

IESR, the JISC IE and beyond

Andy Powell, UKOLN, University of Bath

a.powell@ukoln.ac.uk

Using the IESR: what's in it for you?



UKOLN is supported by: **JISC** 
MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES



www.ukoln.ac.uk



a centre of expertise in digital information management

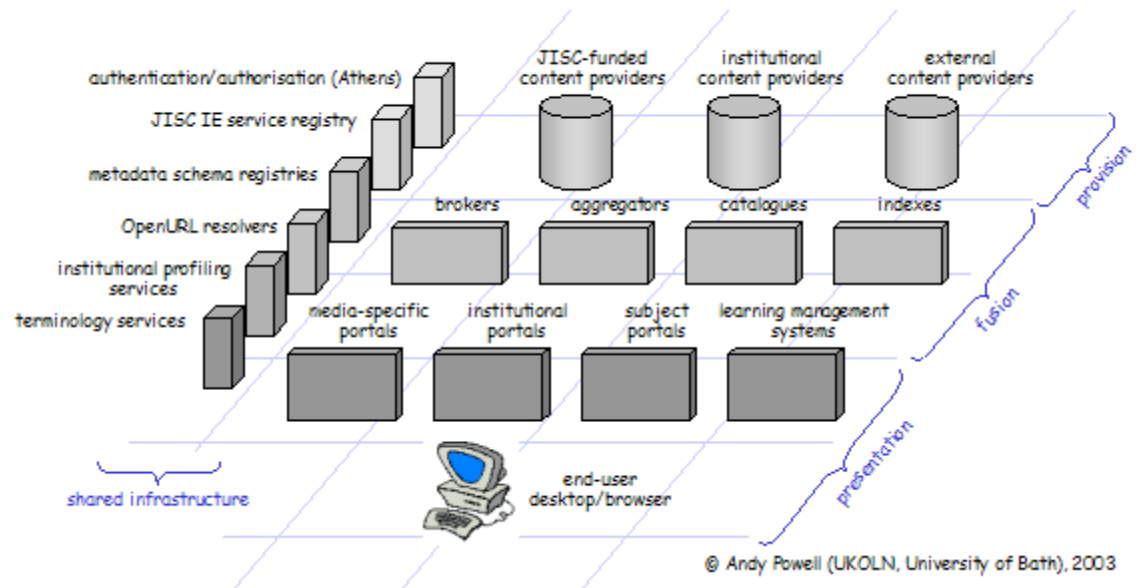
Contents

- the changing environment
- distributing the IESR
- issues
- conclusions



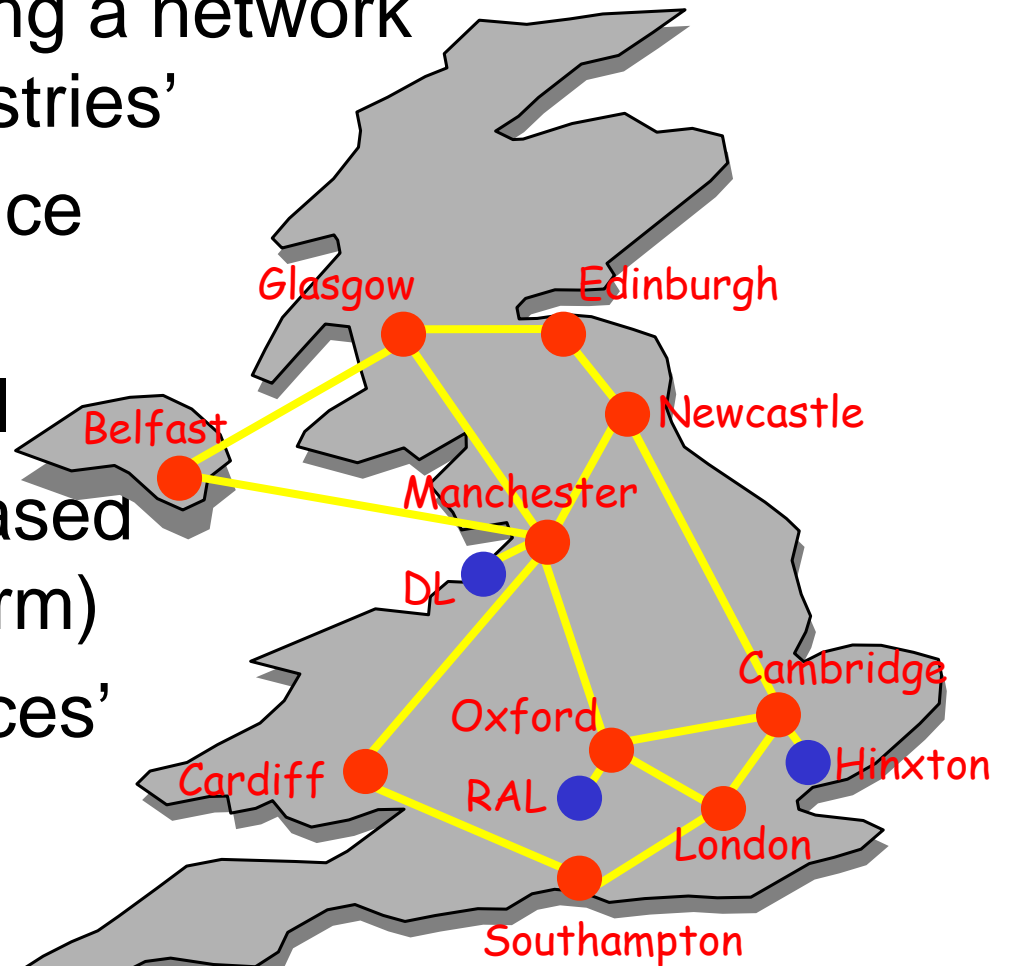
JISC IE

- set the original scope of the IESR
- to describe collections and services **in** the JISC IE
- but what does **in** mean?
- e.g. are the Nature and indenta RSS feeds in or out?



Grid/eScience

- the Grid Engineering Task Force is currently building a network of 'service registries'
- one per eScience Centre
- based on UDDI
- jUDDI (Java-based software platform)
- focus on 'services' rather than 'collections'?



NISO Metasearch

- (see Pete Johnston's presentation)
- 'library portal' vendors often already offer and maintain a 'service registry' in the form of a configuration database or 'knowledge base'
- part of the package – i.e. you've already paid for it!
- what is the vendor view of the IESR
 - a useful source of info?
 - a chance to off-load a maintenance headache?
 - a competing product in the market-place?



Web services/eCommerce

- integration of Web services in eBusiness/eCommerce sector seems to be the main driving force behind UDDI
- but... public registries at www.uddi.org still completely unusable
- perception that UDDI spec is highly complex
- tool availability largely limited to Java
- note that simpler use of WSDL (e.g. see www.xmethods.com) is more successful



ELF and VRE

- the JISC E-Learning Framework and Virtual Research Environments
- attempts to develop service-oriented approach (SOA) to learning management systems and research tools
- break monolithic systems into smaller service components
- typically instantiated using SOAP or REST
- potentially leading to big increase in number of services requiring registration



Portals and portlets

- gradual increase in use of portal frameworks like uPortal for delivering institutional portals
- integration of multiple 'portlets' within single personalised framework
- many portlets delivered within the institution (i.e. intranet services)
- in combination with internal ELF and VRE related activity leads to pressure to deliver 'institutional' (i.e. closed) service registry



Distributing the IESR

- conclusion of all this is that the IESR cannot be seen as monolithic service
- need to approach it more like the DNS than like Athens!
- need to think about approaches for distributing the IESR across multiple (probably many!) players
 - UDDI
 - ‘digital library’ technologies like OAI-PMH
 - P2P approaches?

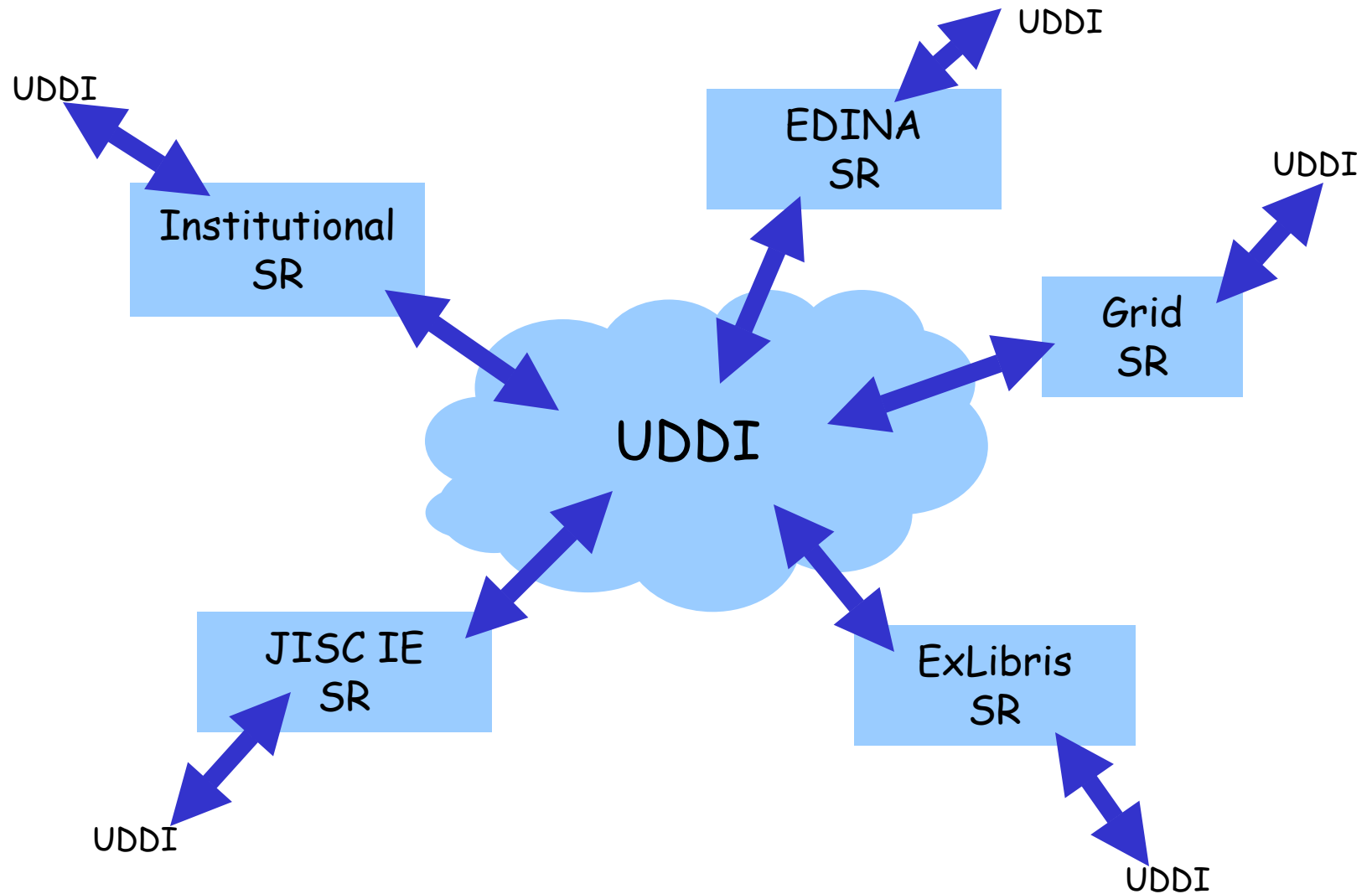


Re-using existing data

- also need to take advantage of existing sources of 'service' and 'collection' descriptions
 - Z39.50 Explain
 - Z39.50/SRW ZeeRex
 - OAI-PMH 'friends and neighbours' Identify response
 - RSS channel lists using OPML (Outline Processor Markup Language)
- i.e. need to populate service registries with existing work whenever possible - rather than causing new work



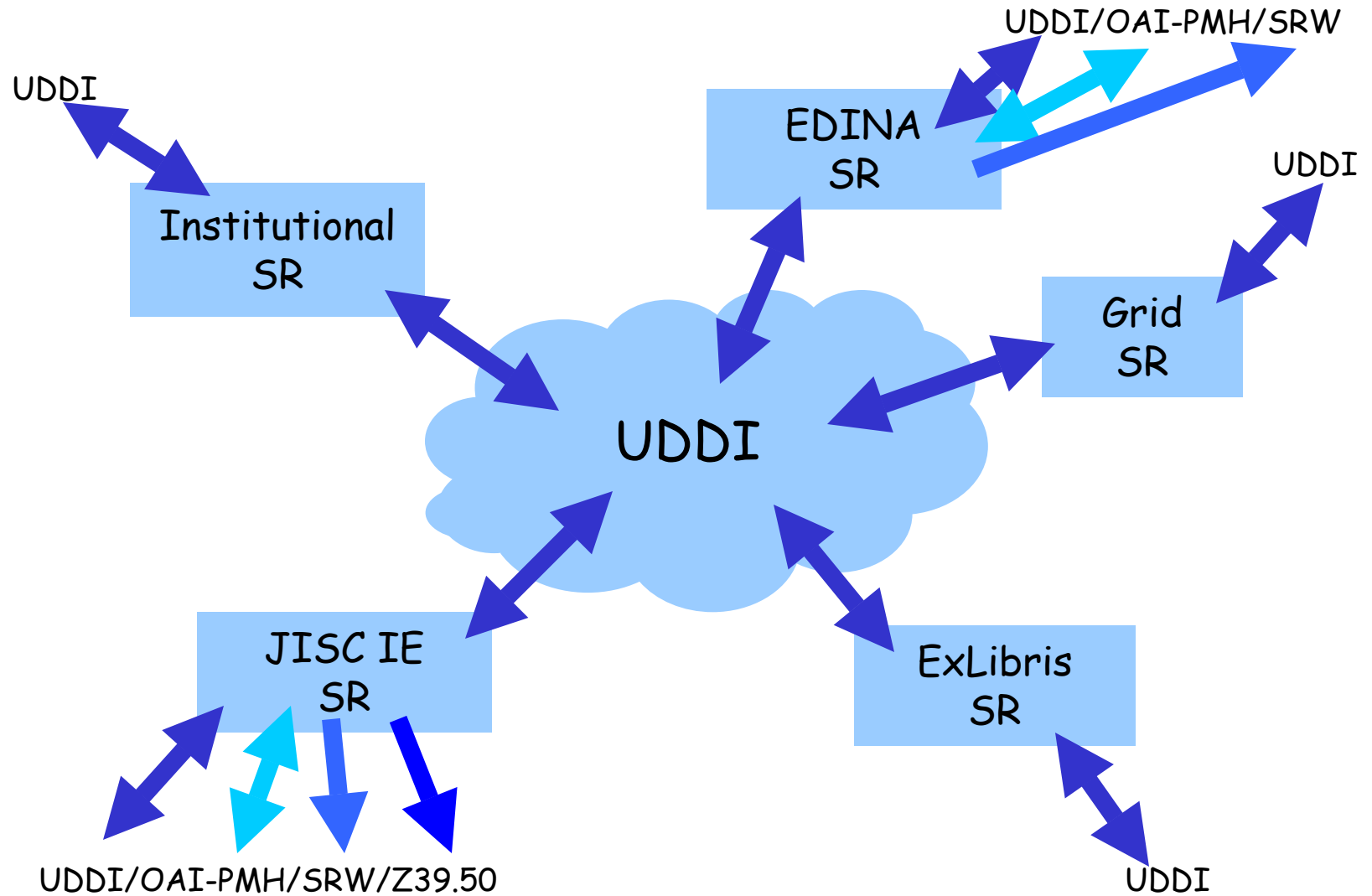
Registry distribution



Pure UDDI...



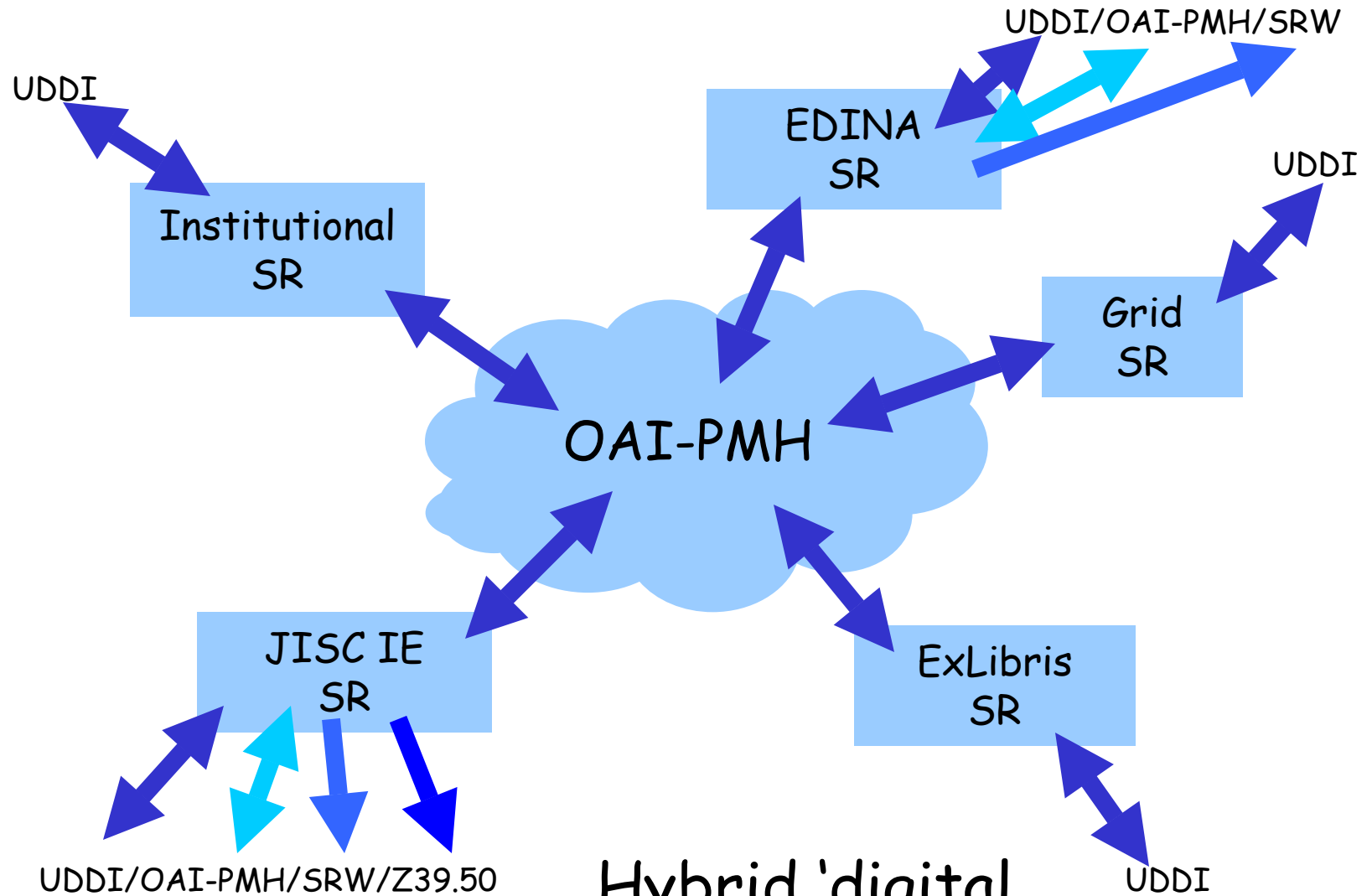
Registry distribution (2)



Hybrid UDDI...



Registry distribution (3)



Hybrid 'digital library'...

Using the IESR: what's in it for you? - Jan 2005



Other shared services

- also need to think about the interfaces between a distributed SR and other ‘shared services’?
- e.g. who answers the question ‘*which services expose metadata that conforms to the UK LOM Core?*’
 - the IESR (which holds details about services)?
 - the IEMSR (which holds information about metadata usage)?
 - or some combination of both? If so how?
- choreography of multiple services still an issue



Conclusion and issues

- only one real conclusion... that the future must be distributed rather than centralised
- but, if so, do issues of
 - ownership
 - workflow
 - terminology
 - quality assurance

get harder or easier (I think they get easier!)



Questions...

