



## JISC Rapid Innovation Project Plan

**Project Name:** List8D

**Project Tag:** list8d

**Author(s):** Ben Charlton <b.c.charlton@kent.ac.uk>, Michael Wilcox <m.d.wilcox@kent.ac.uk>

**Date this reports was started:** 2009-08-24

**Date this report was finished:** 2009-09-14

**Total amount of JISC money allocated to this project:** £37,173

**Link to Project details on JISC PIMS:** <https://pims.jisc.ac.uk/projects/view/1392>

### Table of Contents

1. Aims and Objectives
2. Project Outputs
3. Wider Benefits
4. Risk Analysis
5. Intellectual Property Rights
6. Project Relationships
7. Work Plan
8. Communication Plan
9. Success Plan
10. Budget

### 1. Aims and Objectives

To implement an open-source reading list system that is accessible and easy to use for all user groups - librarians, academics and students. List8D should also be a useful and sustainable resource for the JISC Information Environment.

We aim to achieve the following technical goals:

- Portable data with the ability to feed information to and from mashups.
- Open content and open standards.
- Solution to be reusable, by any institution, with a well-documented API.
- Support for tools such as Refworks, Endnote, and Zotero.
- Internationalisation support.

We aim to achieve the following business and user-oriented goals:

- Help librarians manage their stock levels and serve students better.

- Be easy for the academics to use, and help them to ensure that there are sufficient course materials available for the students.
- Be easy for the students to use, with information served by the application accessible in a variety of places. Ideally the students will not be aware of the existence of the application, they will simply see reading lists appearing in appropriate places.
- Provide accurate information for librarians and library managers, saving time and avoiding unsuitable or inaccurate inputs into the reading list system.
- Promote agile development practices within the University of Kent.

## **2. Project Outputs**

The tangible resources created by our project will be:

- The beta release of the List8D software.
- A public code repository, accessible by other institutions.
- An open source community with a bug tracker, Twitter feeds, etc.
- A List8D project mailing list.
- Project website and blog, final report and completion report.

The knowledge and experience we hope to build and share during this project includes:

- The embedding of agile methodologies within the University for the benefit of other projects and teams.
- The building of interdepartmental relationships and the spreading of skills throughout the University.
- Share the system and lessons learned with the wider JISC community through programme meetings and dissemination events.

## **3. Wider Benefits**

The outcomes we envisage, including their impact on the teaching.

### **Short term**

- Easy to use reading list management for academics will lead to higher quality reading lists for students.
- Simplified access to e-resources.

### **Medium term**

- Higher quality data leading to more reuse in other systems.
- Improved stock management ensures resources are available for students when needed.

### **Long term**

- Options for integrating with circulation and usage data later on could help to improve value for money.

## 4. Risk Analysis

Risks	How to deal with it
Staff problems: if staff leave or are busy with other projects or other priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call JISC to discuss options for project extension. Reassign resources, possibly employ part time students.</li><li>• Centralised repository and coding standards should allow transparency of code so others could pick it up more easily.</li></ul>
Lose buy-in from user groups - Librarians, students or academics.	Consult user groups continually throughout the project and keep them on board. Work through any issues that crop up to a satisfactory conclusion for all parties involved.
Technical problems – Voyager upgrade could cause incompatibilities, Amazon and other dependent systems could take away their API or change the terms of use.	Modular development will help to plug in alternate systems or update API.
Code/IPR issues.	University owns the IPR and intends to release the software under an open source software license.
Reliance on third party open source software.	
External – problems with suppliers.	Develop and maintain good communication with other projects and suppliers.

## 5. Intellectual Property Rights

The University of Kent will own the IPR and intends to use creative commons licences to release the List8D documentation and Open source software licences (GPL or similar) for the code. Only open source software components will be used by List8D, avoiding third party IPR issues.

As the project grows, we will either require contributors to assign copyrights or give a broad copyright license to a central organization.

## 6. Project Relationships

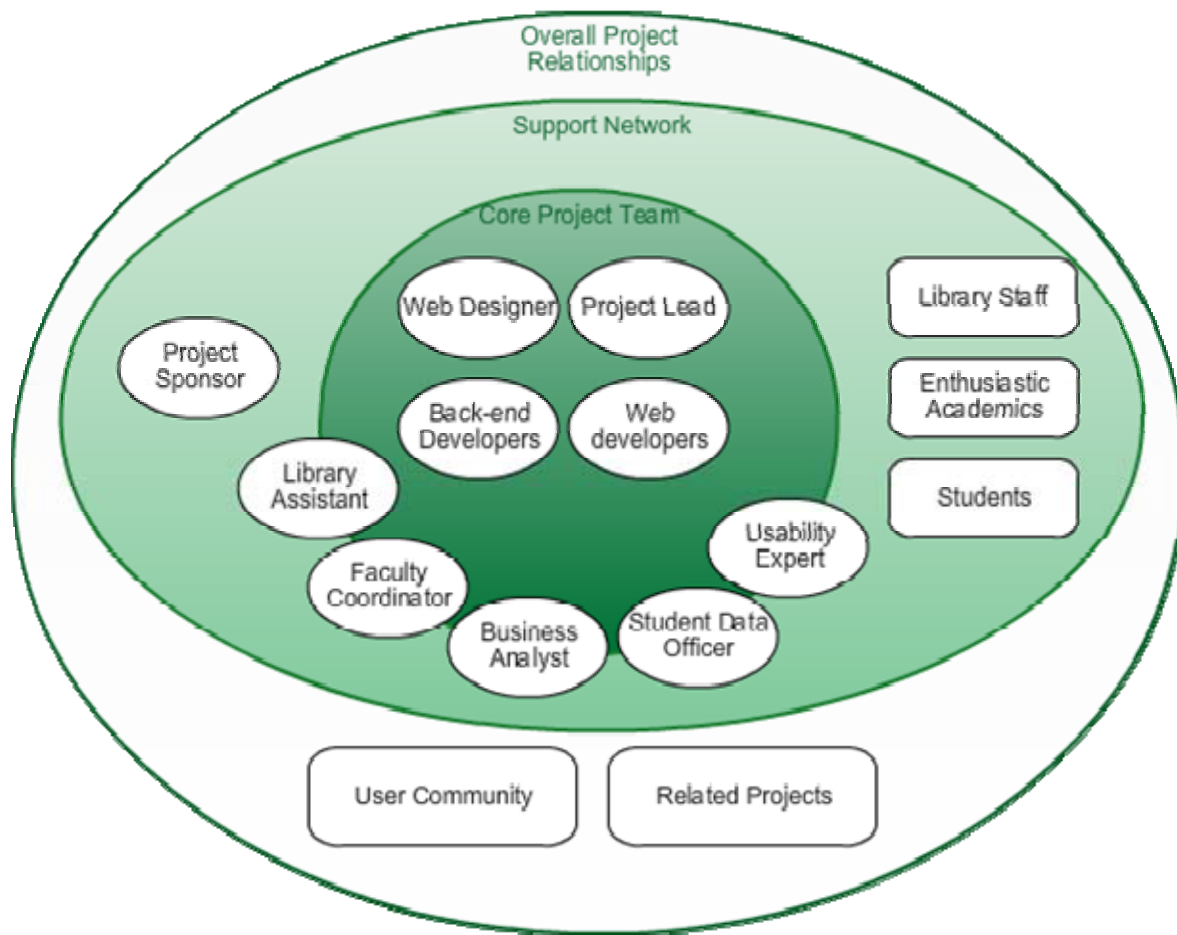
Core development team (directly allocated)

- Ben Charlton (Computing Officer) - 0.2 FTE
- Matthew Slowe (Computing Office) - 0.1 FTE
- Simon Yeldon (Web Developer) - 0.1 FTE
- Matthew Bull (Web Developer) - 0.1 FTE
- Mark Fendley (Web Developer) - 0.1 FTE
- Matthew Spence (Assistant Web Developer) - 0.1 FTE

Additional support (indirectly allocated)

- John Sotillo (Director of Information Services & Project Sponsor)
- Michael Wilcox (Head of Web Development & Support Services & Project Coordination)
- Bonnie Ferguson (Senior Web Developer & Project Coordination)
- Nicholas Thurston (Senior Projects Officer)
- Tim Jenkins (Senior Analyst Programmer)
- Maureen Cook (Senior Library Assistant)
- Katie Edwards (Faculty Assistant Coordinator)

Additionally, academics and students will be drawn into the project for feedback and consultation purposes.



## 7. Work Plan

The project team intends to utilise the principles of agile development, proven during our time together at the Dev8D Developer Decathlon where we successfully used rapid prototyping and development. The project brings together a multidisciplinary team from different sections of the

University, allowing it to benefit from a broad range of experience. Users of the system (librarians, academics and students) will be heavily involved during this consultation and their views will direct the development.

The team intends to release code early and often, in order to gain feedback and continued interest from other institutions. Communications and feedback mechanisms will be enhanced by the extensive usage of social networking tools such as Twitter and blogs.

The project team will benefit from the use of a dedicated project room provided by the University. This room is equipped with a projector, flip charts for note taking and paper prototyping, and whiteboards to facilitate a nimble development approach. SCRUM meetings will be held each morning to review progress and identify any areas that require special attention.

The project will commence properly from the beginning of September 2009. While we intend to fit in with the JISCRl project deadline at the end of November, additional work will continue past this date to support the use of list8D at the University of Kent.

### **Work Packages**

1. Needs and requirements analysis via paper prototyping and brainstorming sessions. (September - October)
2. Mockups: graphic wireframes and user feedback (September - October)
3. A series of code releases, with feedback from developers in the community and our three user types (Academics, Librarians, Students). (October-November)
4. A Barcamp 'code-athlon' day at Kent (or other location) to engage with other institutions. (probably December after major release)
5. Project documentation and closing tasks (November, early Dec)

### **8. Communication Plan**

We plan to hold a one day barcamp style event to offer users the opportunity to help integrate List8D with their own campus systems, or to add features that they would find useful. Hopefully the event will be held at an attractive location enabling us to generate additional enthusiasm and interest. This will help to provide a fixed deadline for a useful code release and suitable documentation, and an excellent opportunity to advertise the project and get people involved.

During the development process, we will be posting regular updates on the project blog, including the suggested posts, and more specific day-to-day issues, experiences and insights gained during the process. We will also engage with members of other relevant interest groups using mailing lists and other contacts of those involved in the project.

### **9. Success Plan**

We intend to involve other members of the HE community early in the project to gather opinions and foster discussion. Along with the 'release early and often' methodology, we are hoping this will encourage others to take an interest in the project and push forward its adoption within their own institutions.

We anticipate a barcamp type event to help people integrate List8d with their own campus systems will help the project grow.

The University of Kent has committed to running List8D as its new reading list system from 2010. The system will play a central role in helping the Library to provision resources. The system will also provide data feeds to other university systems such as module catalogues, Faculty handbooks, our Student Data System and Moodle. This will ensure the project is supported in the long term even if initial take-up is slow.

## **10. Budget**

The total budget is £119,117 made up of an institutional contribution of £81,944 and a JISC contribution of £37,173.