

Cataloguing in the clouds:

Towards a UK shared cataloguing
service

David C Prosser
Executive Director
david.prosser@rluk.ac.uk

Who we are

- Membership organisation of 30 libraries
 - 25 university libraries
 - 3 national libraries
 - Wellcome and V&A
- Vision:
 - The UK should have the best research library support in the world

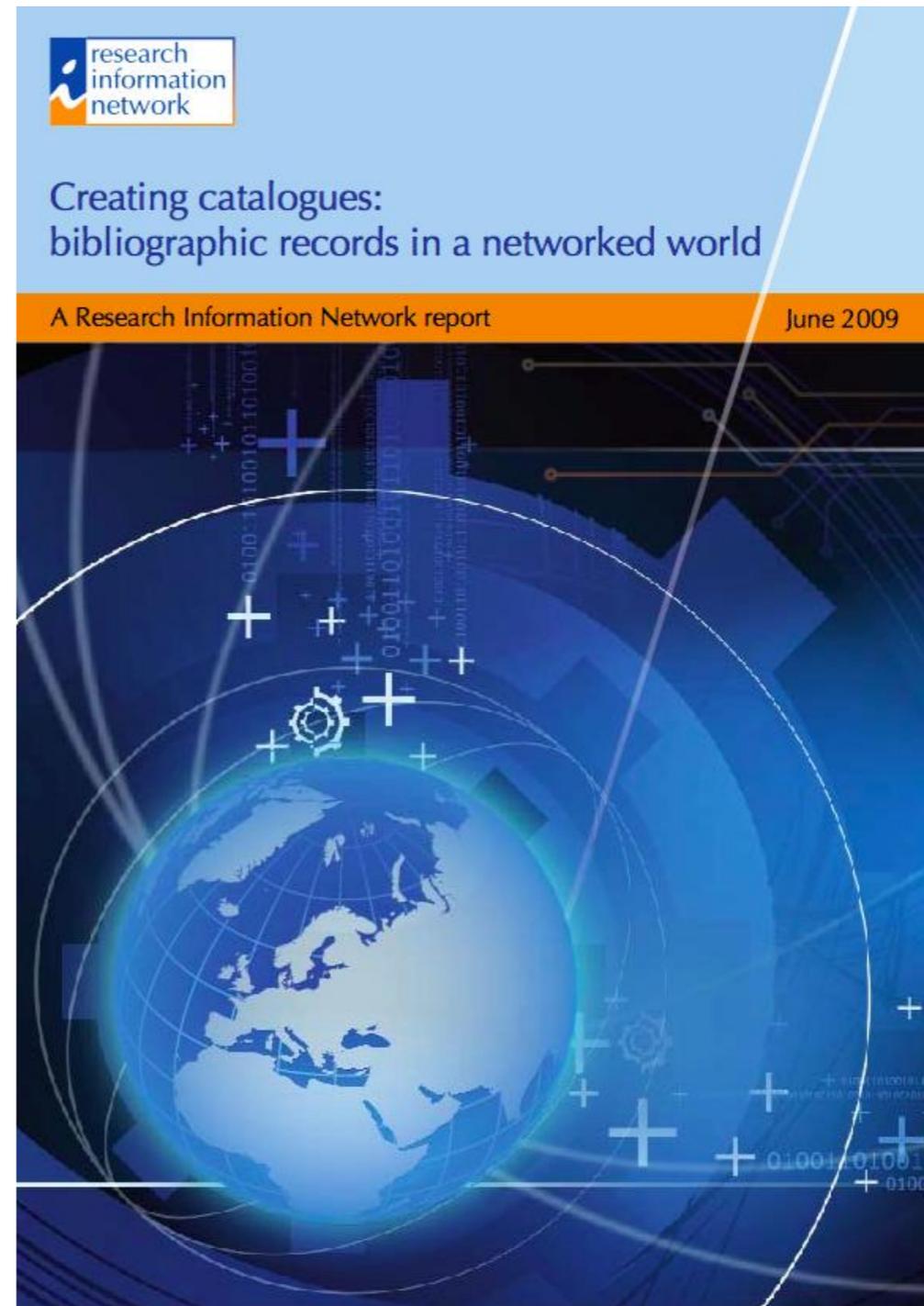
Drivers for Change

- Libraries face intense budget pressures
- Also pressures for improved services from users
- Calls for greater sharing of services across the public sector and in higher education
- ‘Too many universities try to do too much in-house.’ UK Science and Universities Minister, David Willets
- New technology allows us the opportunity to look at new solutions to old issues
- In particular, developments in cloud computing and vendor systems offer possibilities

The Problem

Our key finding is that the current arrangements for producing and distributing bibliographic data for both books and journals involve **duplications** of efforts, **gaps** in the available data, and **missed opportunities**.

...[T]here would be considerable benefits if libraries, and other organisations in the supply chain, were to operate more at the network level.



RLUK Response

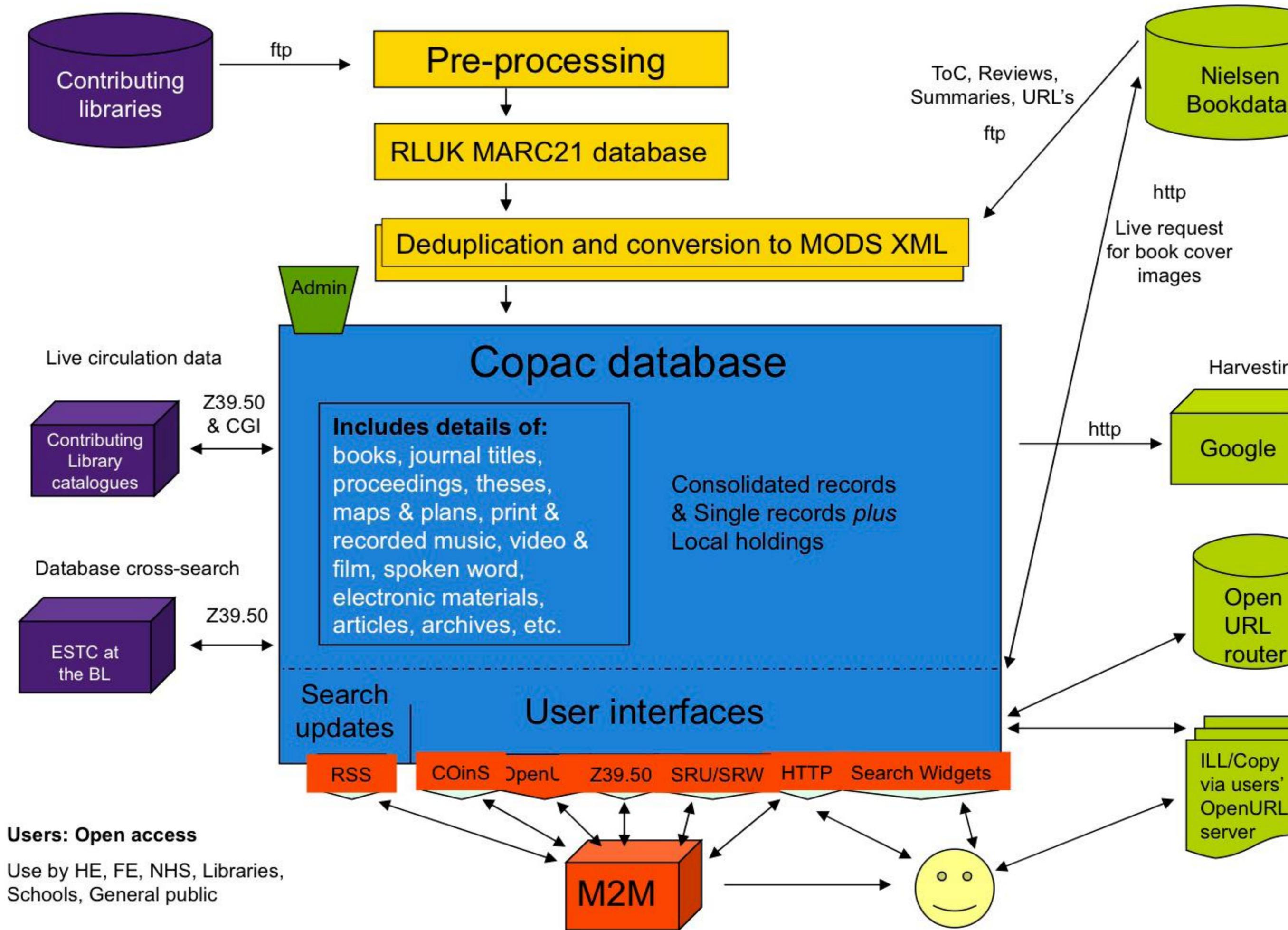
RLUK set up a working group to look at:

- The potential for a national bibliographic resource based on COPAC
- Cost savings available to libraries through deep sharing of back-room processes
- The needs of students and researchers for resource discovery and retrieval
- The impact of new tools in library management systems to change current practices
- The reliability and sustainability of cloud computing approaches

The Group will report to the RLUK Board later in late summer with recommendations for action

The RLUK Metadata Resource

- RLUK members contribute to a shared metadata resource
- Now contains 21 million metadata (marc21) records
- Free to members, can be purchased by non-members
- COPAC is built on and enhances the RLUK database
- Includes the holding statements of 71 collections representing 67 institutions
- RLUK libraries account for 90% of COPAC records



User Needs and Expectations

- At the most basic level the questions from researchers and students are:
 - “Have you got x?” or “What have you got about x?”
- followed by:
 - “How can I gain access?”
- Any shared cataloguing solutions must facilitate answers to both questions
- In an electronic environment users increasingly expect direct links to electronic content

Areas for Recommendations

- We know that we do not know enough about current practices in our institutions:
- Survey quantitatively cataloguing practice at member institutions to build a detailed picture of the current landscape, identify best practice, and gauge readiness for greater shared cataloguing
- Describe existing level of shared services related to cataloguing and bibliographic metadata across research libraries

Areas for Recommendations

- What can we do as a consortia?
 - Purchase and procure enriched data such as searchable table of contents and abstract/summary information
 - Purchase subscriptions to classification schemes (e.g. Classification Web, Web Dewey).
 - Establish a registry of expertise in languages, scripts and format experience (e.g. maps, music, rare books) among RLUK libraries.

Areas for Recommendations

- What can we do as a consortia?
- Develop a programme to build and maintain a national registry of digitised freely available and accessible books and journals. So enabling greater discoverability
- Develop user registration functionality (single sign on) to lead to the most immediately accessible copy of the work they wish to consult (online freely available; online with access sign on; digitisation on demand; geographically and institutionally most favourable location; purchase on request, etc).

Areas for Recommendations

- Help Implement Standards
 - Review and revise current input standards for the RLUK
 - Prepare for, and promote, the implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) format
 - Greater engagement with authority control systems

The Cloud

- Growing realisation that Cloud is just a tool
- Not a solution
- May provide an infrastructure, but not a magic bullet

Thanks

Paul Ayris - UCL - (Chair)

Sandra Bracegirdle - Manchester University

Rachel Bruce - JISC

Elizabeth James - V&A

Mike Mertens - RLUK

Andy McGregor - JISC

Kathryn Murray - National Library of Wales

Debby Shorley - Imperial College London

Ben Showers - JISC

June Tomlinson - Wellcome Trust

Nick Wooley - King's College London

(David Prosser - RLUK)