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## What to do when your repository enters middle age

Don Brower, Mikala Narlock

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# WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR REPOSITORY ENTERS MIDDLE AGE

Don Brower and Mikala Narlock,  
University of Notre Dame,  
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?

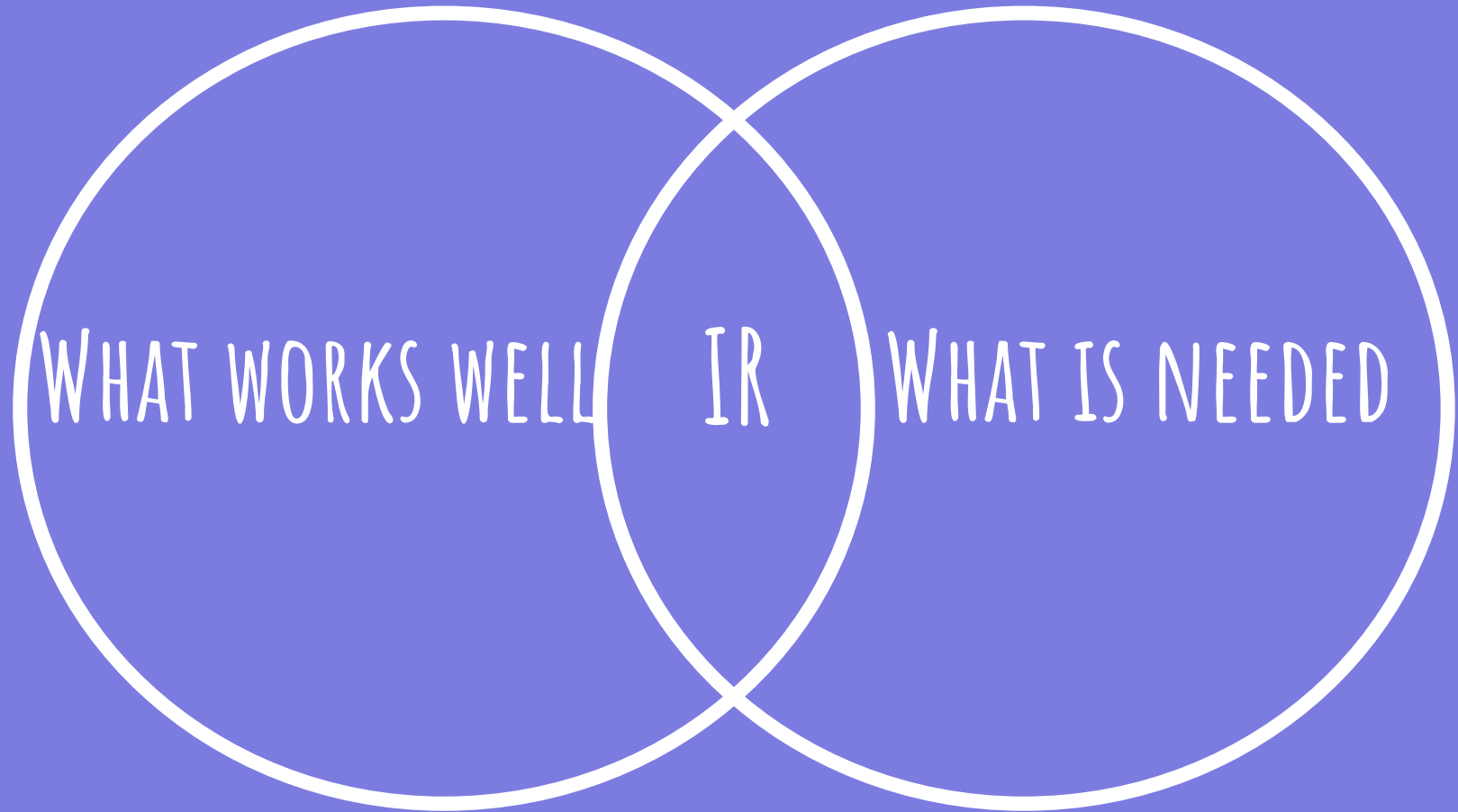
MAKE IT USEFUL.

- 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?

Don Brower ([dbrower@nd.edu](mailto:dbrower@nd.edu))

Mikala Narlock ([mnarlock@nd.edu](mailto:mnarlock@nd.edu), @mikalaraethelib)