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Title of lightening talk: The 2017 Hull 2017 City of Culture Digital Archive

Abstract:

Hull in the UK was the holder of the UK City of Culture title in 2017. The City of Culture scheme defers the title to a different city every 4 years and guarantees funding for a year of cultural celebration and regeneration. Hull is one of the 5 local authorities in the UK with the most deprived neighbourhoods in England so a spotlight was thrown on the city as it looked to answer the question as to whether culture (art, dance, music, performance and drama) has the power to help struggling local economies and improve health, wellbeing and educational outcomes.

Recognising both the academic and local interest in preserving data and stories from the 2017 culture year the University of Hull seized the opportunity to develop digital archive storage, preservation and access for the first time with a newly acquired pilot digital collection drawn from major partners of, and artistic contributors to, the 2017 Culture year.

Building on an existing university commitment to and relationship with open source technology the solution (that was developed in partnership with CoSector at the University of London) pulls together the open source components: archival software Archivematica, Hyrax repository and Blacklight online catalogue system with proprietary software Box cloud storage and Calm cataloguing software. This mix of components was designed to try and ensure as much consistency with our existing workflow for traditional archives as possible - both for our team of archive professionals and for our researchers.

In this lightening session I propose to showcase this technical architecture and share some brief insights from the development process. It should be of interest to any archive service looking to integrate digital archiving components into their existing archives workflows.