

What to do when your repository enters middle age**Don Brower, Mikala Narlock****Publication Date**

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR REPOSITORY ENTERS MIDDLE AGE

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Samvera Connect 2020

OUTLINE

- Introductions
- Our repository's mid-life crisis
 - Refining the scope
 - Focusing our work
 - Centering the repository
- Conclusion
- Q&A

CURATEND

The cutting edge (~2013)

Fedora 3

Solr 4

Sufia (pre Hyrax)

Custom ETD Workflow
(Sipity)

Custom Preservation
Storage (Bendo)

THE TECHNOLOGY

pre-2012: Idea
conceptualized

2013: First code commit

2014: Soft-launch

2015: Oversight team

2016: First PO appointed

2017: PO leaves; another
appointed

2019: Don and Mikala
become co-POs

THE TIMELINE

Two developers

Two product owners

Innumerable stakeholders

THE TEAM

MID-LIFE CRISIS

- Scholarly materials
 - ETDs
 - Patents
 - Datasets
- Digital Collections
 - Lantern slides
 - EAD Finding Aids
- Miscellaneous
 - “Just put it in Curate”
 - E-Resources: e.g. journals, videos

REPOSITORY SCOPE

CURATEND: JACK OF ALL TRADES

MASTER OF NONE

- Limited adoption or campus awareness
- Technical debt
- Limited internal buy-in
- Limited outreach
- Organizational upheaval

MID-LIFE TURMOIL

HOW FORWARD?

MAKE IT USEFUL.

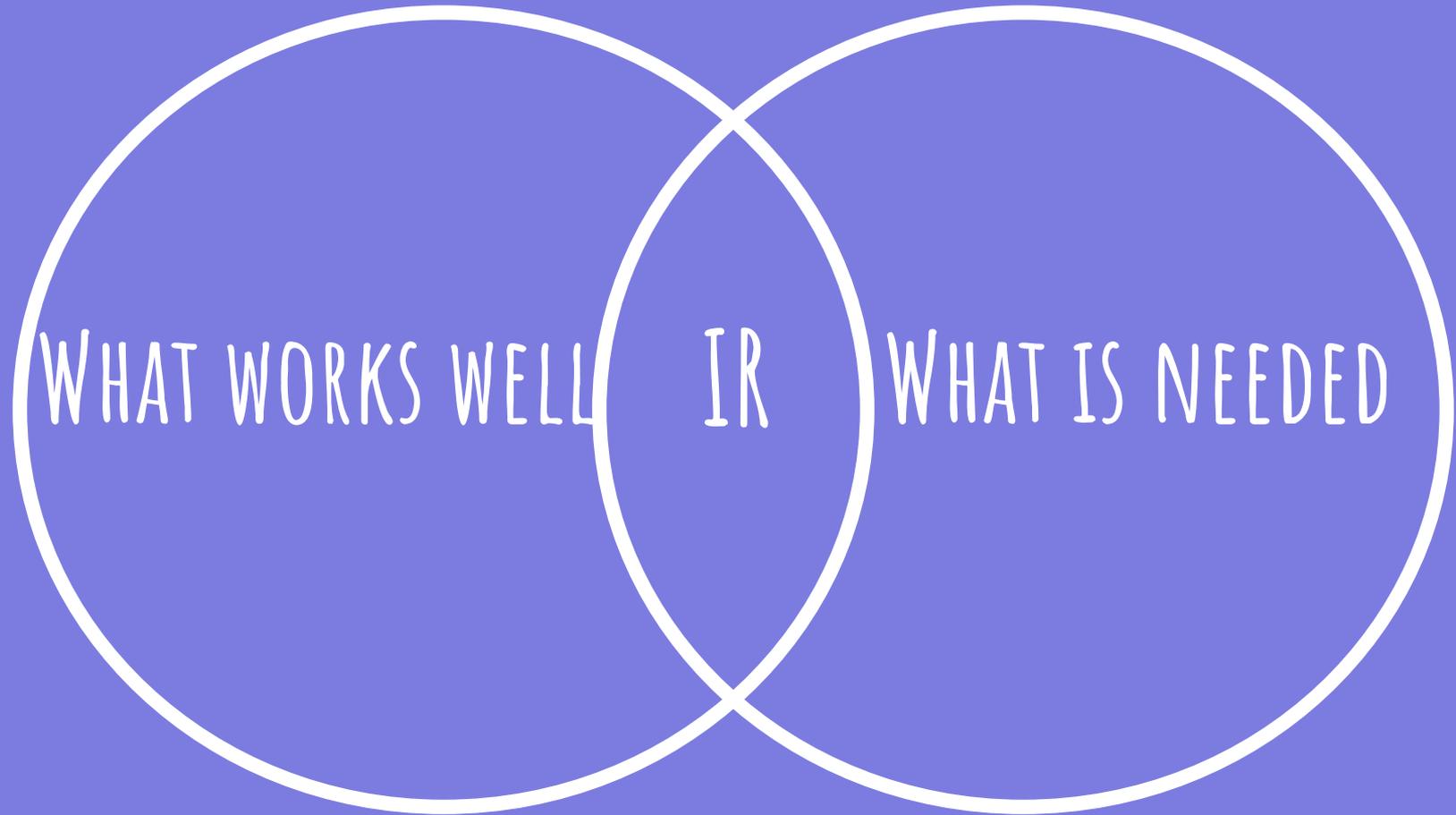
- Refined the scope
- Focused development effort
- Centered the repository

FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS

~~NEW AND~~

~~IMPROVED?~~

OLD AND REFINED



USEFULNESS

EVERYTHING ELSE

- Limited staffing
- Paying technical debt

USEFUL >
COMPREHENSIVE

FOCUSED
DEVELOPMENT

- Articulated our boundaries
- Projects with a high return on investment
- Paying down technical debt

INCREMENTAL CHANGES

EASIER TO USE ->

INCREASED ADOPTION ->

MORE RESOURCES

CENTERING THE REPOSITORY

- ~~Faculty and graduate students~~
- Outreach and marketing
- Administrative professionals
- Internal advocates and allies

SUPPORT NETWORK

MEET CHAMPIONS WHERE THEY ARE

SO WHAT?

- Strong internal advocate(s)
- Mid-life crises can be an opportunity
- Use > Sunk costs
- Marketing 101

MID-LIFE

~~TURMOIL~~

REBIRTH

THANK YOU, ND FAMILY

QUESTIONS?

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