LIFE

Life cycle information for e-literature
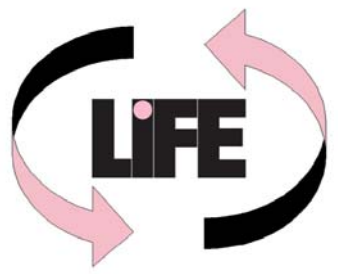
JISC Joint Programmes Meeting

Friday 8th July 2005

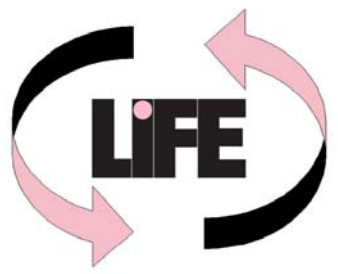Why digital Collections should ride life cycles

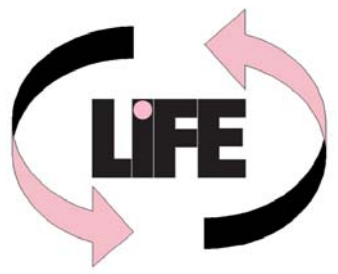James Watson

LIFE Project Manager

The project

- UCL, British Library
- JISC 4/04: (Supporting Digital Preservation and Institutional Asset Management)
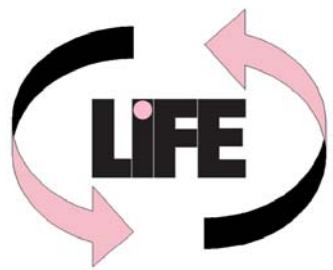- Strategic
- 1/2/5-31/1/6 (12 month)

Life cycles 1

- Life cycle management
  - Software development
  - Product life cycle
- Life cycle costing
  - Construction (building and maintenance)
- Records management
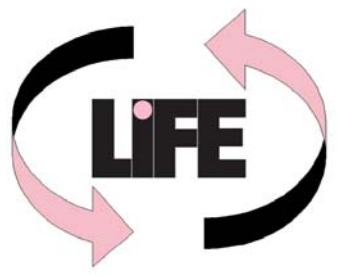
Life cycles 2

- Advocated for digital preservation
  - Tony Hendley JISC/NPO
  - Beagrie/Greenstein,
  - Jones/Beagrie

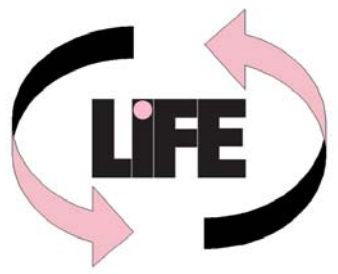- Life cycle collection management

- Amalgam = LIFE

Why?

Why life cycles in libraries?

- Total cost of stewardship of resource
- Each stage of ownership
  - Costs of each stage through time
    - Selection, acquisition, cataloguing etc
- All downstream costs
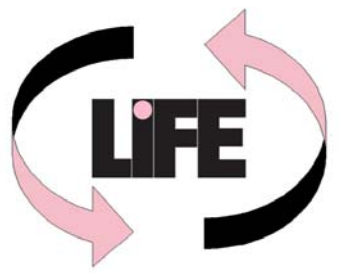 - What footprint do (digital) acquisitions leave over the long term?

Why?

- Information for…
- All institutions with digital collections
  - Collection management
  - Preservation
    - What should we preserve
    - Who should preserve it
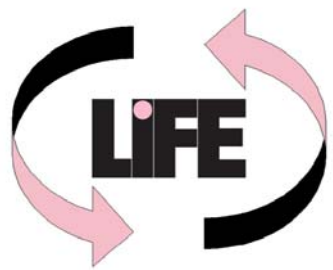- Steps early in the life cycle enable preservation

What?

- Application of life cycle model to digital collections

- UCL and the British Library

- Costing of each stage

- Including digital preservation
  - Algorithm to obtain cost
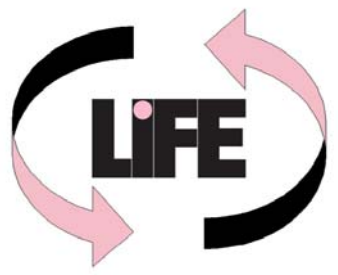 - Relative to other elements

How?

- Construct generic life cycle model
  - Tool to be applicable to all digital collections
- Application to selected collections
- Data mining
  - Up front costs
  - One time costs
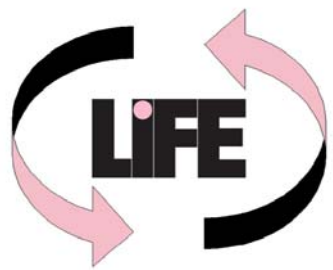 - Ongoing costs
    - Including staffing

So far (1)

- Selected collections:
- Electronic journals (UCL)
  - Local storage (Digital Asset Management system)
- VDEP (BL)
  - Voluntarily deposited digital material
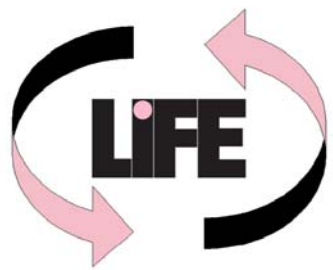- Web archiving
  - BL's part of the UKWAC

So far (2)

- Construction of model (as we speak)
  - Creation/selection…
  - To preservation/disposal
- Trigger points
  - Should we / shouldn't we / How should we
  - Branches on cycle

Amalgamation of aspects of life cycle collection management and advocated digital life cycle
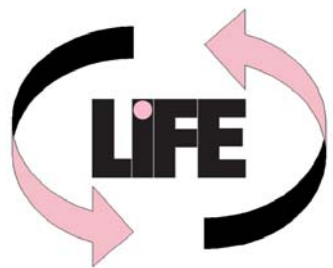
To come

- Application of model
- Data mining (financial / administrative)
  - How long does each stage take
  - How much does each stage cost
  - Information on preservation
- Publication of results
- Conference (12/12/2005)

Life cycles 3

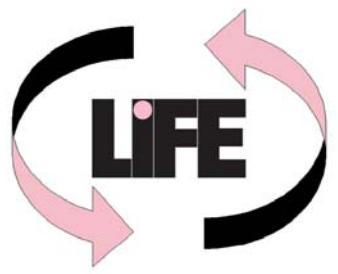Why digital collections need life cycles

- Instability/mutability of information
- Early intervention eases preservation
- Preserve what you need to (and know what you need to preserve)
- Benign neglect will not work
- Cost models for management/preservation
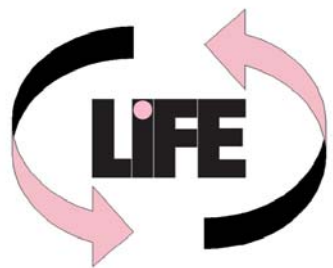
Sustainability

12 month project

- Tool will be life cycle cost model to apply to other digital collections

- Further application of cost model
- More costing of digital preservation

- LIFE2, AfterLIFE, LIFE in the fast lane
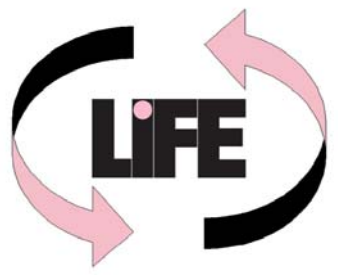
Island block

- Terotechnology Handbook
  - Department of Industry (Committee for Terotechnology)
  - London, H.M.S.O., 1978

A good read...

ISLAND BLOCK

LIFE

Comments?

Questions?

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http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/lifeproject/