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The changing trends in national data purchasing

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CHEST & NISS

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The Future of Libraries in Human Communication

IATULCrete May 1999

Changing trends in national data purchasing

Mike Johnson, CHEST

11 + years of CHEST

- 10 years of data deals
- What CHEST has done over the last 11 years
- The changes in electronic content delivery over that time
- What will happen next?

History

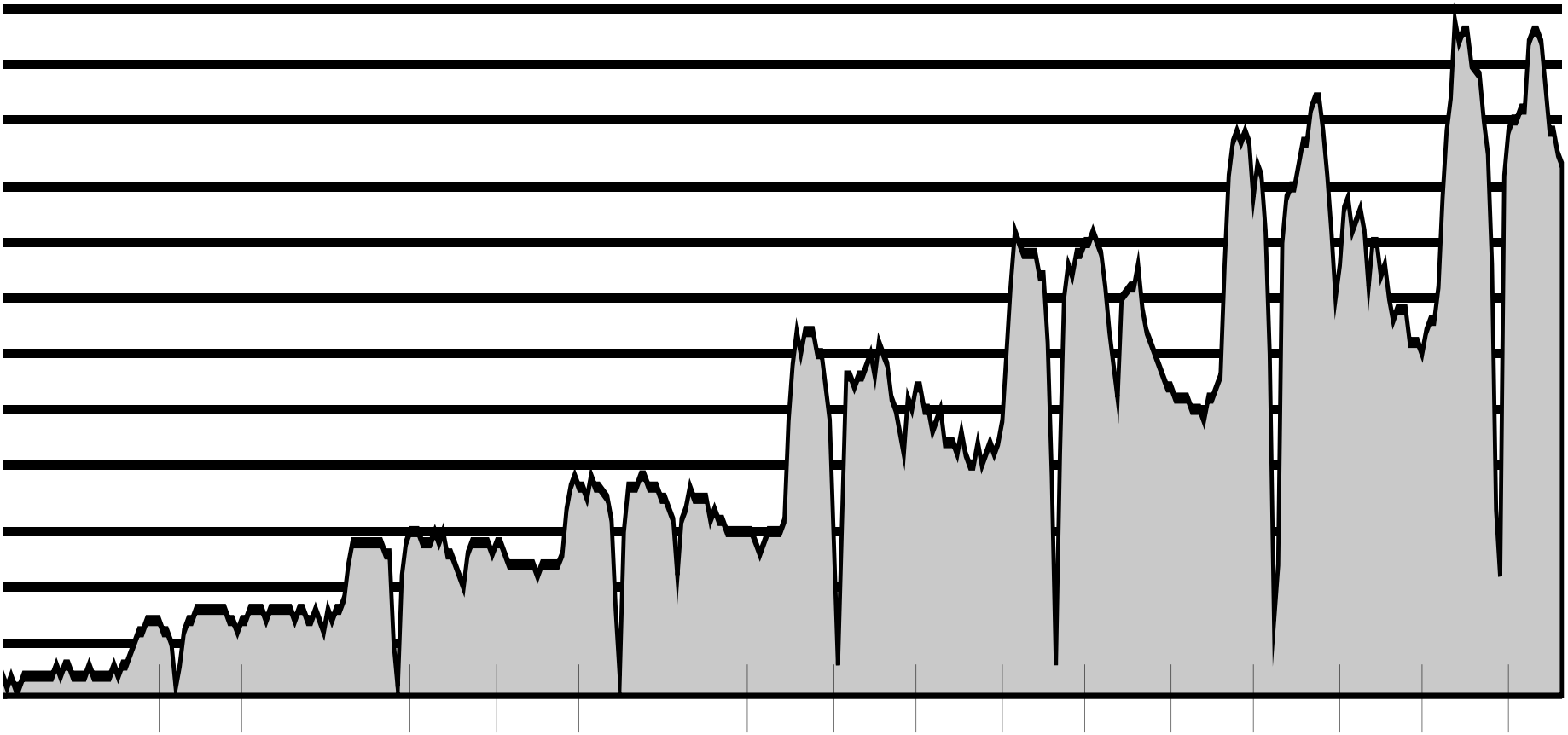
- Founded to do software deals for UK Higher Education (HE)
- First data agreement (ISI Citation Indexes) 1990
  - a leap of faith
  - caused the formation of BIDS
- extended into Further Education and Republic of Ireland

Currently

- manages over 5000 licenses
- over 130 agreements, approx 40% data inc:
  - indexes
  - abstracts
  - full text
  - mapping
- 10 staff, approx 50% data

ISI

- 1990 start of initial contract
- expected 40 institutions
- now have 120
- renewed after 4 years for a further six
- now part of the culture



Bath Information & Data Services © 1998

At the time ...

- no fixed price services available
- little online culture
- unfriendly interfaces
- crude networking

Technology Changes

- the network
- the web
- the client
  - PC
  - user
  - librarian
  - server

Content Changes

- indexes
- abstracts
- full text

Publisher Changes

- recognize the need for electronic
- frightened by potential loss of print
- expanding titles
- reducing library budgets

So ....

- Decision to provide the service “in house”
- fixed annual institutional fee
- unlimited usage
- tendered for data centre, BIDS chosen
- “homegrown interface” with librarian input

Things we have got right

- Free at the point of use
- Standard licenses
- Long term contracts
- Separation of content and service
- No compulsion
- Wide base
- Access Management
- Full time staff

We wouldn’t have done it if we had seen all the problems

- act of faith at the time
- cost a very large amount of resources
- but it worked!

The next act of faith?

- Integration of A&I and full text and holdings and CDROMs
- Only played round the edges so far
  - specific subject areas
  - publisher centric collections
- Someone needs to take the plunge
- Big investment needed
- Who will do it?

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