



Libraries of the Future and IT as a Utility: an ITaaU Network+ workshop

Jeremy Frey, Steve Brewer

Bodleian Library, University of Oxford,
17 April 2013

Outline

- Introduction
- Partners and leaders
 - Background
 - Pilot Projects
 - Secondments
 - Workshops
 - Progress to date
- Plans for the future

IT as a Utility

funded under Research Council UK's Digital Economy theme

The Digital Economy vision is of the transformational impact of digital technologies on all aspects of life.

What are we?

IT as a Utility (ITaaU) is one of the 4 sub-themes of the RCUK Digital Economy programme. The ITaaU Network purpose is to promote and enhance the community interested in this aspect of the DE programme and help co-ordinate activities in this area.

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ItaaU: partners and collaborators



- **PI and Co-Is:**
 - Jeremy Frey (University of Southampton) PI
 - Gerard Parr (University of Ulster)
 - Mark Sandler (QMUL)
 - Richard Mortier (University Nottingham)
 - Mike Surridge (University of Southampton)
- **The other sub-networks**
 - Sustainable Society, Communities and Culture.
 - New Economic Models

"IT as a Utility and the growth of the digital economy"

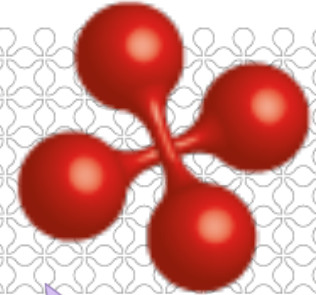
The Cloud

cloud computing



food security

*"smart spaces/
smart cities"*



traditional
utilities



*"apps are the
new taps..."*



sensors &
actuators

The Digital Economy

libraries of
the future

*"tangible
Interfaces"*

data-driven
science

telecommunications

electronic lab
notebooks



Advisory Group

- Peter Grindrod - Chair of Advisory Group, University of Reading, member of the Digital Economy Programme Advisory Board.
 - Paul Watson - Newcastle University
 - Sean Ralph - DSTL
 - Jon Crowcroft- University of Cambridge
 - Liana Chang - USTWO
 - Jamil Appa - Zenotech
 - Jonathan Leigh-Smith - BT
 - Richard Egan - Thales
- David Cotterill - Government Digital Service (Cabinet Office)
 - Trevor Dolby - IBM
 - Kenji Takada - Microsoft
 - Mervyn Middleby - BBC Research

Background

Network+ initiated last September (2012) with aims to:

- Unite researchers, users, content and data providers
- Understand how and why businesses and consumers are using on-demand services
- Understand the provision, uptake, usability, security, of apps and services delivered in the future Internet
- Champion simple, usable and safe IT provision from smart services, surroundings and information stores
- Identify perceived barriers that inhibit new users

Newsletter

Available
from the
website:
Itutility.ac.uk

ITaaU Network+: April 2013: Issue 1

Understanding and exploiting the IT utilities behind the Digital Economy

**ITaaU
Network** 

Welcome

Steve Brewer

On behalf of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators of ITaaU Network+ I would like to welcome you to the first monthly newsletter for the IT as a Utility Network+. The ramp up of network activity in March has resulted in an increase in numbers and also a substantial number of visitors to the website.



There are 79 members on the network mailing list which is what essentially defines the Network+ and this newsletter is published as part of this Jisc service. If you are not on the list please join and also please do encourage others too, who might benefit from the Network+.

READ MORE

Successful Pilot Projects

Two projects have been selected for funding from the first Pilot Project call, they are:

Trusted Tiny Things

The project is led by Edoardo Pignotti, Peter Edwards, Computing Science, University of Aberdeen. Nagendra Velaga, Geography & Environment, University of



Secondments - First call extended to April 30th

The deadline for the secondments call has been extended until 30 April.

Applications received in March will receive preferential treatment. The extension is due to the number of worthy expressions of interest that need further time to process into viable applications.

We are looking for individuals with research interests who are based in academia, industry or within policy bodies including government who wish to spend up to 6 months working in a complementary professional environment.

[Secondments Call 1 - further details](#)

ITaaU workshop: Libraries of the Future - 17 April, Bodleian Library, Oxford



**ITaaU
Network** 

**SECOND CALL IN
THE AUTUMN**

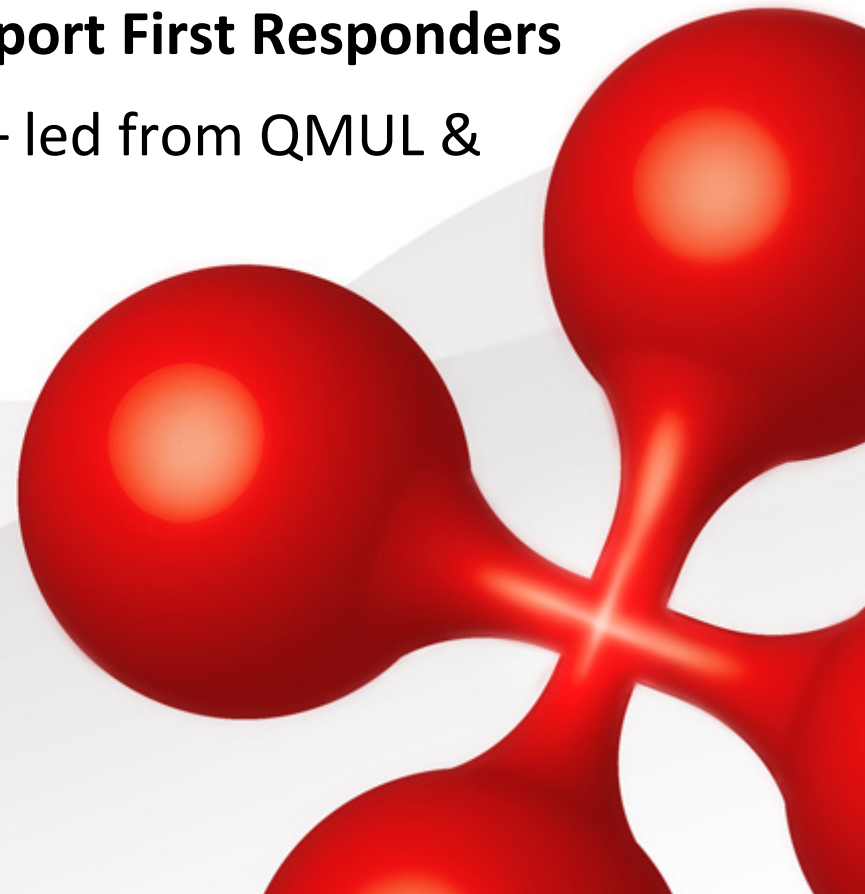
First two successful pilot projects recently confirmed:

- **Trusted Tiny Things** – led from University of Aberdeen
- **Using Wireless Networks to Support First Responders and Resilience in Upland Areas** – led from QMUL & Cambridge

Pilot projects

Over the next 3 years we will periodically issue calls for Pilot Projects in the ITaaU area. These will be projects of up to £50k.

The first two successful pilot projects have just been launched.



Call 1 now open – see website

“a temporary transfer to a new research environment”

Secondments

Over the next 3 years we will periodically issue calls for Secondment Projects in the ITaaU area between academic and industrial, commercial or governmental research groups.

opportunities for career development,
sectoral knowledge transfer and access to
short term skills for project development

Secondments

Can you answer yes to most of these questions?

- *Would you benefit from a temporary transfer to a different research environment?*
- *Would you like to enhance your transferable skills?*
- *Are you interested in the concept of IT as a Utility?*
- *Can you offer fresh ideas in any of the following areas?*
 - Usability and the user experience
 - Ethics, education and skills in utility computing environments
 - Social computing platforms, open data and the rights of the individual
 - Smart spaces, the Internet of Things and diversity
 - Security, trust, and governance
 - Economics and the sustainability of services

- Smart Spaces (Cities) and Diversity
- Emerging Economies: International Perspectives
- Libraries of the Future
- Broadcast Media and Social Media
- Data as a Utility, Hardware as a Utility
- Food security and securing the food chain

Plus:

- Sandpits and Workshop+ events
- International Best Practice Exchanges



Workshops

We plan several types of workshops for the ITaaU:

- Network: Community Scale Workshop / Conference
- Facilitated Focussed Workshops and Sandpits
- International Best Practice Exchange Workshops

Progress to date



- Growing the network with people and networks
- Funds are flowing, pilots and workshops underway
- Smart Spaces workshop – results emerging
 - Architectural practices changing. Internet evolving. Negotiation and fragmentation: responses. Insurance and licensing of data (measure value)
- Libraries of the Future – planning and research
 - Social spaces, information specialists, mobile technologies (BYOD), data and information curation?
- Tangible interfaces to the internet
 - Sensors, actuators, vehicles, animals, phones and books
- Data as a commodity?, IT as a utility
 - Bespoke services only when necessary

Architecture
analogies

Creativity
matters

Emerging topics

Strong sub-theme are emerging as areas for further investigation:

- Information transformation services – identify and promote
- Transition: revelation → innovation → specialist tool/resource → utility (where is service in this sequence?)
- Designing web to be accessible to those with intellectual disabilities , dyslexia etc...
- Academic eLearning use and development in developing world
- Assistive technologies for older people to use Web 2.0
- Health ICT in developing countries – efforts to improve / build
- Consider inclusivity when designing identity management systems

Compatibility, interoperability
and negotiation

Plans for the future

- Calls:
 - Secondments call is currently open (closes 30th April)
 - 2nd Call for Pilot projects (opens 1 May – closes 30 June)
 - 2nd Call for secondments (opens 1 Sept – closes 31 Oct)
- Workshops:
 - Libraries of the Future (17 April, Oxford)
 - Emerging Economies (23 April, London)
 - 2nd Libraries of the Future (Sept/Oct - BL, London)
 - Security and the Food Chain (Sept, Ulster)
 - Usability/interface workshop (Ustwo, Shoreditch)
 - Tangible Interfaces workshop (late Sept.)
 - 3D printing, sensors, actuators and rapid prototyping
 - Broadcasting and media workshop
- ITaaU Network+ Community Meeting
 - "Information Transformation" – March 2014

Join the ITaaU Network+



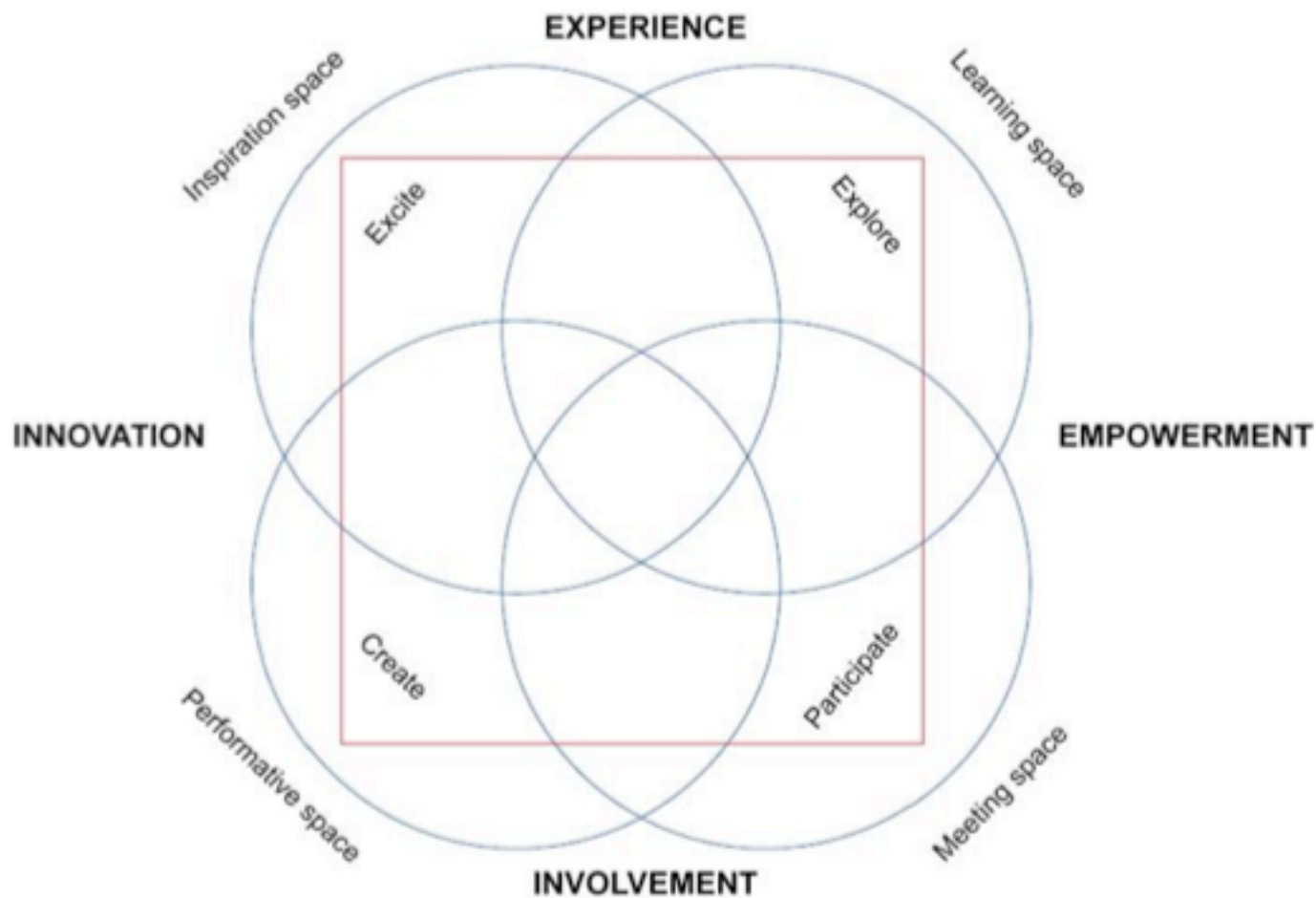
- Mailing list: <http://jiscmail.ac.uk/itutility>
- Twitter hash tag #itaaun
- Facebook page is: <http://www.facebook.com/ITutilityNetwork>
- Web: www.itutility.ac.uk

Workshop agenda

- Introductions
- Preliminary research
- Emerging key themes:
 - Libraries as social spaces
 - Future role for library information specialists
 - Uses for mobile technologies in libraries
 - The potential for libraries to offer data and information curation services
- Issues, opportunities, recommendations & actions

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Four spaces model from paper SL 2



The four spaces
– a new model

589

Figure 1.
The four spaces of the
public library

Susan McKnight - librarian

‘The librarian’s skill in information management and retrieval, cataloguing and quality assurance of data can and should be used to assist in developing institutional digital content repositories and facilitating federated searching across a variety of information sources’