

‘Managing’ the Research Lifecycle and Research Information at Edinburgh Napier

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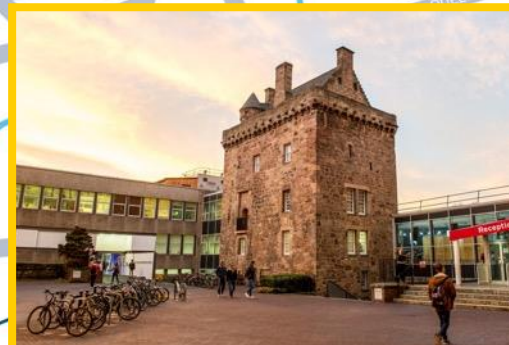
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SIGHTHILL CAMPUS

- The School of Applied Sciences
- The School of Health & Social Science



MERCHISTON CAMPUS

- The School of Computing
- The School of Engineering & the Built Environment
- The School of Arts & Creative Industries



CRAIGLOCKHART CAMPUS

- The Business School

Edinburgh Napier University:

11,262 taught students
~250 research degree students
~650 academic/research staff
~250 Research active staff

Requirements in a RMS/CRIS

- New Research & Innovation Office 2015 - No cross-university research management system
- Existing data captured in disparate tools and formats, or not at all...
 - Department specific RMS/processes
 - ePrints repository for outputs - limited academic engagement
 - Excel spreadsheets for costing
 - Ad-hoc web pages for researcher profiles
- Inconsistent processes for costing research applications and recording research outputs.
- No way to monitor, report on or share our R&I activity
- Needed an integrated system to manage all research information.
 - Three major contenders
 - One offering repository and profile functionality
 - One offering pre and post award functionality
 - WT were only company to offer end to end solution

Our requirements

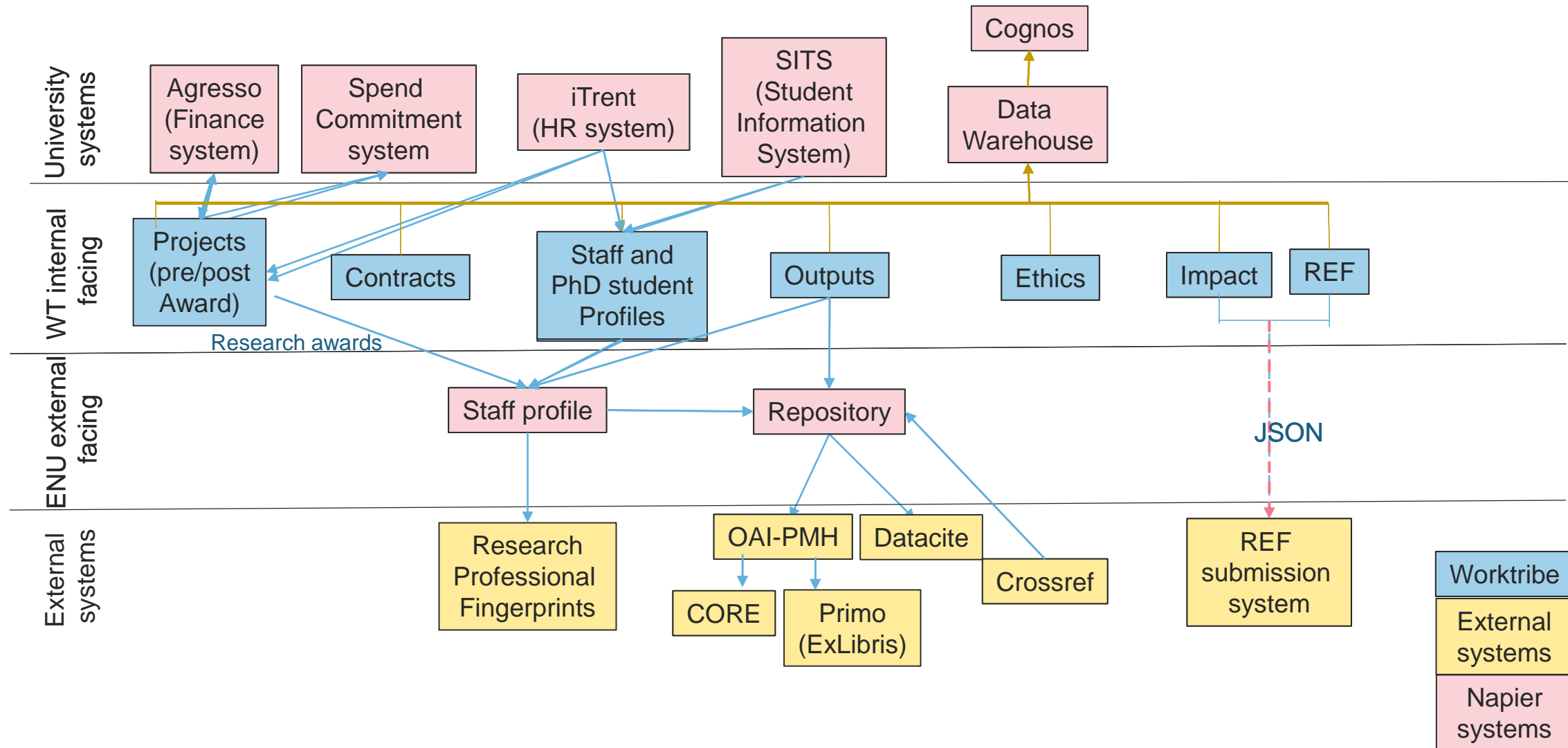
Initial:

- **Emphasis in tender was for one “system” to cover all aspects: costing, outputs, profiles, web.**
- One system = efficiency – less integrations, system support, academics only need to access one system
- Have consistent research processes and reporting across the University

Later:

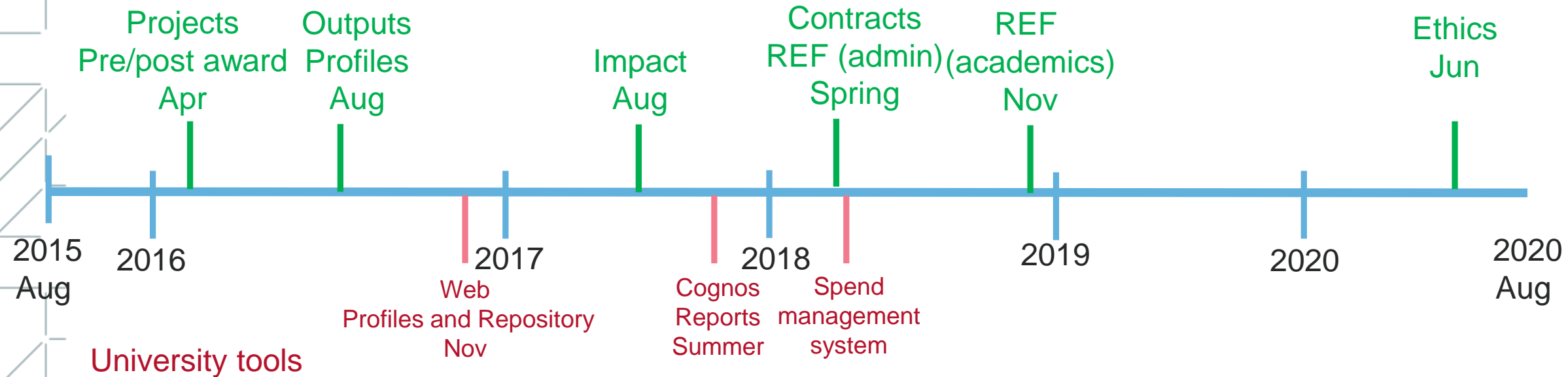
- Transparency – Support staff and academics have same system view (dependent on module permissions)
- As system confidence grew we found new requirements -contracts, ethics- which could be incorporated (academic and RMA staff requests)
- Additional sector requirements needed process updates – which defined system needs for additional/improved functionality

What we have - 2021



How we implemented the system

Worktribe product roll out



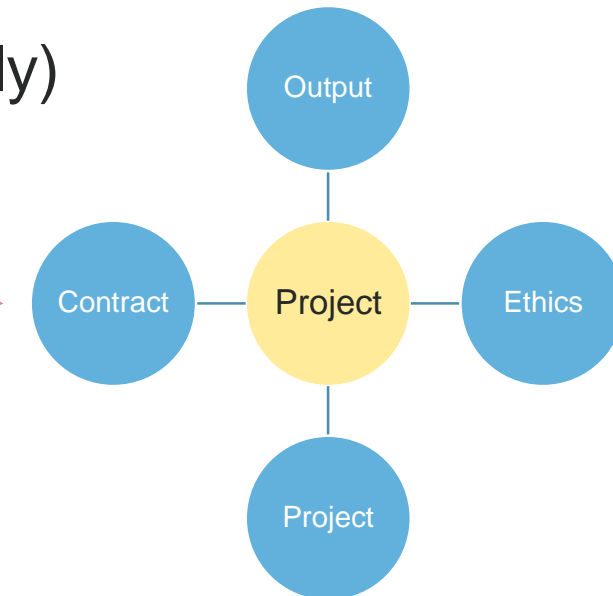
Internal processes reviewed and updated at each stage to streamline across the University

REF – Research excellence framework
UK research ‘quality’ assessment – based on data
Outputs, Impact and Environment (Income, people,
PhD students, open research etc)

Information and Process Management

Each 'module'

- Covers an aspect in the research lifecycle
 - Has an online form, document repository and workflow for approval/review by the relevant departments eg Research Office, Library, School (Profiles is form only)
 - Records are initiated by the academic/researcher.
 - Checks and process support by the service teams.
 - Can link related records eg
-
- The Institution can configure some aspects of the system via admin functions
 - Searches/reporting available on almost all data entered (permission dependent)



Our benefits of the integrated system

The new system has helped us build stronger relationships across the university because of the:

- Visibility of the data – everyone can see the same information
- Accessibility of the data - academics can edit their own profiles
- One system for data entry – easier to manage and use for academics

A straightforward means by which to keep my information up-to-date, easily accessible to me, and also that keeps my public face up-to-date.

Academic, Anon

"I think it will change our life in the future"

Ethics Convener Health and Social Care

As School Director of Research, I recognise the powerful functionality built into Worktribe that not only allows me to make informed strategic decisions on resourcing, but also drives our pre- and post-award activity in the School. Worktribe seamlessly integrates into our web platform to allow staff to showcase research activity and thus, is key to driving global engagement and impact for our University

Very useful system which has quickly become embedded in my day to day role supporting the research community.

Enables a transparent costing of research applications and gives a full insight into all the different stages of projects within the school portfolio

RIO pre-award staff

Future directions

- Improve external facing information (*move to Worktribe repository webpage?*)
- Have more data repository capability
- Additional features as required by sector/business needs
- Improve our internal reporting and research intelligence using the dataset from Worktribe