- NetLab and friends
- Visions, future issues and current developments

Two Views of the Digital Library

- Roddy MacLeod, EEVL Manager
- Michael Day, Research Officer, UKOLN

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- m.day@ukoln.ac.uk

- **Heriot Watt University Library - Subject Librarian**
- **University of Malawi Library - Readers Services**
- **University of Botswana Library - Subject Librarian**
- **Heriot Watt University**
  - Engineering Faculty Librarian
  - EEVL Manager
  - Internet Resources Newsletter
    - http://www.hw.ac.uk/libwww/irn/

- **Service viewpoint**
- **Subject viewpoint**

Perspectives

- **MacLeod**
  - **Practitioner**
  - **Subject approach**
  - **Institutional approach**
  - **Decentralised service**
  - **Relatively small service**
- **Day**
  - **Researcher**
  - **Multidisciplinary**
  - **Broader perspective**
  - **Larger organisation**

EEVL: Background

- **EEVL launched in 1996 as an Engineering gateway**
  - Internet Resources Catalogue to quality Web sites
- **Free service - www.eevl.ac.uk**
- **Originally funded for UK Higher Education by Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) through eLib Programme**
- **Independent development**
- **Popular & Successful**

Subject Gateway definition

- **Subject Gateway:** ***Primarily a searchable and browsable database of Internet resources, selected according to strict guidelines, in order to meet user's requirements. User explores the gateway and identifies likely resources of interest from descriptions. Mouse click takes him/her*** **out** ***of gateway and into external resource. Further interaction takes place outwith gateway. A gateway, therefore*** **'shallow mines'** ***resources.***

EEVL: Background

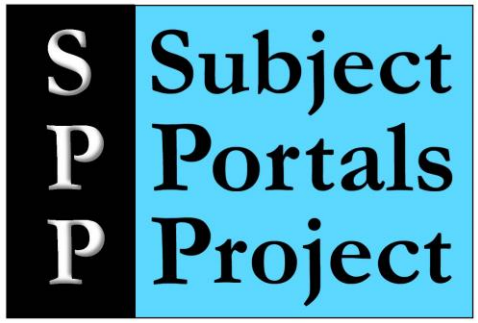
- **EEVL relaunched in autumn 2001**
  - "Internet guide to Engineering, Mathematics and Computing"
  - Now covers Mathematics and Computing, as well as Engineering
- **Free service - www.eevl.ac.uk**
- **Funded by JISC, as part of the Resource Discovery Network (RDN) since 1999**

RDN

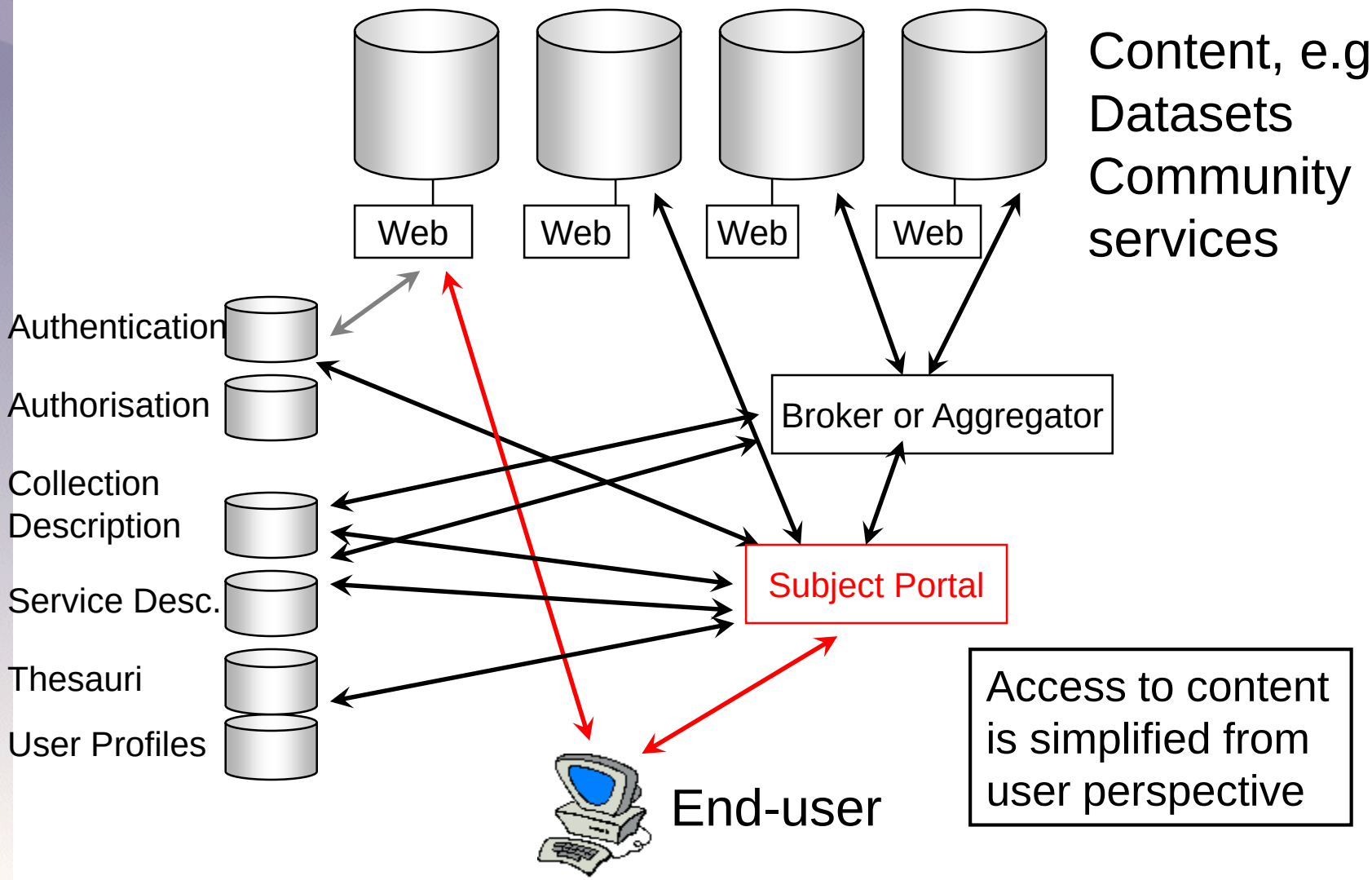
- **Resource Discovery Network**
  - Co-operative network of ‘Hubs’
  - Central organisation (RDNC)
  - Co-ordinated approach
  - Eventually subject gateways will cover all subjects
  - http://www.rdn.ac.uk
  - BIOME biome.ac.uk
  - HUMBUL www.humbul.ac.uk
  - PSIgate www.psigate.ac.uk
  - GEsource (forthcoming)
  - EEVL www.eevl.ac.uk
  - SOSIG www.sosig.ac.uk
  - Altis (forthcoming)
  - Artifact (forthcoming)
  - Access via Hubs and aggregated via RDN

EEVL Portal developments

- Part of development of JISC Information Environment
- Funded via Subject Portals Project to become a portal
- Allow seamless searching of bibliographic and other databases
- Develop various Community-building services



Subject Portals



Subject Portal definition

- **“Subject Portal”, a service which accepts requests from users and interrogates services often held elsewhere. It accepts results and presents them to the user from within the service. Where applicable the full text is presented from within the portal. A subject portal thus ‘deep mines’ resources. It allows customisation, and in addition, provides various community services.**

Subject Service

- **EEVL a subject service**
- **Serves those looking for information on the subjects, and increasingly subject communities looking for subject information**
- **Part of a larger organisation**

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- **Michael Day**

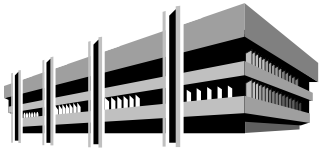
Outline

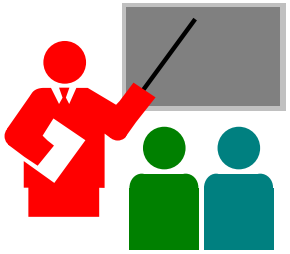
- **The Digital Library**
  - User perspective
  - Information perspective
  - Service Perspective
  - Advantages & Disadvantages of distributed and centralised services
  - Implications for the Digital Library

User perspective

- **Student**
- **Heriot Watt**
- **Construction Management**

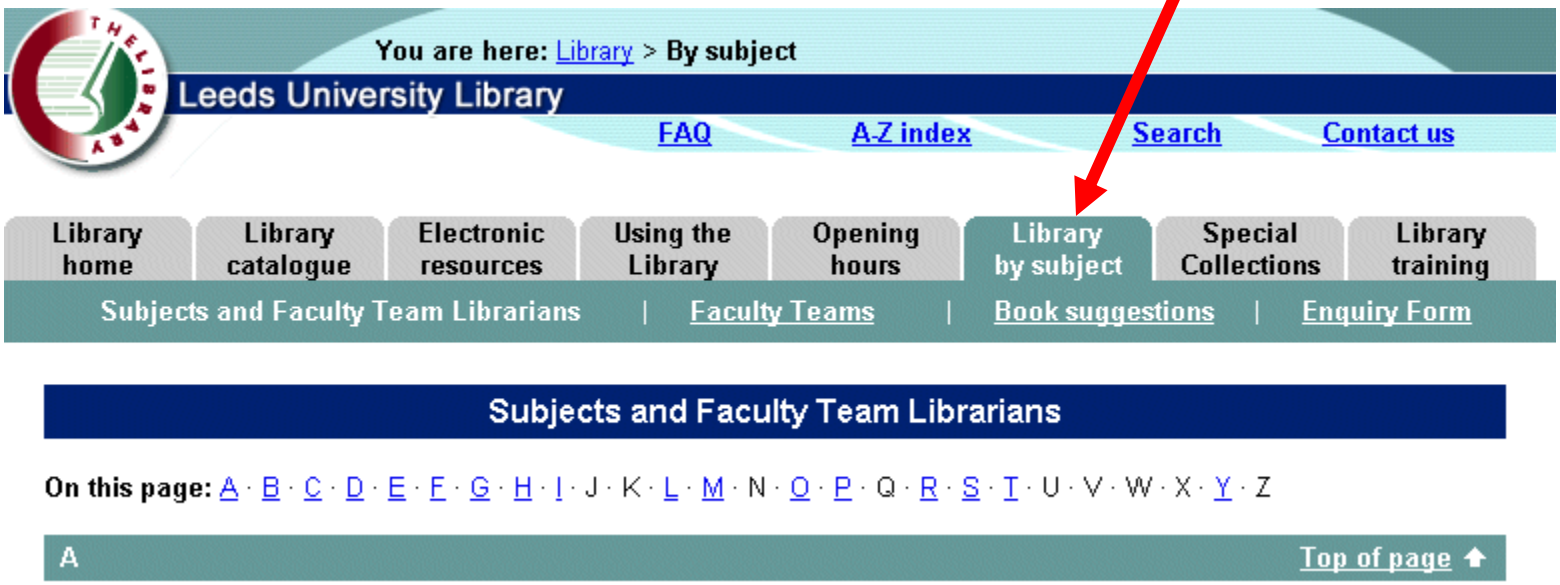
- **Subject perspective engages user**
  - project
  - dissertation
  - lecturers





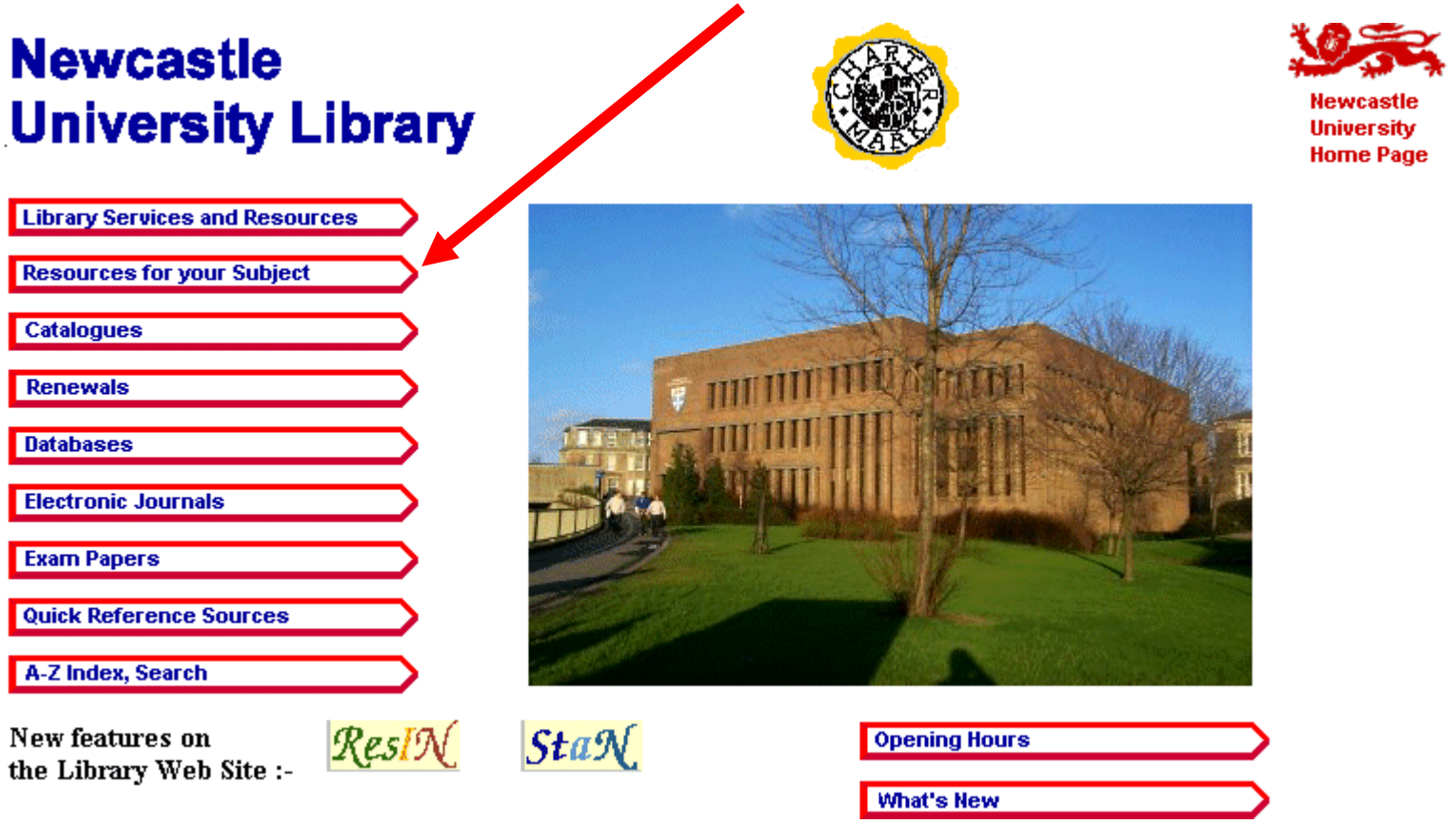
Information perspective

- **Sample library home pages**
  - What is available to members of university
  - Subject approach



Information perspective

- **Sample library home pages**



Information perspective

- **Multi-disciplinary**
  - ScienceDirect
  - Emerald
  - ZETOC
  - Web of Science
  - Springer LINK
  - ingenta
- **Arrangement/aggregation not always user focussed**
- **Information retrieval problems**
- **‘Train the users!’**
- **Allow subject approach**
  - ScienceDirect, Web of Science

User perspective

- **Specialist subject needs**
  - Chemistry: Registry numbers, chemical formula, compounds
  - Business: Company information, annual accounts
  - Engineers: Specifications, trade information, components, design data, contracts
  - Science: Physical data
- **Often not completely satisfied by multidisciplinary approach**

Service perspective

- Tailored to subject community
- All content potentially relevant
- Sense of ownership by EEVL Team
- Common purpose

Service perspective

- **Resource types specific to engineering**
  - Company information
  - Full Text Standards
  - Standards information
  - Full Text Patents
  - Patents information
  - Contracts/Procurement
  - Product news
  - Product Information

Service perspective

- **Interface specific to engineering**
  - Hot links to FTSE engineering companies
  - Trade journal information - EESE
  - Industry news
  - Recent Advances in Manufacturing, and Offshore Engineering Information Service
  - Full text search engine to engineering Web space
  - Cross search relevant subject services
    - SearchLT
  - Young Engineers links

Service perspective

- **Users search habits - engineers and mathematicians often use very specific and numerous search terms**
  - EEVL default search results set to **OR** with ranked results
  - Automatic cross-search full text Websites in subject area
  - Non-standard, but likely to satisfies user needs
  - “Multiphase flow porous media”
    - Relevant hits from EEVL
    - No hits from RDN Resource Finder (which defaults to standard AND)

Service perspective

- **IRC record descriptions written from user perspective - emphasise engineering/maths parts of resource**
  - John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
    - John Wiley & Sons develops, publishes, and sells products in print and electronic media for the educational, professional, scientific, technical, medical, and consumer markets worldwide.
    - This site is the UK mirror site and provides access to the full catalogue. The **engineering** catalogue provides information about Wiley's books, journals, and electronic products, as well as links to online publications. There is also an **Engineering** and **Computer** Science Higher Education site. In addition, the Wiley InterScience site provides access to journals and reference works published by John Wiley & Sons, including the Wiley Encyclopedia of **Electrical** and **Electronics** Engineering.

Service perspective

BUBL LINK Catalogue of selected Internet resources

Home | Search | Subject Menus | A-Z | Dewey | Countries | Types | Updates | Random | About

620 Engineering and allied operations

620 Engineering: general resources
620 Engineering: companies
620 Engineering: departments
620 Engineering: education and research
620 Engineering: journals and magazines
620 Engineering: societies
620.11 Materials science
620.5 Nanotechnology
621 Electronics and electrical engineering
621 Mechanical engineering
621 Optical engineering
621 Telecommunications and communications engineering
622 Mining and related operations
623 Military and nautical engineering
624 Civil engineering
625 Engineering of roads and railways
627 Hydraulic engineering

Service perspective

Service perspective

- **Subject portal - specific community services**
  - Aggregated product information
  - 3D component search engine
  - Professional society news
  - Trade conference lists
  - Commodity prices
  - Company press releases
  - Aggregated jobs announcements
  - Subject software tools
  - Computer software directories

Service perspective

- **Promotion & marketing**
  - Targeted promotion to subject community
  - Know your audience

- **£7,500 new engineering, maths & computing books free: *www.eevl.ac.uk/freebooks***

Service perspective

- **Wiley page**

Browse Book, Journal and Media Titles

Architecture & Design
Building Design, Design, Drawing & Presentation, Graphic Design, more...

Business
Accounting, Finance & Investments, Management, more...

Chemistry
Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Organic Chemistry, more...

Computer Science
Networking, Object Technologies, Programming & Software Development, more...

Culinary & Hospitality
Baking & Pastry, Cooking & Culinary Arts, Food Service Operations & Management, more...

Education
K-12, Higher Education, Information & Library Science, more...

Engineering
Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, more...

Geography & Earth Science
Agriculture, Geography, Geology, more...

Kids
Children's Cooking, Children's History, Children's Science, more...

Life & Medical Sciences
Anatomy, Biology, Consumer Health, more...

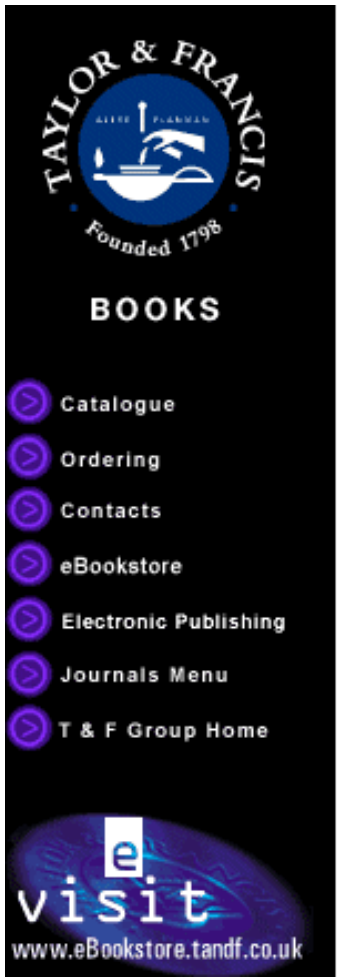
Math & Statistics
Algebra, Applied Math, Calculus, more...

Physics & Astronomy
Astronomy, Fundamentals of Material Science, Quantum Physics & Field Theory, more...

Psychology
Clinical Psychology, Psychotherapy, Self-Help, more...

Society
History, Modern Languages, Religion, more...

Service perspective



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Subject Resources
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User & Service perspectives

- **Information providers have to understand their users' needs, and make life as easy for them as possible.**
- **Resulting services may look different, may work in different ways, collectively they may not be ‘neat and tidy’ from a librarian or administrator’s perspective.**

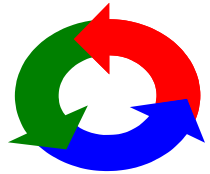
- NetLab and friends
- Visions, future issues and current developments

- **Two Views of the Digital Library**

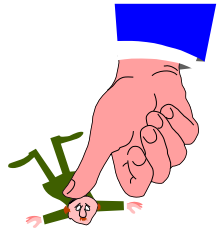
- **Michael Day**

Advantages & Disadvantages

- Strength in numbers
- Access to wider expertise
- Shared development
- Representation at high level & to funders
- Widescale promotion
- Assists interoperability and Metadata re-use
- Standards
- Economies of effort



- Loss of independence
- Slower moving
- Danger of being subsumed



- Expensive - meetings
- Report writing & statistics collections
- Administrators prefer conformity - "*Pizza Hut factor*"

- Possible confusion in access points

Digital Library

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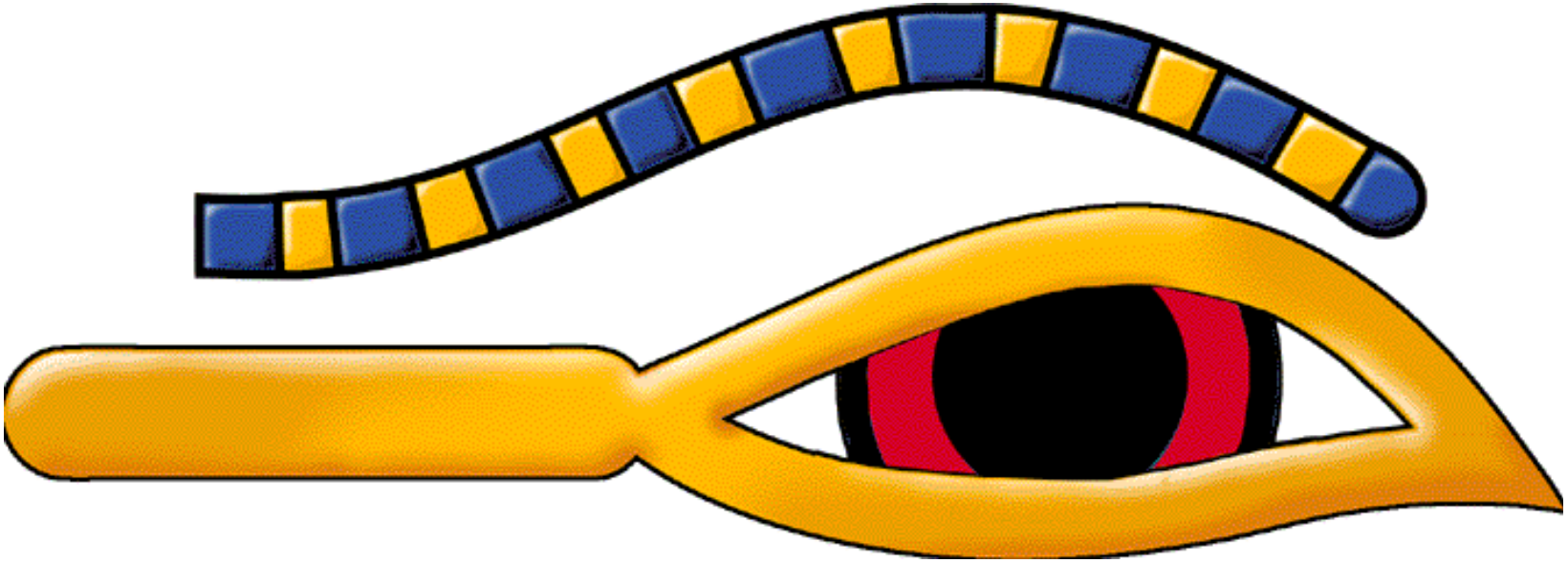
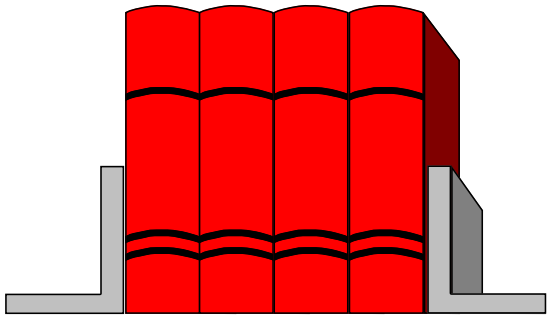
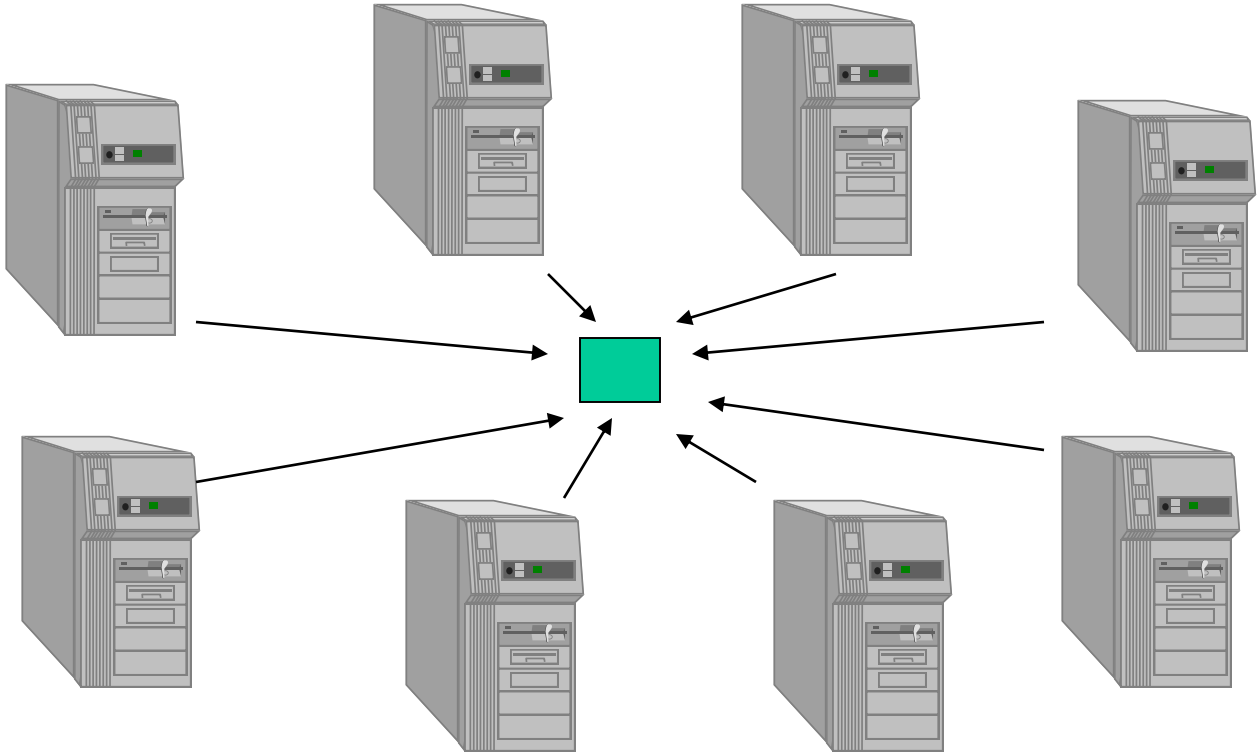
http://www.eevl.ac.uk/talks/lund.ppt







Service perspective

- **Institutional portals**
- **Tailored to institutional community**
- **All content available**
- **Sense of institutional involvement**
- **ZPORTAL, MetaLib, ENCompass**
  - Managing access to diverse digital resources
  - Interface which aggregates access to subscribed commercial databases, external resources and local OPAC.