

# **Standards in Museum Documentation in the UK: Present and Future**

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S P E C T R U M

## **Collections Management Tool**

A standard maintained and published  
by the Collections Trust

# Agenda

- Context
- Current state of SPECTRUM
- Supporting SPECTRUM – Partners and Compliance
- The way ahead

# Context



# Vision and Reality

**The Vision:**

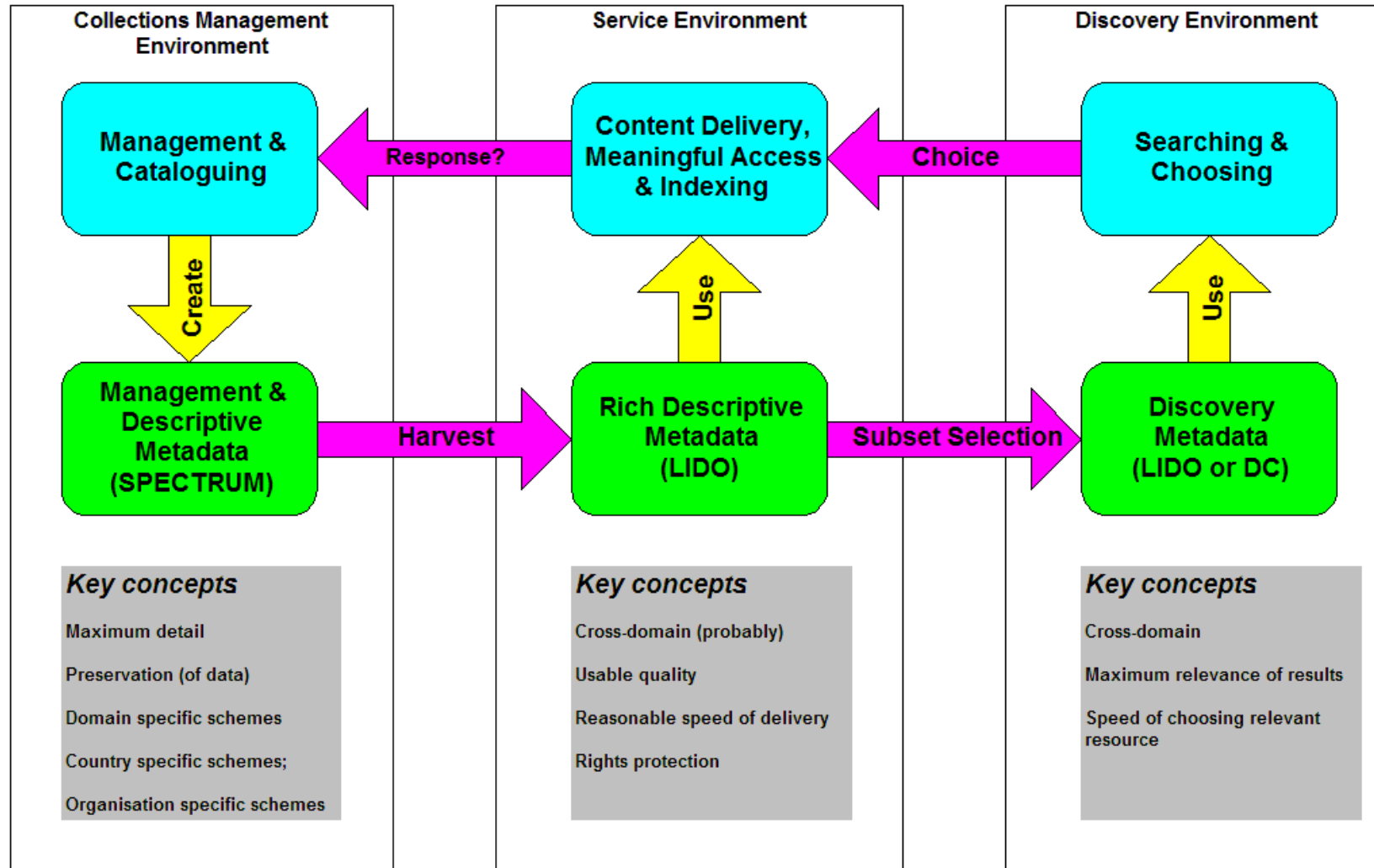


**The Reality:**

**The Content**

**Collections  
Management**

# Metadata Use Environments



# Current State of SPECTRUM

# SPECTRUM Principles

- **Consensus** – procedures and information
- Collections Trust **'curates'** the publication (directing, resourcing, editing, publishing)
- **Common language** – Ensures consistency, accountability
- **Not prescriptive** – “what” not “how”
- **Widely applicable**

Some SPECTRUM statistics

- **Licences**: c8000 in over 100 countries.
- **Users**: c23000 users of in software systems



# SPECTRUM Overview

- 21 **procedures** describing collections management activity in museums, with accompanying **units of information**
- Linked to **Accreditation** via the **Primary Procedures**
- Last content update in 3.2 - user generated content – *Revisiting Collections*
- SPECTRUM **Partners Scheme** (2005)

# SPECTRUM 4.0

- Two publications; format (**workflows**), not content
- Now in XML
- SPECTRUM content on Collections Link
  - The *SPECTRUM Community*
  - The *SPECTRUM Standard*
  - *SPECTRUM Resources*
- Available under licence for **non-commercial use**, or under separate licence for commercial use
- Non-commercial use – a **free download** from Collections Link, or at cost from Collections Link shop


# Why the new format?

- Easier to **use**
- Easier to **update and simplify**
- Easier to **add new procedures**

**Feedback has been very positive!**

Collections  
Trust

Spectrum  
 Partner

Spectrum  
 Compliant

# SPECTRUM Partner Scheme



- Gives collections management software vendors a **licence for the commercial use of SPECTRUM** with their products.
- Only SPECTRUM Partners are allowed to say they are **SPECTRUM Compliant** after a formal verification process.

Spectrum  
Partner

Collections  
Trust

 dlib

AXIELL

 GallerySystems

 KES  
software

 me™

 mobydoc  
GESTION INFORMATIQUE DOCUMENTAIRE

 modes

PICTURAE

 ETHER

 SELAGO  
DESIGN

 SEMANTIKA

 skin museum

 System Simulation

 vernon  
SYSTEMS

 zetcom

# Beneficial to you?

- SPECTRUM Partners can **incorporate access to SPECTRUM 4.0 within their systems** either as a link or a help file so you can refer to SPECTRUM procedures and units of information
- Our work with the SPECTRUM Partners **enables the development of SPECTRUM**
- Only SPECTRUM Partners are allowed to say they are **SPECTRUM Compliant**, after a formal verification process - you can check this with us if you are uncertain of a company's status or claims
- We gather information about all Partner systems and **ask the questions** we know will be important now and in the future to you to save you time

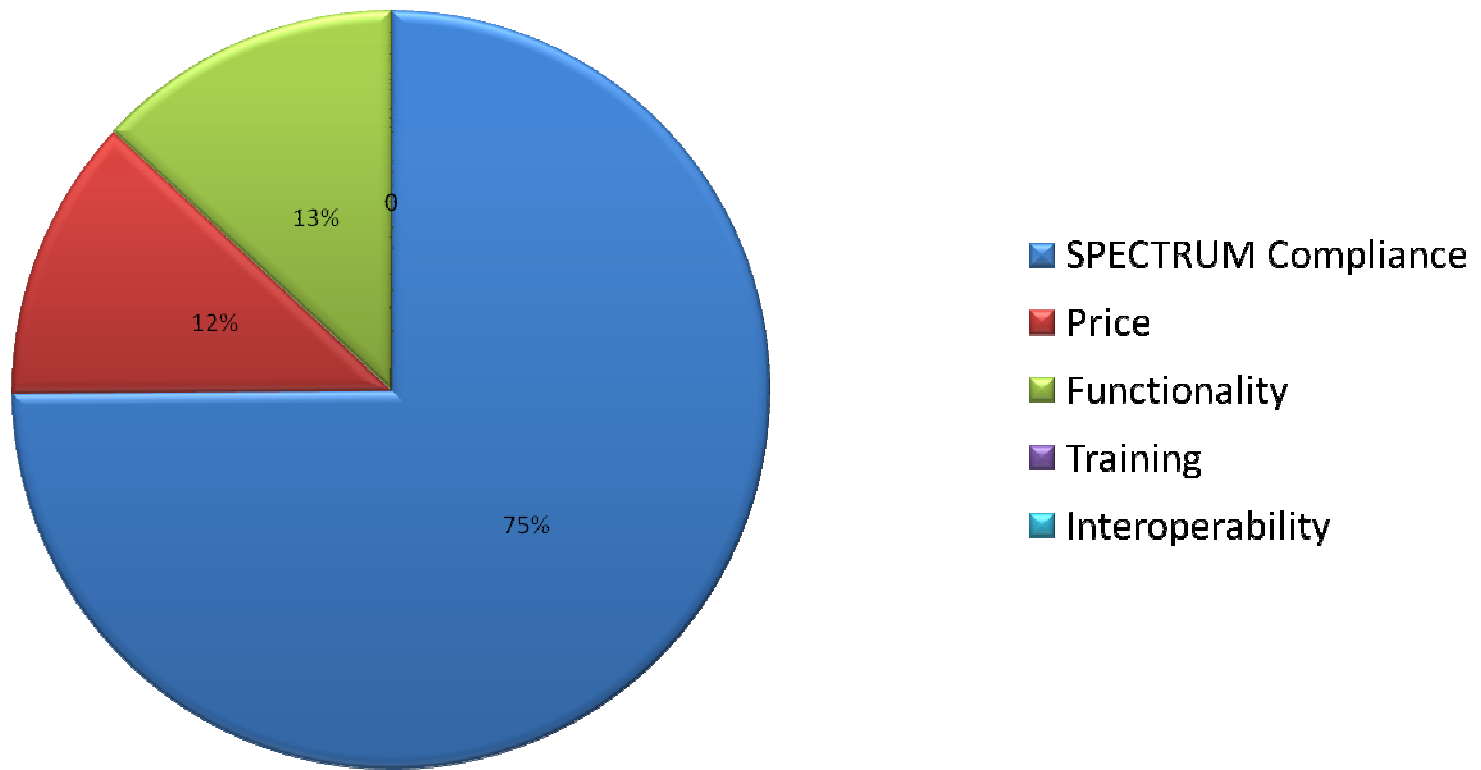
# Benefits to Partners

- Commercial **licence to use** SPECTRUM
- Opportunity for their systems to be validated for **SPECTRUM Compliance**
- **Adds value** to their company, increasing trust in the sector
- **Connection** to sector professionals
- Demonstrates **their commitment** to national standards
- Access to **sector intelligence**
- Part of the **SPECTRUM Community**
- Featured in the **Software Survey**
- Opportunity to collaborate on **innovative European Projects**



# Survey results

Feature identified as 1st priority when selecting a new system



# SPECTRUM Compliance?

- The process by which a SPECTRUM Partner's system is tested to check if it is able to **represent** the SPECTRUM units of information so that it can support the user through all 21 procedures of SPECTRUM.
- Compliance testing is completed **online** with follow up discussions, recommendations and possibly changes to a system before verification is achieved.

# SPECTRUM Compliance?

- SPECTRUM Compliant software enables you to **capture all of the requirements** of SPECTRUM within your Collections Management System
- If you need a system that **supports all** of the **SPECTRUM Procedures**, and represents the **SPECTRUM units of information**, you know Compliant Partner systems can provide this
- Compliant Partners should be **able to explain** to you how they can represent all of the units of information in the Primary Procedures (and more)

# The Way Ahead

# Towards SPECTRUM 5.0

- What needs to be **changed** in SPECTRUM 4.0?
- How can SPECTRUM 4.0 be **developed** further?

# Working together to develop and maintain SPECTRUM

- Release an update every **2 years**
- Hold the current version as a beta on the *Standards Wiki*
- Calls for **contributions via the wiki** and the SPECTRUM community on collections Link
- A consultation roadmap meeting at **Open Culture** every year
- Collections Trust issues the **revised roadmap** after meeting

**Thank you!**  
**Any questions?**

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<http://www.collectionslink.org.uk>

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