Stop Blaming the Technology!

Culture and Acceptance of IT infrastructure in Research Management
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What am I going to say?

What has happened since 2014

Where are we now?

Some observations in the office

Some solutions?
Rome, The Eternal City 2014

Presented a vision of how I saw RM IT working
I wanted black box solution that doesn’t complain, does everything and is always perfect - nothing complicated.

We had a bit to do!
What we were

This was my map of where we stored all our research information and nothing was shared.

We were rolling our own RIS

We were a very long way from my black box
Amsterdam, Venice of the North, 2014

Presented our progress over the few months since Rome.
...and we had made progress

Our national funders were beginning to get on board (we still have 10 identical but separate installations of a single system)

We and many other HEIs are making investments in the technology. We are not at the black box yet but maybe it’s a grey box!
The ‘Grey’ Box

Some fairly simple things have allowed us to get to a place where we can produce a report like this relatively easily even with just our own rolled RIS

...and this is using google sheets but it exposes some other problems that we didn’t think through.
The technology is only the start!

We didn’t think our business processes through to take maximum advantage of the data, information and knowledge we now had.
What is driving us nationally.

Europe!

The requirement in the new national research strategy to define a national research classification and a national cRIS system.

Open access is broadly accepted but Open Data remains an issue.
What is driving us now

National HE strategy has proposed a number of mergers between existing HEIs and re-designation of some of these merged entities as ‘Technological Universities’.

Research (and our plans for it) is a critical qualification criterion so knowledge becomes very important. Business processes are being adapted in the context of our merger.
What is driving Researchers now

National funders are now using ORCID to check track record and maintain national researcher CV.

Research evaluations and research mobility.

Career progression
...but what about the people?

The prevailing culture, both personal and institutional become very important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal.</th>
<th>Institutional.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information ownership</td>
<td>Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of job losses</td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secrecy</td>
<td>Continued ‘central’ role</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power play</td>
<td>To late to change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>This how we always do it.</td>
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We need to learn how to deal with this.
To avoid this...

We need consultation, empowerment, and change management. This is our next challenge.
Wikinomics

As Eric Schmidt, the CEO of Google said “Thanks to the internet, masses of people outside the boundaries of traditional hierarchies can innovate to produce content, goods and services.”

That’s my goal and our story continues...
Thank You

More at the EARMA 2017 conference in Malta

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