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Making the case for cataloguing

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Making the case for cataloguing

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HLF Project Director
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My experience

1999
- £96k NOF

2004
- £45k HLF

2005
- £243k HLF/RMBC

2013
- Permanent Assistant Archivist post created
- £35k NCGS
- £1,964mill HLF/UoH
The essentials

- Identify the backlog
- Documenta- tion procedures
- Collections mgmt policy
Prioritising the backlog

- "value"
- status
- Conservation/preservation
- processing
Now what?

• Cataloguing is a process, with a product but
• Funders want outcomes: so what?

what will people be able to do that they couldn’t do before?

Why this? Why us? Why now? Why do it?
Business case (very generic)

- **Issue**: What is it?!

- **Solution**: How can we take advantage of the opportunity/address the problem?

- **Approach**: Viable options – including Do Nothing. Costs of each option.

- **Risks**: What are the risks associated with each option? What are the risks of doing nothing?

- **Value**: What’s the value of each option?
“Social” outcomes

- Greater use of “community assets”

**Outcomes for individuals**
With our investment, people will have:
- learnt about heritage (weighted for all grants);
- developed skills (weighted for grants over £100,000);
- changed their attitudes and/or behaviour;
- had an enjoyable experience;
- volunteered time.

**Outcomes for communities/society**
With our investment:
- environmental impacts will be reduced (weighted for grants over £100,000);
- more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage (weighted for grants over £100,000);
- organisations will be more resilient;
- local economies will be boosted;
- local areas/communities will be a better place to live, work or visit.
Organisational outcomes

- Strategic fit
- Invest to save
- Risk management
- Income generation?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you need the funding to deliver your mission?</td>
<td>Do you have the resources to pursue the opportunity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is your mission aligned with funders’ priorities?</td>
<td>If successful do you have the capacity to deliver?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there buy-in within your organisation (strategic &amp; operational levels)?</td>
<td>Do you have a clear model for delivery, including unit costs?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Opportunity</th>
<th>Chances of success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have access to funders?</td>
<td>Do you need partner(s)? – can you find them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you meet their criteria?</td>
<td>Can you evidence your outcomes in the way funders expect?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you answer the “why us, why now, so what” questions?</td>
<td>Do you add value?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top tips

• Be realistic about capacity
• Be bold!
• Use the language of social outcomes
• Provide evidence
• Form relationships