















ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC











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## **Shared Services**







- 12 institutions
- >52,000 students
- Coursera
- >50 institutional customers
- largest careers service in Europe
- >25,000 employers
- •>400 institutional customers.
- •1½ million students on Moodle platforms
- Nexus Enterprise Service Bus
- Agresso hosting



## **Success Factors**

- Find the demand
- Start small
- Provide different levels, different speeds and different entry points
- White Label
- Focus on the transactional/critical mass win-wins
- No 'one size fits all'





# Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education

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#### perspective

### New approaches to technology in HE management

Chris Cobb

#### Approaches to technology in management information systems

We are at an age where technology is touching almost all aspects of our dayto-day business and when student and staff expectations for responsive, relevant

and accessible information are at an all-time high. This is also a time when funding cutbacks and future uncertainty are creating an environment of innovation and greater acceptance of new service delivery models which were previously considered too politically fraught or unpalatable.

Most UK universities can trace their current management information systems back to significant investments made in the 1990s, largely fuelled by concerns about the millenium bug and a change from character interfaces (with command line or keyboard-based interfaces, originally through 'dumb' terminals such as VT100 or VT220 and latterly through terminal emulation) to graphical user interfaces (GUIs, og Windows<sup>TM</sup> and Apple<sup>TM</sup>) following the introduction of the personal computer. It was during this period that institutions also moved away from predominantly in-house developed systems to supplier-led solutions.

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In essence, two models emerged: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and 'Best of Breed'. The former is a model where an organisation's systems are sourced from one supplier and all aspects are theoretically fully integrated 'out of the box', ie data sharing and transfers between systems are all provided as

part of the implementation. For example, student contact information (name, address, telephone, etc) is shared between the student records system for registry purposes as well as the financial system for billing purposes. In some systems this sharing is planned and built into the core architecture, in others (eg where the ERP emerges from supplier merger/acquisition) data sharing is retrofitted through supplier-developed interfacing programs. Critics of ERP systems say that they can be slow to respond to changing demand and they lack niche functionality, ee for sophisticated timetable scheduling or customer relationship management (CRM). Ultimately many ERP installations have required additional peripheral systems to augment the core functionality. In some cases universities have interfaced two different ERP solutions to provide the functionality required, eg the finance element of one ERP has been interfaced with the student records element of

'Best of Breed' approaches are those where institutions select separate systems for each area of functionality according to individual specifications. Critics of Best of Breed say that managing the different suppliers, system upgrades and development of bespoke interfaces is an unnecessary and costly overhead. It also leaves the institution vulnerable to commercial factors with suppliers of valued systems being bought out by competitors and small suppliers unable to scale up to meet demand in consultancy and upgrades. Critics of Best of Breed identify the cost and inherent risk of phasing and unanging upgrades from multiple suppliers in timescales which are outside the institution's control.

Whether an ERP or Best of Breed, a university's administrative IT structure typically comprises three core systems: student records; finance; and human resources, as well as a range of other specialist systems

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## **KPMG Project**

- Develop a taxonomy of all services
- Identify candidate services
- Define the proposition
- Assess the demand
- Develop business models:
  - CSG's
  - "For Profit" Partners





Student Lifecycle	Student Support Services	Academic Delivery			
Recruitment	General Wellbeing	Curriculum Management			
Application and Admission	Financial Support	Field Work Management			
Student Records	Accommodation Provision	Virtual Learning Environment			
Retention Management	Careers and Employability Services	Distance Learning			
Student Complaints Management/Resolution		Study Skills			
Examinations - Exams and Coursework	Libraries and Collections				
Graduations and Awards	Libraries and Collections				
Alumni - Development Office					
Research Support		Finance			
Research Support		Financial Management			
	Facilities Management	Financial Reporting			
	General	Transactional Finance Activities			
	Building (Hard Services)	Taxation incl VAT			
	Soft Services				
Human Resources	Assets, Strategy and Reporting	Information Technology			
Payroll and Reward	Conference and Events	IT Infrastructure and Services			
Employee Relations	Energy	Desktop Services			
Training and Development		Web Services			
Resourcing		Applications Support - operations development, training and management reporting			
		User Support			
		IT Security			
Corporate Services	Risk and Business Resilience				
Organisational Governance	Resilience Strategy				
Communications and Marketing	Resilient Operations				



STUDENT LIFECYCLE						
	osnoy u	Shared service	Sector Ced to p.	Ousourced to HE	Not Applicable	AFSUL7
Recruitment						
Prospectus Development		C	u	u	ш	0
Personalised Prospectus Printing	ш			ш		0
Standard Prospectus Printing		<b>ם</b>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	0
UK Prospectus Distribution (standard mail = in house)	ш		ш			0
International Prospectus Distribution (standard mail = in house)	ш	נו	ш	ш	ш	0
Phone/Online Enquiries	ш					0
Social Media and Digital Marketing	u		ш	ш	ш	0
Design and Maintenance of Recruitment WebPages	ш					0
Open Days Organisation	u		ш	ш	ш	0
Open Days Delivery	u					0
HE Engagement/Widening Participation Events	u	ב	u	u	u	0
Arranging Guided Visit/Accommodation Tours	u		u	u	u	0
Creation and Maintenance of Virtual Tours	u	u	u	u	u	0
Summer Schools	u			u		0
International Recruitment - Selection, Contract and Performance Management of Overseas Agents		נו	ш	ш	ш	0
Overall score for Recruitment	NOT APP	LICABLE				0









## **Next Steps**

- Business Modelling
- CSG's
- Governance Approval





