Are Systems Librarians an Endangered Species? Lessons Learned From Implementing a New Library Platform.

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Session Outline

Our context and structure

Activity 1: Where does your technical library support reside?

Our Project Team

Key vulnerabilities

Activities 2-5: Your thoughts

Solutions being explored and your suggestions

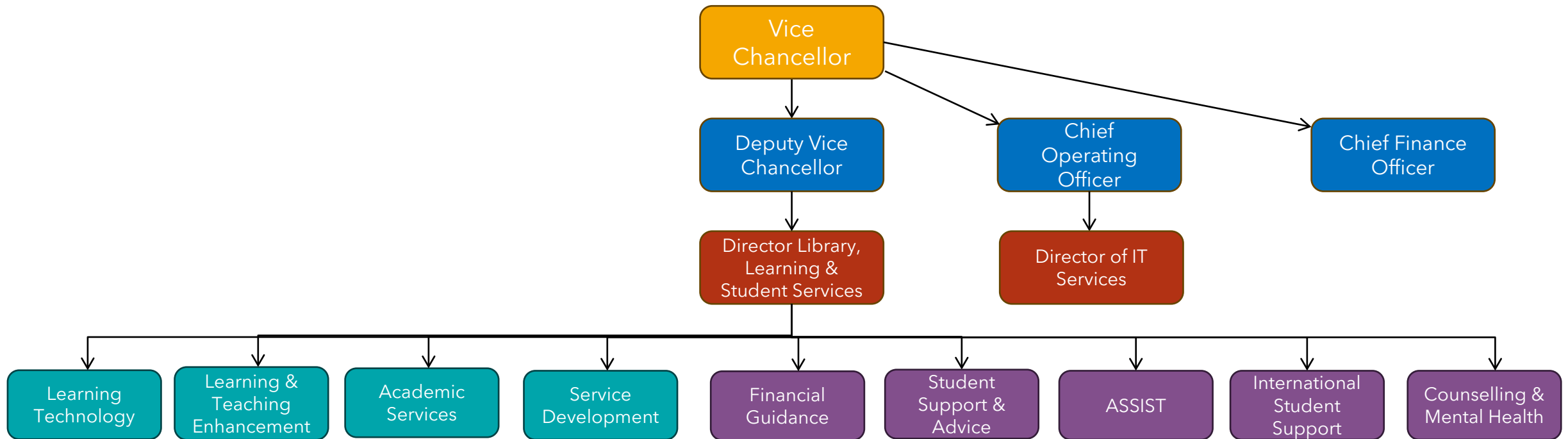# Our Context

42.2 FTE library staff

15,474 students
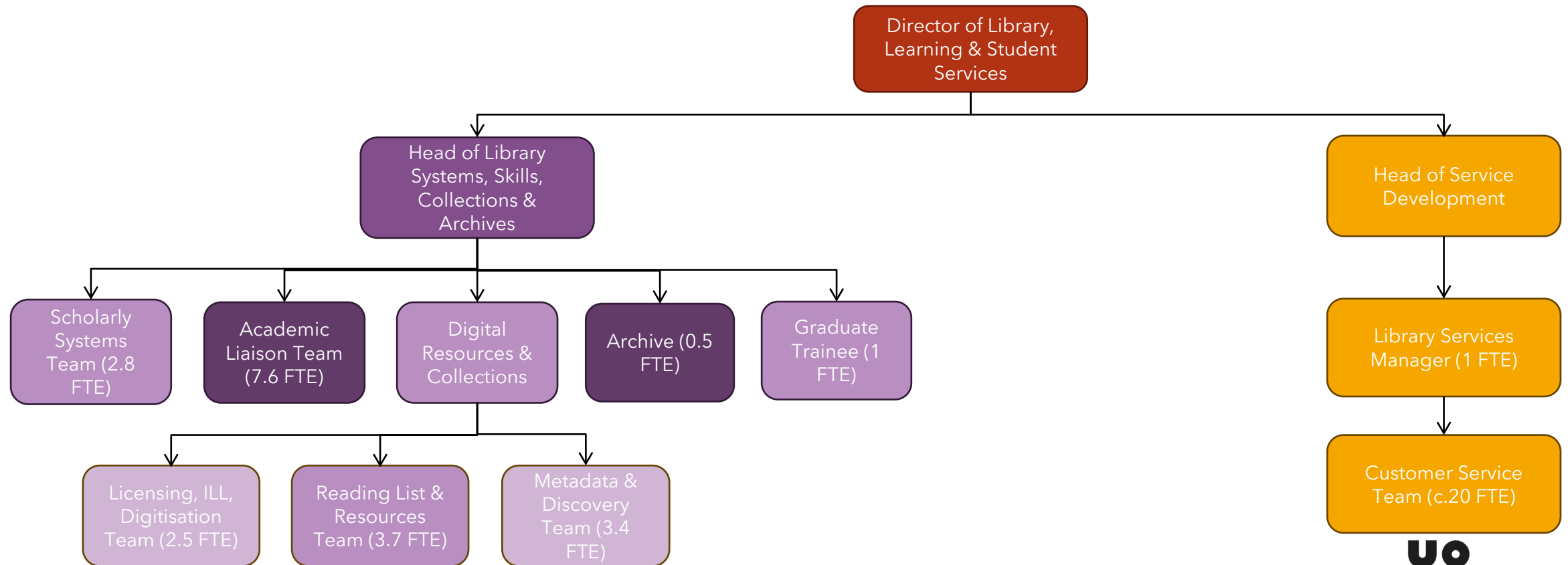
One campus: "Waterside"

33 partner arrangements

2022 migrated from Sierra, Primo Classic and Talis Aspire to Alma, Primo VE and Leganto

Successful implementation; went live on 11th July 2022
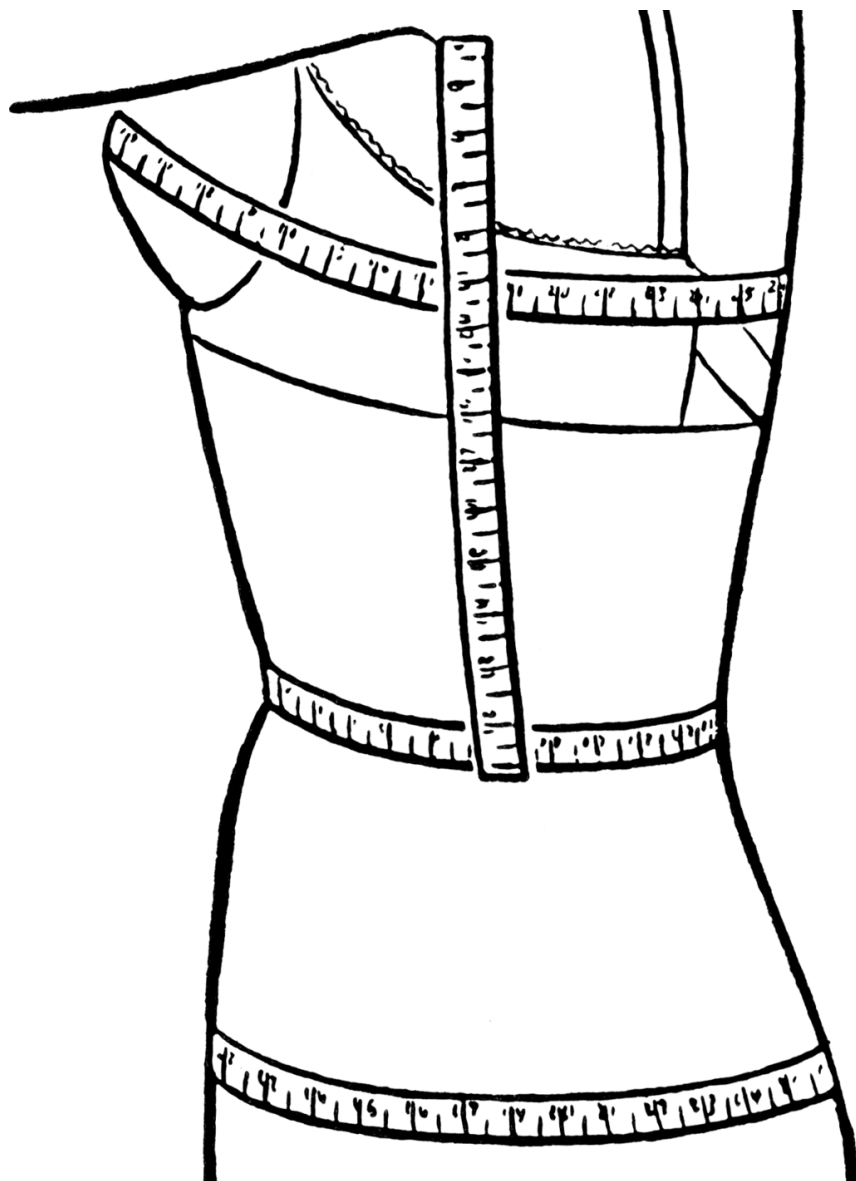
How We're Structured – Big Picture

How We're Structured

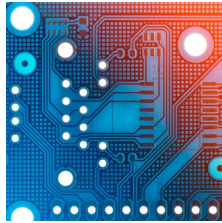# Activity 1: Where Does Your Technical Library Support Reside?

- In the Library and works well

- In the library and doesn't work well

- In IT Services and works well

- In IT Services and doesn't work well

- Other and works well
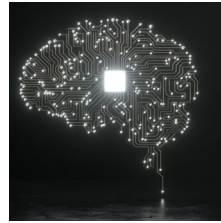
- Other and doesn't work well

Project Team Vital Statistics

Library staff on the technical implementation:	**9**
Average Age:	**52**
Youngest staff member:	**41**
Oldest staff member:	**62**
Average number of years of library experience:	**28**
Total collective years of library experience:	**250**

Our Technical Library Project Team

Library Systems Manager

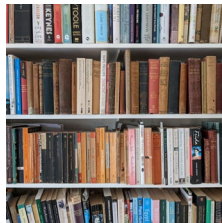Information Systems Developer

Project Manager

Head of Service Development
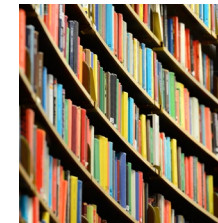

Library Services Manager
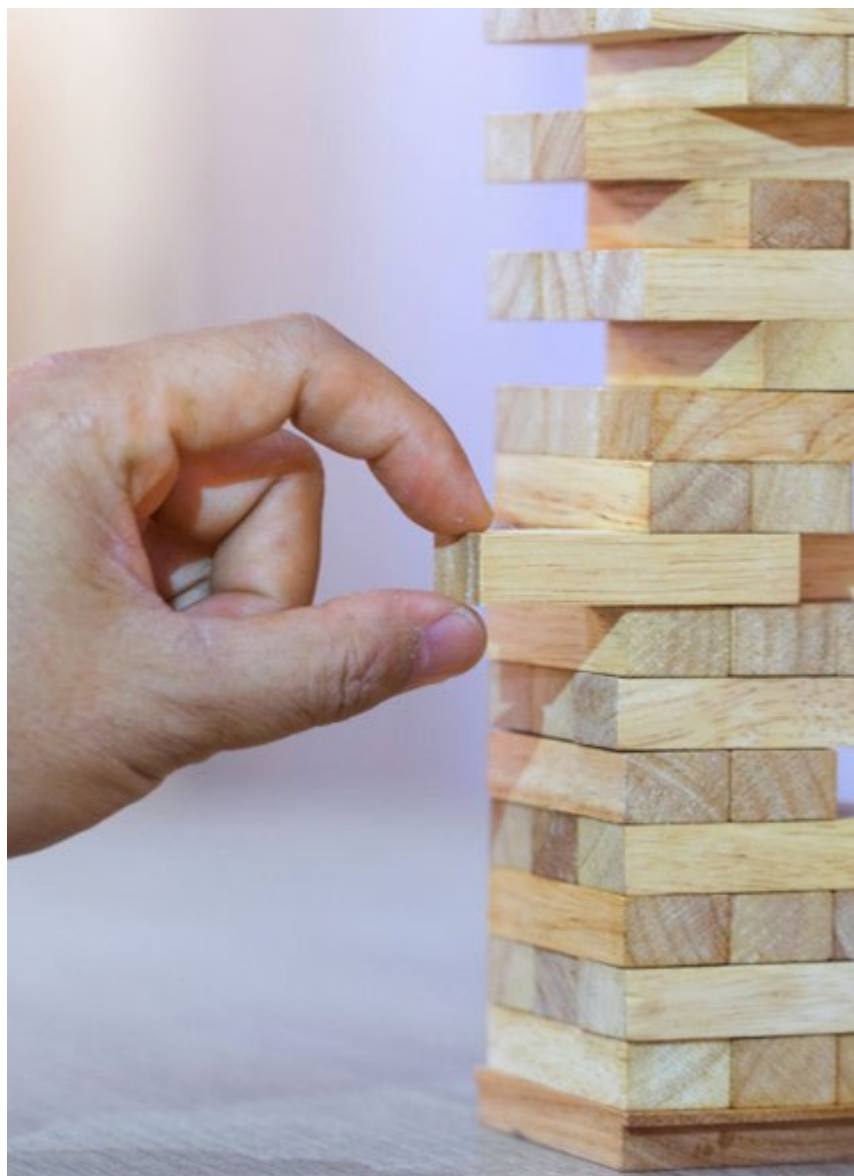

Collections Manager

Cataloguing Assistant

Collections & Licensing Specialist

Resource Integration Specialist

University of Northampton
Library and Learning Services

Key Vulnerabilities

Skill Distribution: Specific skill sets and knowledge residing in one individual; knowledge not distributed

Skill Acquisition: Technical and metadata skills honed over many years; complex skills which are difficult to acquire

Skill Lifespan: The age of our team; many possible retirements on the horizon

Cognitive Load: Small institution with a small team juggling a large cognitive load

Activity 2: Your Thoughts

Individual activity:

Thinking about the technical management of your library:

What do you feel confident, relaxed and chilled about – Blue

What do you feel moderately concerned about – Yellow

What are you biggest concerns - Orange

Activity 3: Shared Themes

Whole room activity: thematic analysis of your individual thoughts

Activity 4: The Barometer of Anxiety

Whole room activity: ranking the themes according to perceived pressure

Activity 5: Voting

Individual activity: use you five sticker dots to vote individually on your top priorities.

You can use more than one dot per priority.

Solutions Being Explored and Your Suggestions

https://bit.ly/47G44g6

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