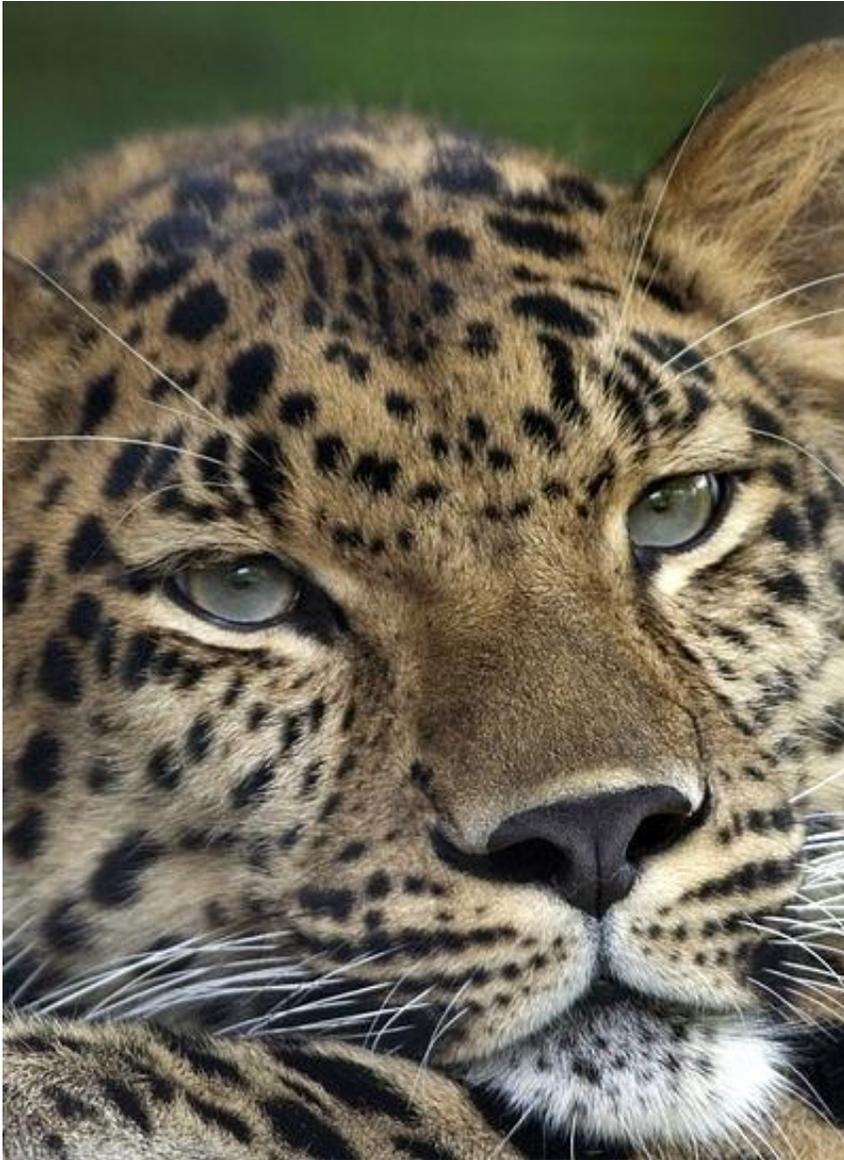

Are Systems Librarians an Endangered Species? Lessons Learned From Implementing a New Library Platform.

Georgina Dimmock, Head of Library Systems, Skills, Collections and Archives

georgina.Dimmock@northampton.ac.uk

Fiona Watkins, Digital Resources and Collections Manager

fiona.watkins@northampton.ac.uk





Session Outline

Our context and structure

Activity 1: Where does your technical library support reside?

Our Project Team

Key vulnerabilities

Activities 2-5: Your thoughts

Solutions being explored and your suggestions



Our Context

42.2 FTE library staff

15,474 students

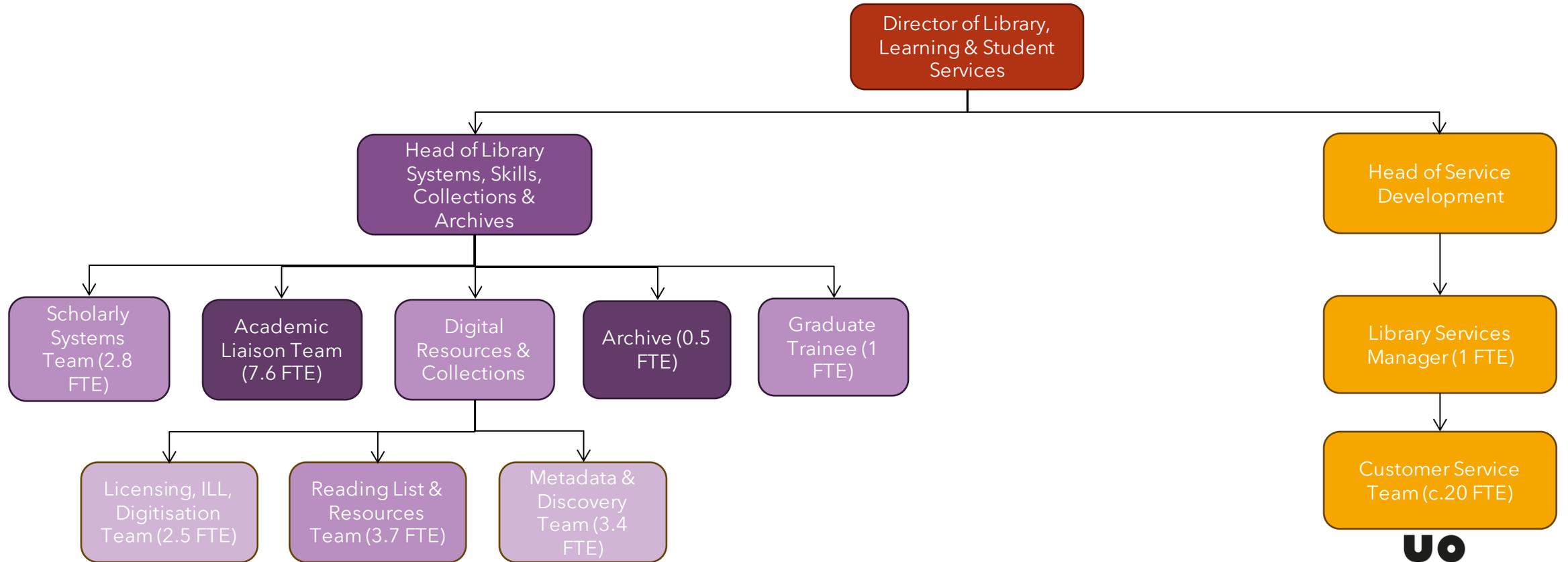
One campus: "Waterside"

33 partner arrangements

2022 migrated from Sierra, Primo Classic and Talis Aspire to Alma, Primo VE and Leganto

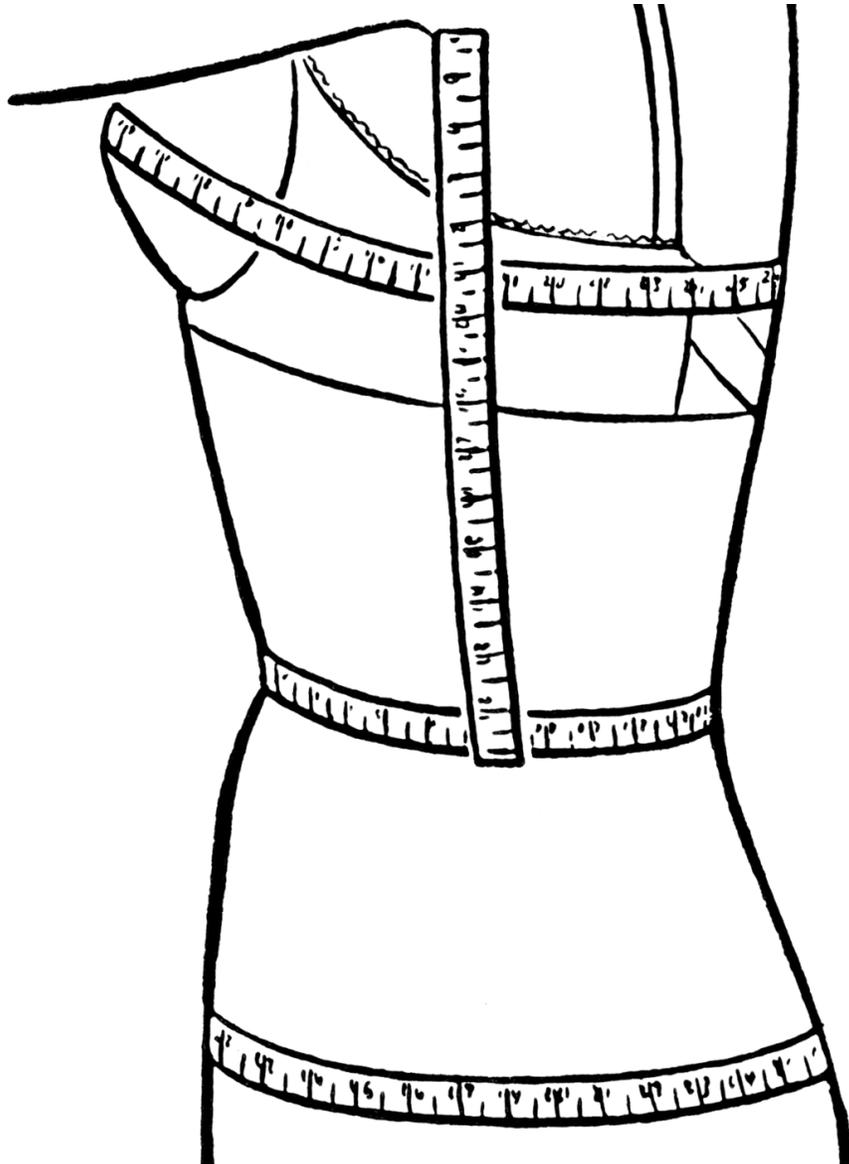
Successful implementation; went live on 11th July 2022

How We're Structured



Activity 1: Where Does Your Technical Library Support Reside?

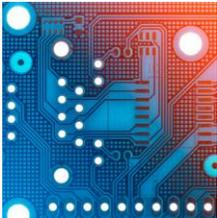
- In the Library and works well
- In the library and doesn't work well
- In IT Services and works well
- In IT Services and doesn't work well
- Other and works well
- Other and doesn't work well



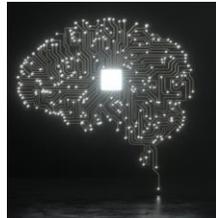
Project Team Vital Statistics

Library staff on the technical implementation:	9
Average Age:	52
Youngest staff member:	41
Oldest staff member:	62
Average number of years of library experience:	28
Total collective years of library experience:	250

Our Technical Library Project Team



Library Systems
Manager



Information
Systems
Developer



Project
Manager



Head of Service
Development



Library Services
Manager



Collections
Manager



Cataloguing
Assistant



Collections &
Licensing
Specialist



Resource
Integration
Specialist



Key Vulnerabilities

Skill Distribution: Specific skill sets and knowledge residing in one individual; knowledge not distributed

Skill Acquisition: Technical and metadata skills honed over many years; complex skills which are difficult to acquire

Skill Lifespan: The age of our team; many possible retirements on the horizon

Cognitive Load: Small institution with a small team juggling a large cognitive load



Activity 2: Your Thoughts

Individual activity:

Thinking about the technical management of your library:

What do you feel confident, relaxed and chilled about - **Blue**

What do you feel moderately concerned about - **Yellow**

What are your biggest concerns - **Orange**



Activity 3: Shared Themes

Whole room activity: thematic analysis of your individual thoughts



Activity 4: The Barometer of Anxiety

Whole room activity: ranking the themes according to perceived pressure



Activity 5: Voting

Individual activity: use you five sticker dots to vote individually on your top priorities.

You can use more than one dot per priority.

Solutions Being Explored and Your Suggestions



<https://bit.ly/47G44g6>



Contacts

 George Dimmock

 georgina.dimmock@northampton.ac.uk

 Fiona Watkins

 fiona.watkins@northampton.ac.uk