirements in Burgess *et al.* (2018) and on Security in PAS 1192:5. This study also highlights security compliance capabilities which could be added to the Built Asset Security Information Requirement and Management Plan in PAS1192:5.

## **5.0 Conclusions and Limitations**

This research has developed and presented an Information Resilience Framework to leverage digital information in a Digital Built Britain. The proposed framework aims to cause a substantial social and economic impact. The social impact will be realised by the identification of capabilities of design, construction and operation teams and therefore create the awareness for information stakeholders to prepare for and reduce vulnerabilities and ensure information resilience. The framework could be used to outline roles and responsibilities and foster decision-making throughout the information lifecycle. Economically, the framework will help to improve the quality of information and thus improve productivity during project and asset management. Decision-makers and policymakers would make informed decisions based on good information and thus ensure that the value of the asset is maintained whilst maximising economic and social impact. The identified requirements will reduce the risk of unexpected incidents which may lead to additional costs and therefore contribute to leveraging data and information to deliver a Digital Built Britain and provide 'insight, understanding and management of information resilience'. This will contribute to the exploration of existing or emerging tools, technologies and techniques and their role in delivering a Digital Built Britain to ensure that the asset being developed will fulfil the function for which its being created and the value of the information will be sustained after the asset life.

This study is not without limitations. While the case studies were selected to represent UK Level 2 BIM-enabled projects, interviewees might not necessarily represent the experiences of all designers, contractors and facility managers in the UK construction industry. Whilst the pool of interviewees represents experienced Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Operations (AECO) professionals, interviewing more Operational professional may have deepened the findings in the reuse, preservation and destroy phases of the information lifecycle.

## Acknowledgements

This research was funded by the Centre for Digital Built Britain, under InnovateUK grant number RG96233. We thank professionals from Skanska and other Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Operations disciplines for providing insights and expertise that greatly assisted the research.

We would also like to show our gratitude to the practitioners from Manufacturing, Library Service, Healthcare and Software Development industries for their recommendations to DBE.

## Further Information

Detailed literature and findings from this research will be published in the Journal of Management Information Systems later this year. Enquiries about the research should be directed to:

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