

The Cedars Project



Digital Curation:
digital archives, libraries, and e-science.

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The Cedars Project



- CURL Exemplars in Digital Archives
- Part of eLib Phase 3
- April 1998 - March 2001
- Extension year funded by JISC April 2001 - March 2002

Cedars' Objectives



- To explore issues relating to the long-term preservation and continued accessibility of digital materials for research libraries
 - 1 Promote awareness
 - 2 Identify, document, and disseminate strategic frameworks to develop collection management policies
 - 3 Investigate, document, and promote methods appropriate to the long-term preservation of different classes of digital resources

Defining Characteristics of Cedars



- Aimed primarily at university libraries
- Interested in a wide range of resources typically included in library collections
- Focus is on long-term preservation of these resources
- Aims to have practical outcomes

Major Deliverables to Date



- Cedars Demonstrator Archive
- Cedars Preservation Metadata outline specification



Objectives and Major Deliverables for Extension Year

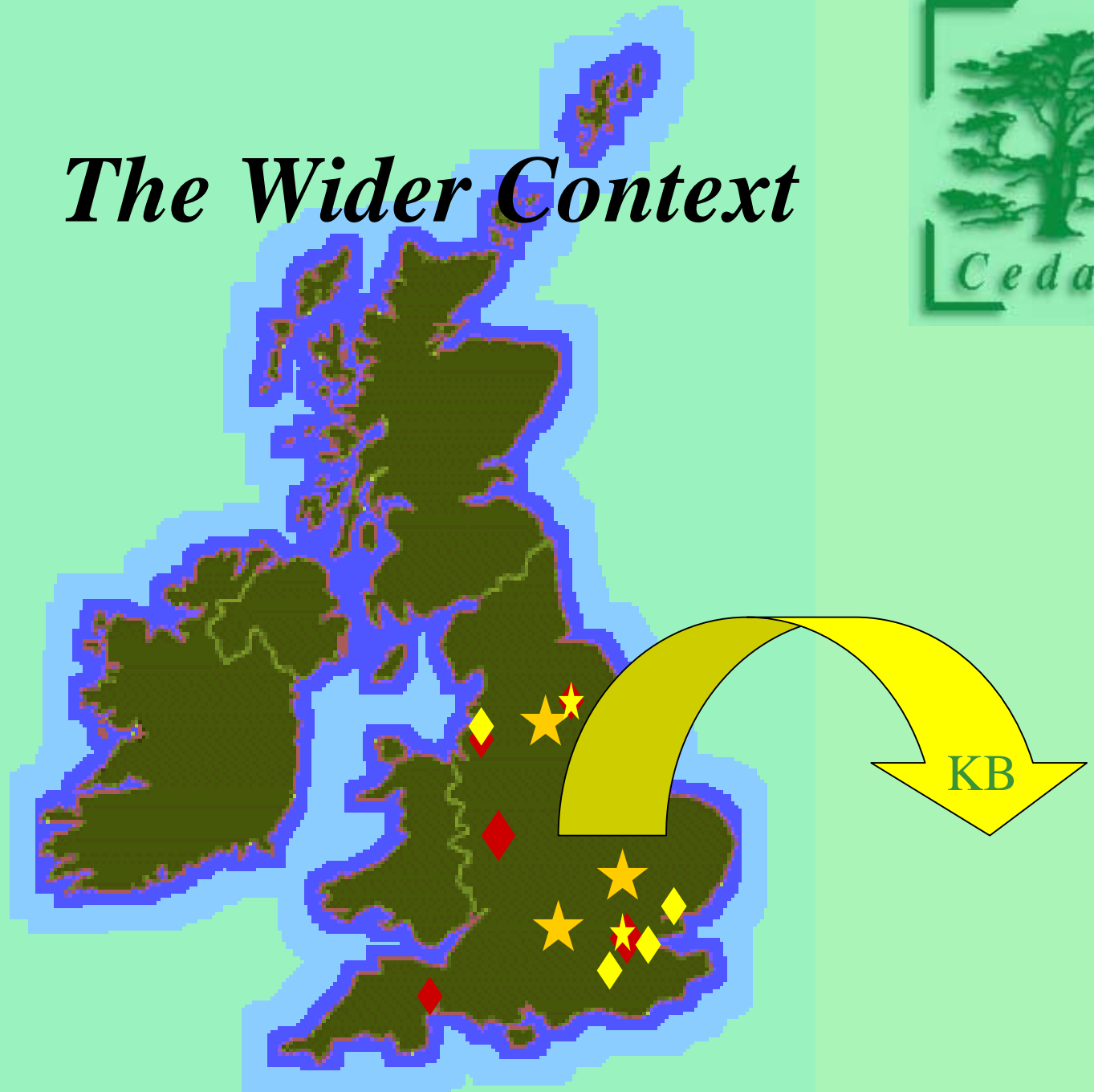
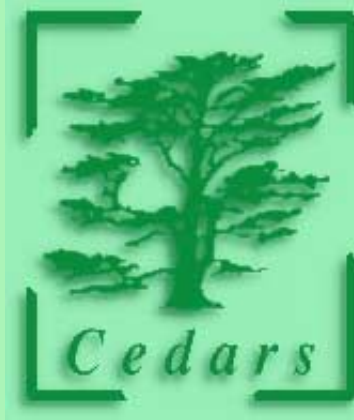
- Focus on consolidation and dissemination
 - ★ re-design the Cedars website
 - ★ produce a series of guidance documents
 - ★ host invitation-only workshop (February 2002)

Cedars Final Workshop

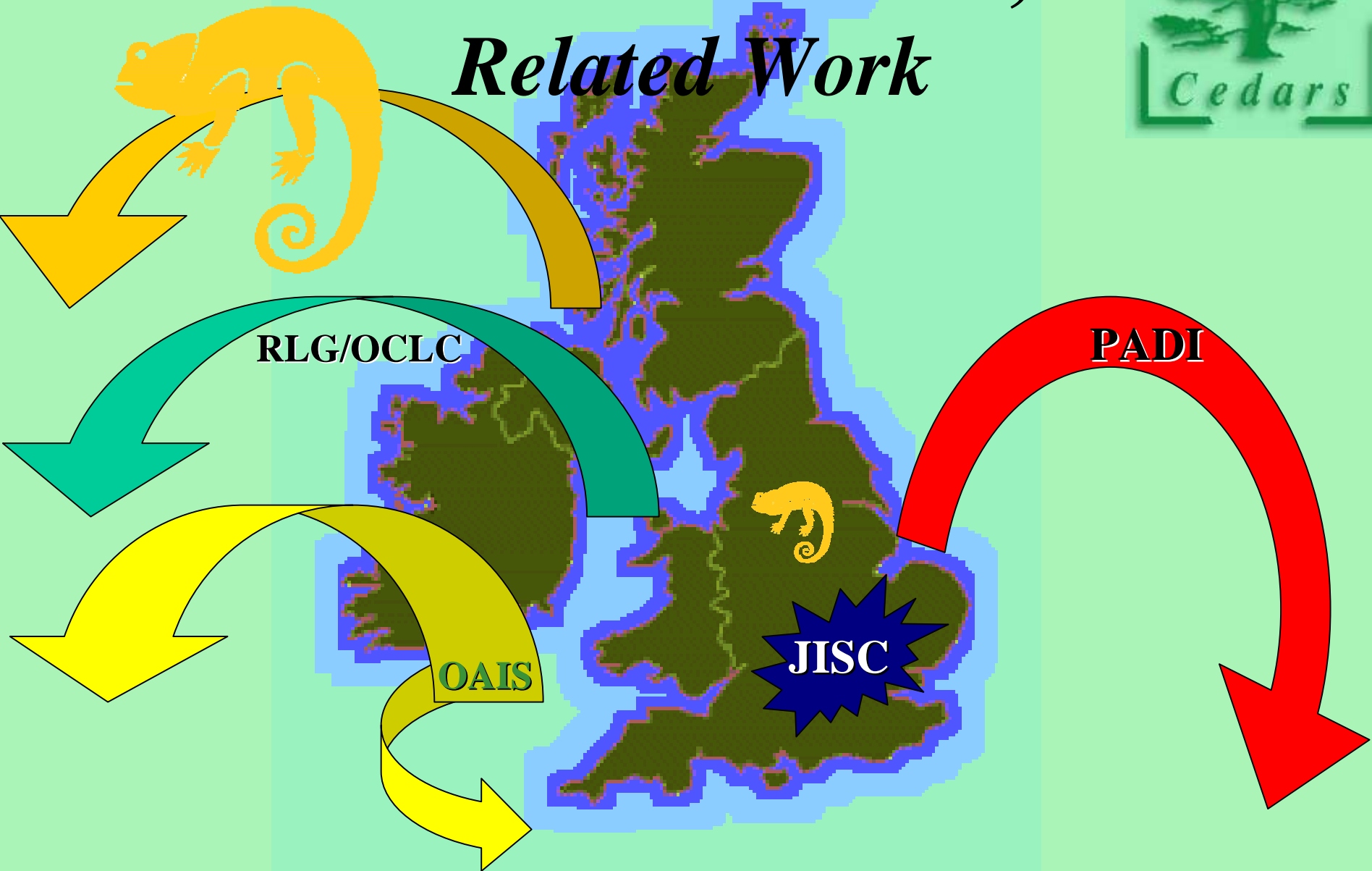
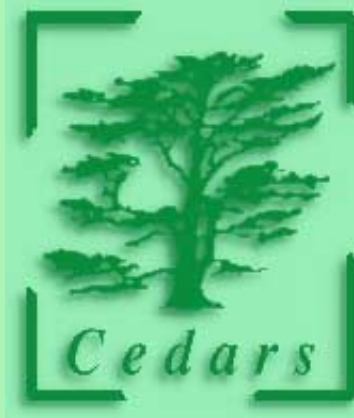


- Will include participation of Publishers
- Aims to focus on work Cedars has done and how that can be used
- Will consider what needs to happen post - Cedars

The Wider Context



The Wider Context, Related Work



Preservation Metadata



- Cedars Outline Specification

- ★ Aimed :

- 1 To provide the Cedars Demonstrator project with a basic set of metadata elements for its proof-of-concept archive
- 2 To contribute to the international collaboration effort involved in developing a standard specification for preservation metadata

Preservation Metadata



- RLG/OCLC Working Group on Preservation Metadata
 - ★ Aimed to :
 - 1 develop a comprehensive metadata framework applicable to a broad range of digital preservation activity

Broad Lessons/Reflections



- Metadata is very important!!
- Digital Preservation is global
- Increasing consensus
- Communication is much improved

Lessons Specific to Cedars



- The OAIS model can be successfully implemented
- Representation networks are crucial for maintaining meaningful access
- There is still a need to be cautious

Lessons in Caution



- Digital Preservation requires thought
 - ★ It is not safe to make assumptions
- Determine a resource's significant properties
 - ★ Know what you are preserving
 - ★ Know what you are not preserving
- Preserve the original bytestream as well
 - ★ Always have a fallback so that new decisions can be taken
 - ★ Mistakes can then be rectified

The Final Lesson



- There is a lot still to be done
- but a lot has been achieved

The Wider Context



- Cedars is a collaborative project between three partners
- Cedars Phase 1 Test sites
 - ★ Six test sites demonstrated proof-of-concept distributed archive
- Cedars Phase 2 Test sites
 - ★ working intensively with two main test sites, KB and BL
 - ★ input from a range of data services

The Wider Context - related work



- The OAIS model
- The CAMiLEON project
- RLG/OCLC
 - ★ Working Group on Preservation Metadata
 - ★ Attributes of a Trusted Digital Repository
- PADI
- JISC Information Environment for HE/FE
- The Digital Preservation Coalition