

Life after Recorder 6

Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Record Centre LRERC

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Leicestershire and Rutland
Environmental Record Centre

The story so far . . . 2000-2008

- 1995** Data manager in post – Darwyn Sumner with full admin rights over IT
- c.2000** Recorder set up
- c.2004** Graham Walley starts - Records Centre manager
- 2008** Data manager post made redundant
- 2008** County Ecologist (Sue) starts – with no database experience

The story so far . . . 2008 -2011

2008 Responsibility for managing database passed to LCC's central ICT service

LRERC staff have System Manager/Full Edit status, but not Administration.

Kirsty takes on main day-to-day role

Sally Rankin on hand for advice

2011 LRERC start project to clean up Recorder database, re-importing clean standardised to a new copy of Recorder

The story so far . . . 2012 -2015

c.2012 Record Centres feel anxious about future of Recorder; JNCC announce they will stop supporting it.

2012-2015 Public sector austerity measures bite.

LCC's ICT service reviewed; LRERC's support officer re-allocated
ICT have problems upgrading and installing Recorder.

- **Incompatibility with Network access permissions/register settings**
- **Problems when transferring to Windows 7, especially with mapping function**
- **Hard to source external help as designated Recorder support staff were busy**
- **Unable to run Recorder from network; it had to be installed on individual pcs.**

The story so far . . . After 2015

- 2015** LCC's ICT policy is to outsource hosting of all non-standard software.
LCC start the shift from PCs to VDI - will Recorder take it?

and . . . LCC can no longer support Recorder.

- 2016** LRERC search for alternatives.
It has to be an externally hosted database with on-line access.
Solution needed **FAST!**

Alternatives

exeGeSis

- Already hosting LCC's HBSMR.
- Recorder installed on their servers, with LRERC access via the web.

Cofnod

- on-line enquiry system
- simpler database
- e-mapper
- integrated Record Centre management system (ORCA)
- staff-time savings

Living with Recorder – some issues

Complexity leads to human error

- Hard for new users to pick up
- Similar data fields - inconsistent use leads to reporting problems
- Inputting data means its too easy to drift from data standards
- Build-up of unchecked records
- 'Location' and 'Recorder name' matching

Living with Recorder – more issues

Taxonomy and dictionary confusion

- Different results from using different dictionaries to report
- Hard to keep up with dictionary upgrades
- ‘LOAN’ – List of Additional Names
- Multiplicity of fields for taxonomy

Living with Recorder – and more

Data exchange and Measurements

Recorder-to-Recorder exchange = import of other peoples' errors and idiosyncrasies

- impossible to maintain data standards
- Cannot correct errors
- huge proliferation of measurement fields

Living with Recorder – last straw

Mapping function – not integrated

Polygon search process - hard to learn
Business continuity problems.

CONCLUSION

**Recorder is not suitable for a Record Centre
that collates data from multiple sources in multiple
formats, with most searches being area-based**

LRERC's data clean-up

In 2011 LRERC started again

- Enforcing strict data standards
- Importing, not inputting, all data
- Checking data before import
- Maintaining audit trail of imports
- Archiving copies of all source data
- Simplifying measurements and use of hierarchies in Recorder
- Not doing Recorder-Recorder exchange

Jumping through hoops

Support from central ICT – signed off by Business Support Manager

Information Security Risk Assessment - Signed off by 'Solutions Architect'

- Data Protection Act
- SSL certificate
- Security of server where data held

Procurement exception – signed off by Chief Officer

Legal Contract – signed off by Contract Lawyer

Purchase Order – signed off by Accountant

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