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# Designated Communities, OAIS and Assessment

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**DPC: Practical Preservation and People**  
**PRONI**  
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UK Data Service

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# UK Data Service

## Me

- History Data Service
- JISC Digitisation Metadata
- Preservation Planning Manager
- Data Seal of Approval (DSA) Board
- ~~DPC after lunch recovery speaker~~

## Us

- Social Sciences and Humanities (and the rest)
- UK Data Archive
- Lead partner UK Data Service at University of Essex
- Hosts of Administrative Data Service (ADS)
- Hosts of Big and Local Government Support Network



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# UK Data Archive

- Early assessment of OAIS and METS
- ISO27001 for Information Security
  - Secure Data Service, now integrated
- Data Seal of Approval (DSA), founding member
  - after DANS created it
- DSA Community and Board Member
  - Assessments part of contribution
- Self-Assessment against (draft) ISO16363
  - As part of the APARSEN Project



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# The Topic (s)

- Designated Community
- OAIS
- Assessment



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# The Metadata Bit?

Metadata, at it's best, is a solution to a problem

Addressing the [messy] information challenge by breaking up [the appropriate amount necessary to meet our goals] into smaller more manageable chunks.

Metadata professionals, at their best, retain a 40,000 feet view of their organisations information so they can contribute across existing and new business information, not just digital object management.

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# Discipline X, Type Y, [Research] Data Management

## Challenges

- Not about Discipline X-specific Research Data
- Not about Type Y Data of relevance to Research
- Not about Research Data
- Not about Data
- Actually about Management
- Often a challenge...around people and information



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# Practical?

- A scalable approach
  - From narrow to broad
  - From small to large
  - Across disciplines
  - Across types of data
- A community of (best) practice with a common language and goals
- But expectations adjusted to match our missions and our resources

Then...

discipline- and data-specific extensions



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# An Exciting New Information Model

- **Data**
- **Not Data**

Errr.... That's it

All addressed via information, which needs to be managed

(+ common decency and basic manners because *not data* includes people)





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# An Exciting New Information Model

## Addressing *Not Data*

- A common model of the object (data and *not data*) you're looking after
- Understanding whether the *not data* is
  - Part of the object
  - Part of the process (used to manage the object)
- Whether *not data* needs to be associated with the object
  - Bundled or linked
- Or not...?
  - Policies, workflows, procedures, reference documents?



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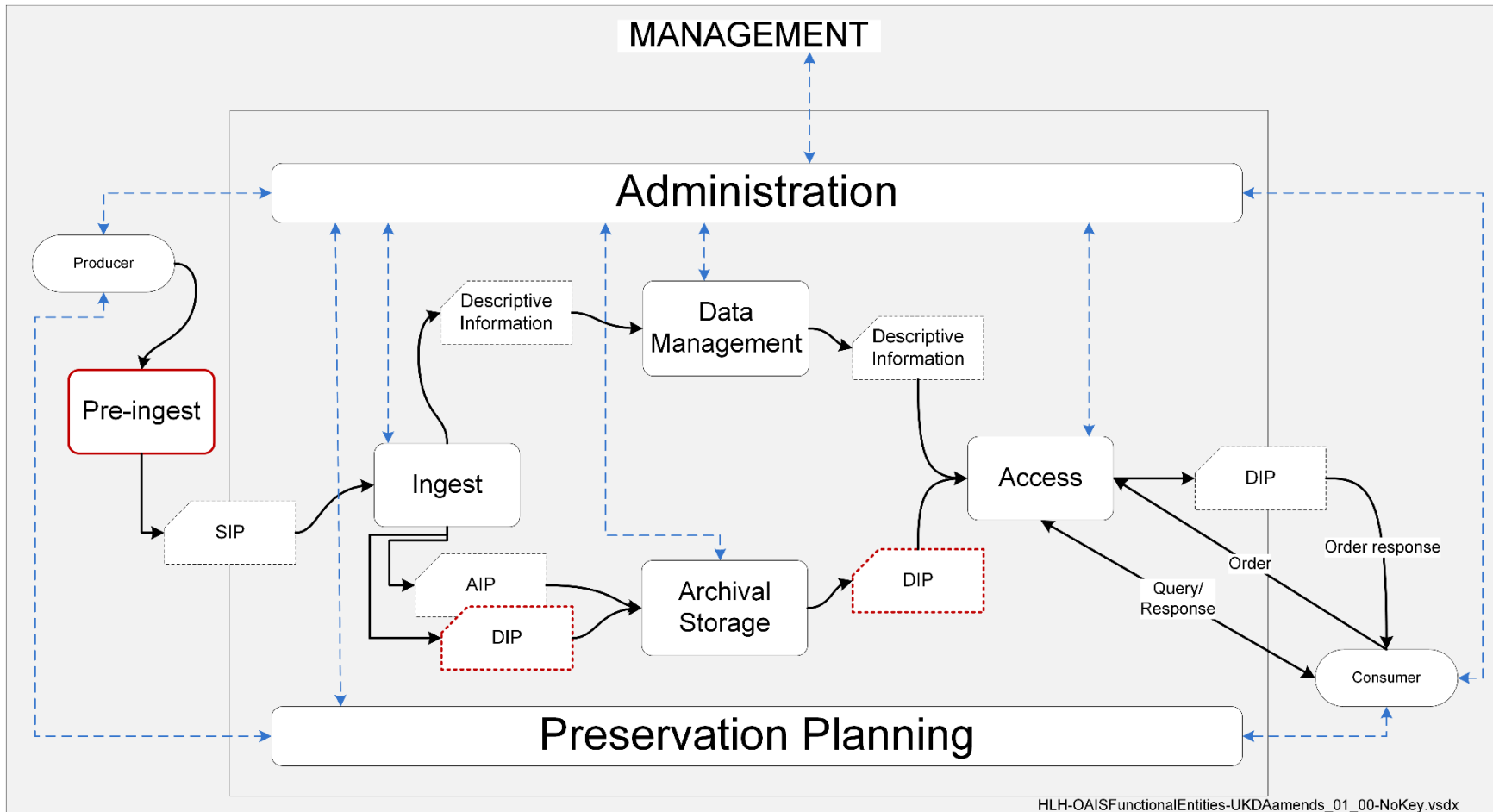
# An Exciting New Information Model

## From Not Data to Metadata

- From disintegrated to integrated
- From unstructured to structured
- From gross to granular
- From ad hoc to standards-compliant
- From chaotic, to:
  - Accessible to...
  - Human-understandable to...
  - Machine-actionable



# Contractual Obligation Moment: UKDA OAIS



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# Designated Communities

## **A critical reference point from the OAIS**

- People (by definition) with links to associated knowledge and technology
  - Define
  - Identify
  - Query
  - Analyse
  - Report
  - Act (to change or not to change)
  - Redefine
- All data/metadata which needs to be managed



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# Designated Communities & the real world

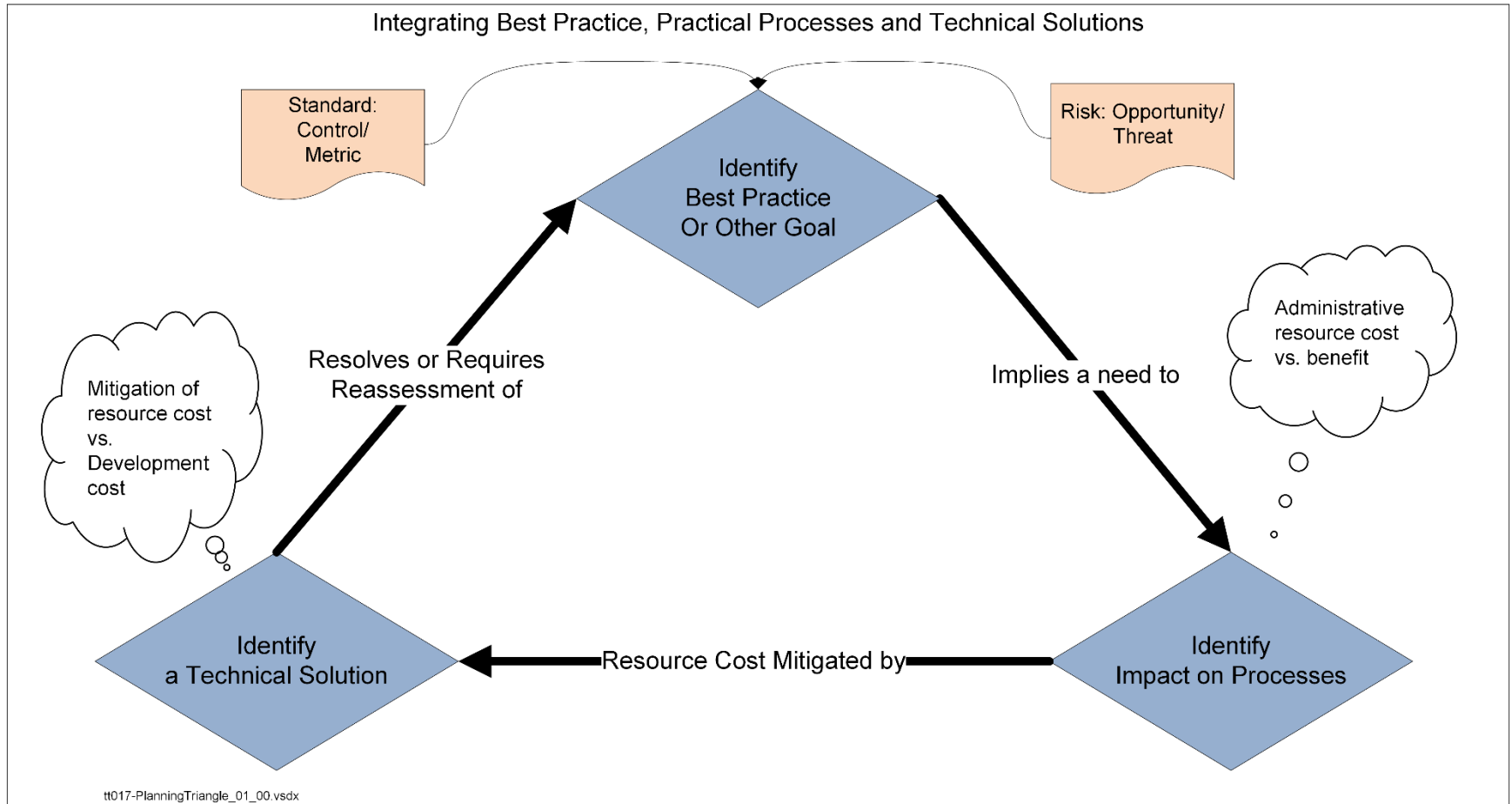
## **The 40,000 feet view....**

Designated Communities are just one of the stakeholders that influence our actions:

- Governments
- Funders
- Host Organisation
- Data Producers
- Peer organisations
- Digital Preservation Coalition
- 'Users'



# Can we manage this wider metadata set?



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# OAIS- are its strengths its weaknesses?

- *Designated Community* is the OAIS target
- *Stakeholder* management let's us place other influences alongside the needs of the designated community.

## **OAIS focus on the Repository Functions**

- Clear reference point for the 'community'
- But no engaged community of:
  - Implementation
  - Alignment
  - Improvement
  - Integration into our wider systems



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# OAIS 2017 Review- The Plug

[http://wiki.dpconline.org/index.php?title=OAIS\\_Structure](http://wiki.dpconline.org/index.php?title=OAIS_Structure)

- If you've read it and have an opinion then share it!
- If you haven't read it, then read it, then form an opinion and share it!
- If this has no meaning or relevance to you, then that's an opinion, share it!





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# OAIS... and the rest... Assessment

OAIS has been joined by a Framework of Trust Standards:

- **Baseline: Data Seal of Approval (DSA)**
  - (RDA Common Guidelines with WDS)
- **Intermediate: DSA+ self-assessment**
  - against NESTOR DIN 31644 or ISO16363
- **Advanced: DSA+ ISO16363 Trusted Digital Repositories**
  
- **Developing communities of practice**
  - around these standards?
  - around this hierarchy



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# OAIS... and the rest...Assessment

What do they have in common?

- They're about assessment...
- About metrics and evaluation and scores
  - And being good at exams isn't enough...
- We've all found the resources (time, money, people and technology) to develop a website
- We've all faced the challenges of keeping that site up to date and maintained



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# Assessment and Information (metadata) Management

- In a world where change is a matter of course
- With big, administrative and social data... and the rest
- It's not enough to build our world around good scores on assessments
- We need to build maintainable, business information
  - A community of (best) practice with a common language and goals
  - But expectations adjusted to match our resources

E.g. integration of designated community management into stakeholder management.



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# Assessment and Information (metadata) Management

Maintainable business information:

- To support our day-to-day activities
- To support the services we provide
- Those services are made of people and metadata
- Which serve our Designated Communities
- If we can do that well... we've done our job



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# Assessment and Information (metadata) Management

- If we can do that well... we've done our job

Then...if we want to work within a common community of improvement

- We should link the information we use to deliver services to the assessment standards
- Not design our business to meet assessment criteria



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# Questions

