



STUFF AND DATA

challenges for research data management in the visual arts

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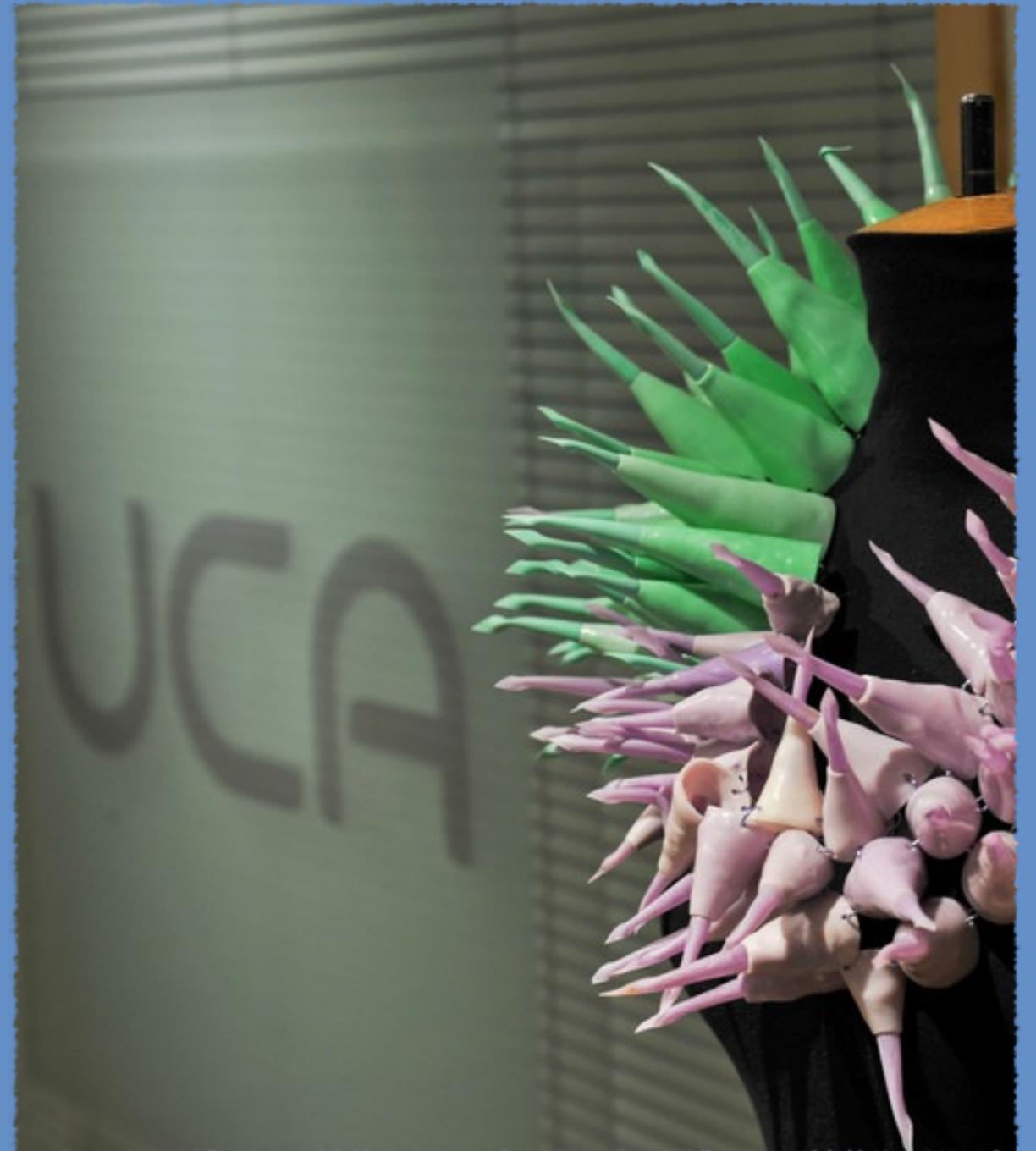
challenges for research data management in the visual arts

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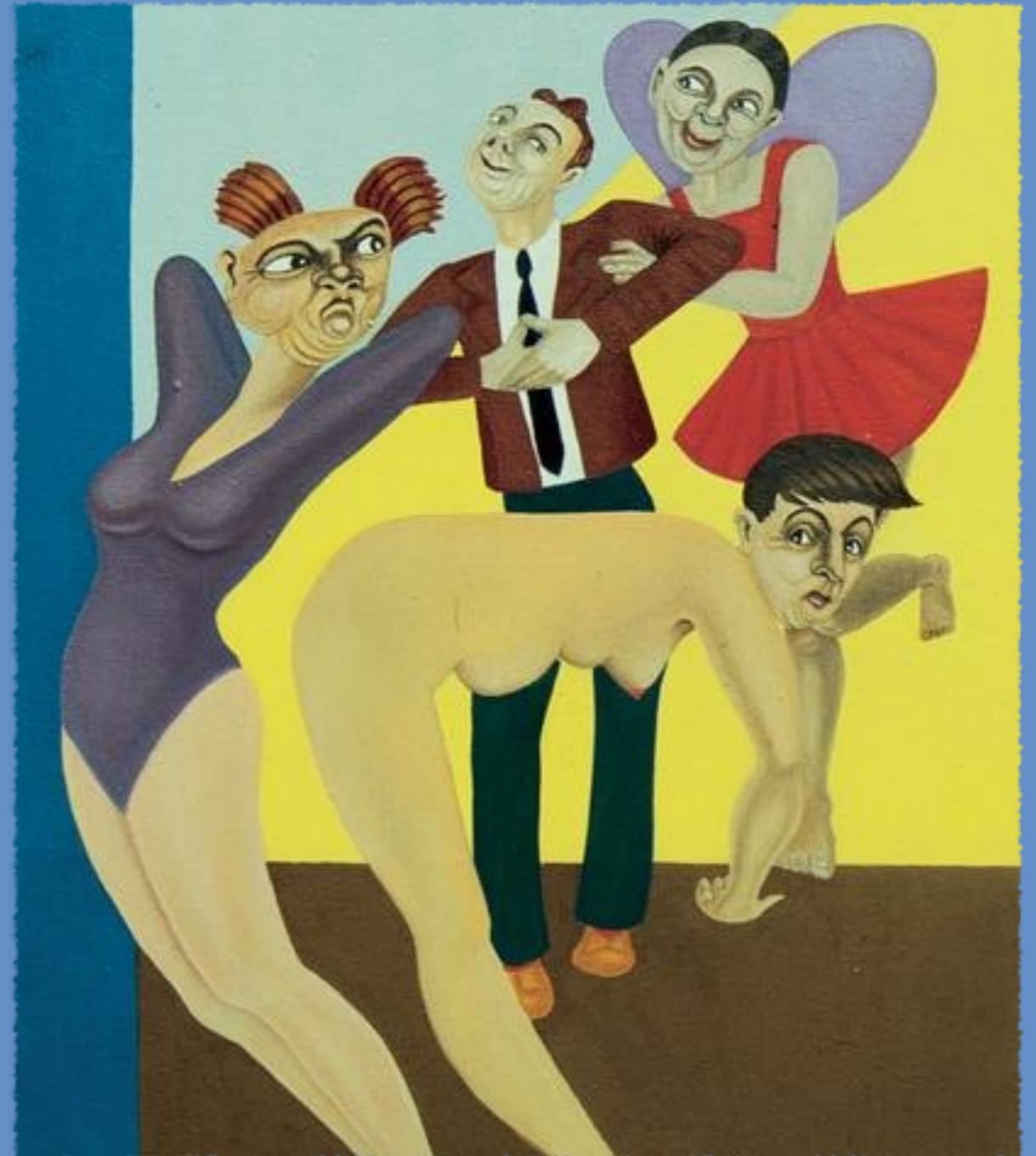


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Why manage research data?

- funder requirements
- demystify artistic methods
- enhance discoverability
- minimise data loss
- new applications
- reliability and validity
- new interpretations
- track impact more accurately
- semantic web tools can discover links
- promote research opportunities
- maximise value of public funding
- showcase and maximise impact



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Work in progress...

KAPTUR (2011-2013)

- explore the nature of research data
- recommendations for its management
- develop a model of best practice
- apply, test and refine the model
- disseminate the outcomes

VADS4R (2013-2014)

develop a series of workshops and toolkits
to engage early careers researchers and
students with research data management
practice

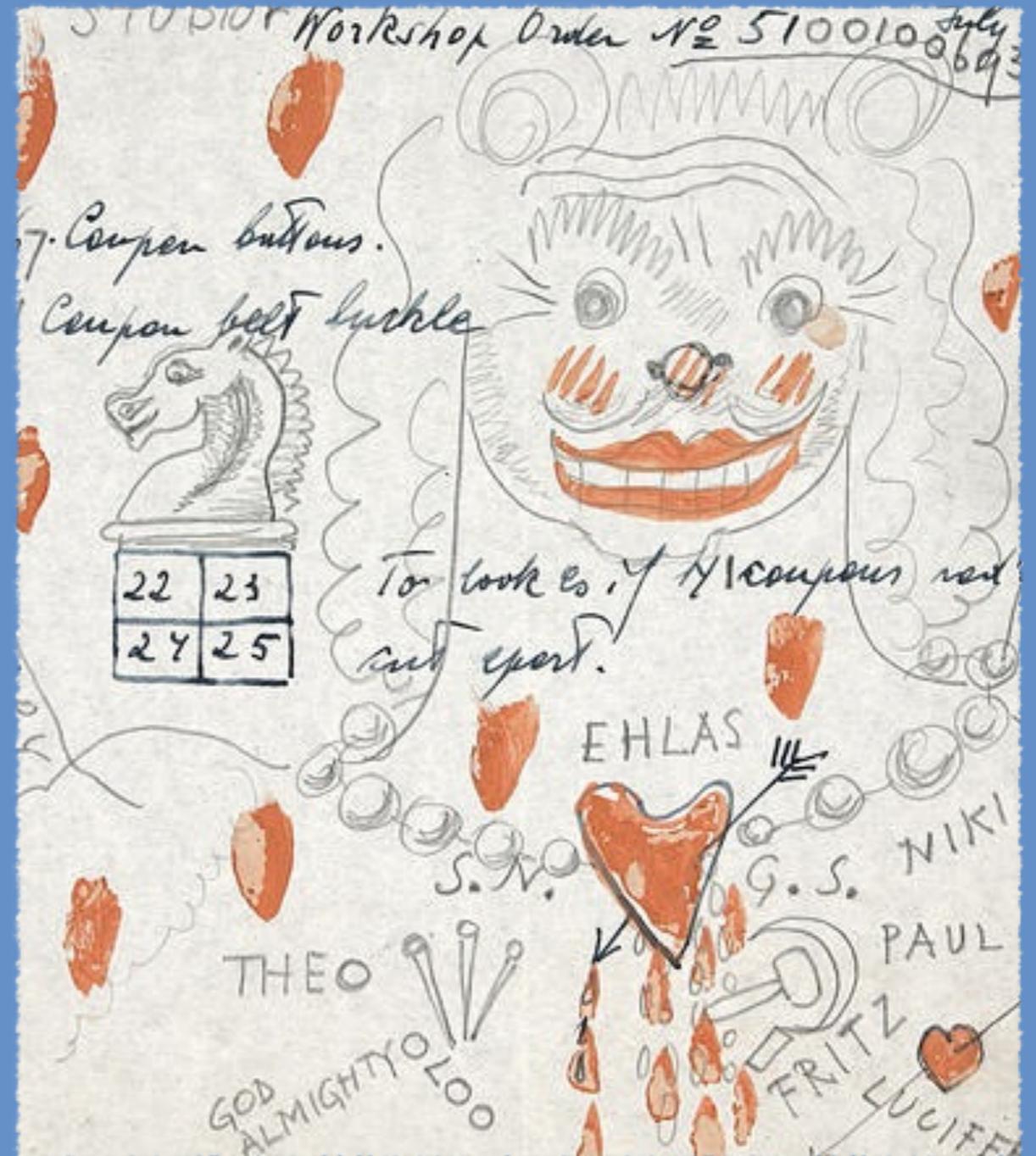


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Challenges

- defining research data
- managing research data
- institutional engagement
- infrastructure requirement
- curation
- capacity building
- service development





What is research data? Oh you mean stuff...

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What is research data? Oh you mean stuff...



17

XLVI (from XXVIII)
Hawthorn Ash 4 China Clay 2
Flint 4 20s " 2
Quartz 1 Flint 4g 1.
1929 Ch. 1. Rather dull grey. About 59 heat.

XLVII
Hawthorn Ash 4 China Clay 2
Flint 4 20s " 2
Quartz 1 Flint 4g 2
1929 Ch. 1. Very much like XLVI but slightly
lower temperature

XLVIII
Hawthorn Ash 4 China Clay 2
Flint 4 20s " 2
Quartz 1 Flint 4g 2
1929 Ch. 1. Like XLVI but slightly higher
temperature.



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What is research data? Oh you mean stuff...

'...I'm just like anyone else I've got boxes of stuff, I've got a garden shed and then I've got files, I've got electronic files and I've got physical files, I've got ring binders full of clippings, full of photographs, and I've got documents of exhibitions that I've been in, I've got catalogues of exhibitions I've been to...'

Visual Researcher, KAPTUR Environmental Analysis (2012)

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What is research data?

Researchers agree

- research data is important
- they want to share research data
- they want to document their research process but do not use any particular standard or methodology

Research data is

- tangible and intangible
- heterogeneous and infinite
- complex and complicated
- physical and digital



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Institutional engagement

Understanding

- purpose
- definitions
- funder requirements
- costs

Organisation

- institutional regulations
- contractual obligations
- policies, procedures and responsibilities

Practical

- staff and organisational change
- workload and priorities



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Institutional engagement

Each partner institution

- adopted a project sponsor
- objective of high level policy
- stakeholders identified
- established working group
- recommendations to committee
- policy approved



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Infrastructure requirement

Which technical system is most suitable for managing visual arts research data?

- selection criteria agreed
 - solution
 - storage
 - interface
 - system
 - institutional
 - additional requirements
- seventeen potential solutions identified



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Infrastructure requirement

Which technical system is most suitable for managing visual arts research data?

- scoring revealed five potential solutions
 - ePrints
 - DataFlow
 - figshare
 - fedora
 - ckan
- no solution met the requirements
- work is ongoing with partners, technology providers and funders





What do you need to consider when managing research data in the visual arts?

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Curation

What do you need to consider when managing research data in the visual arts?

- ethics, legal compliance, copyright and licensing
- naming conventions, metadata and documentation
- risks, data storage and backup
- standards and formats
- what to preserve, how and costs
- where to publish, to whom for how long and costs
- responsibilities



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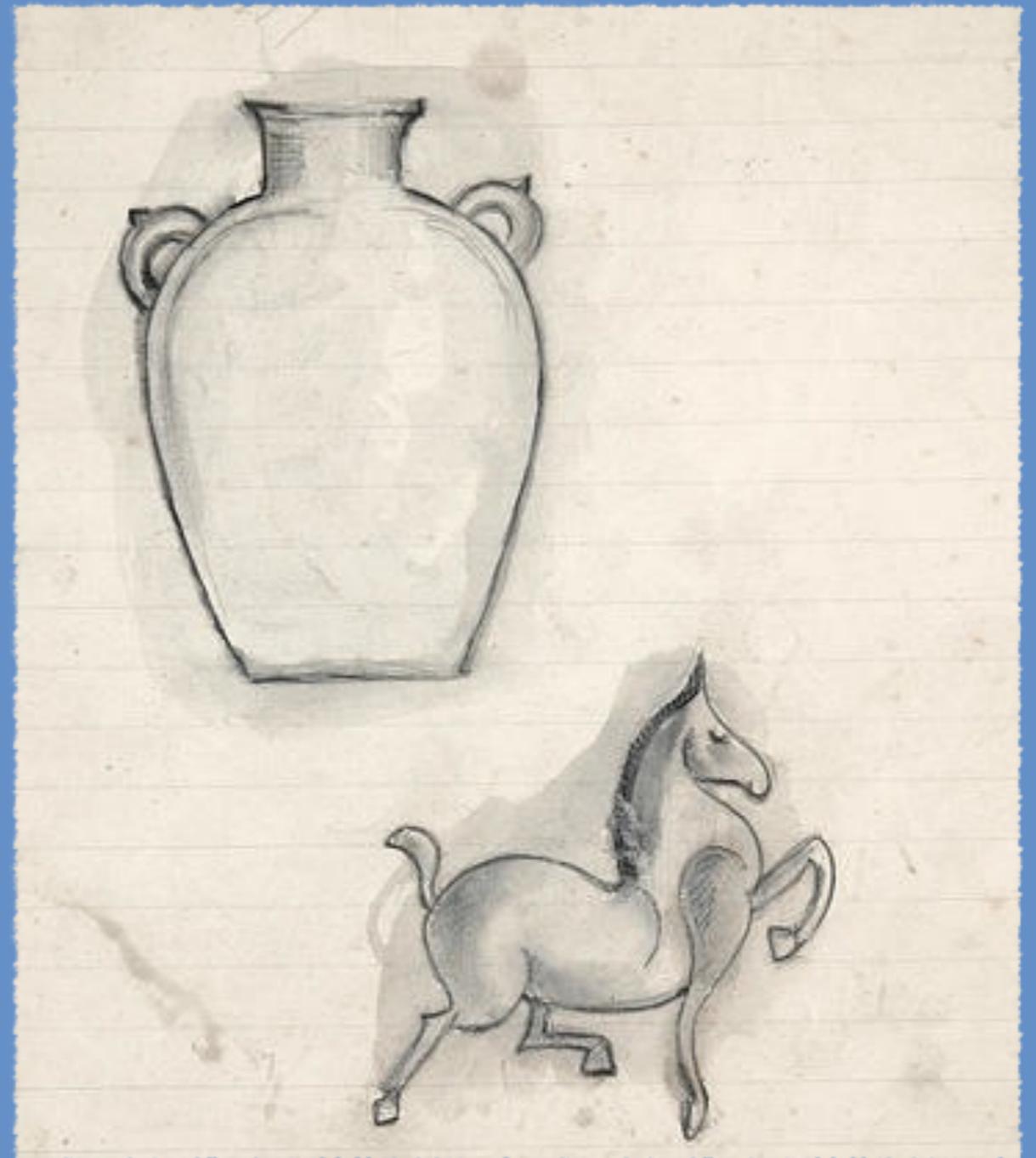
Capacity building

Changing research practice

- purpose
- terminology
- institutional perspective
- technology
- curation

Changing institutional culture

- engagement
- infrastructure
- interdependencies
- costs



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Capacity building

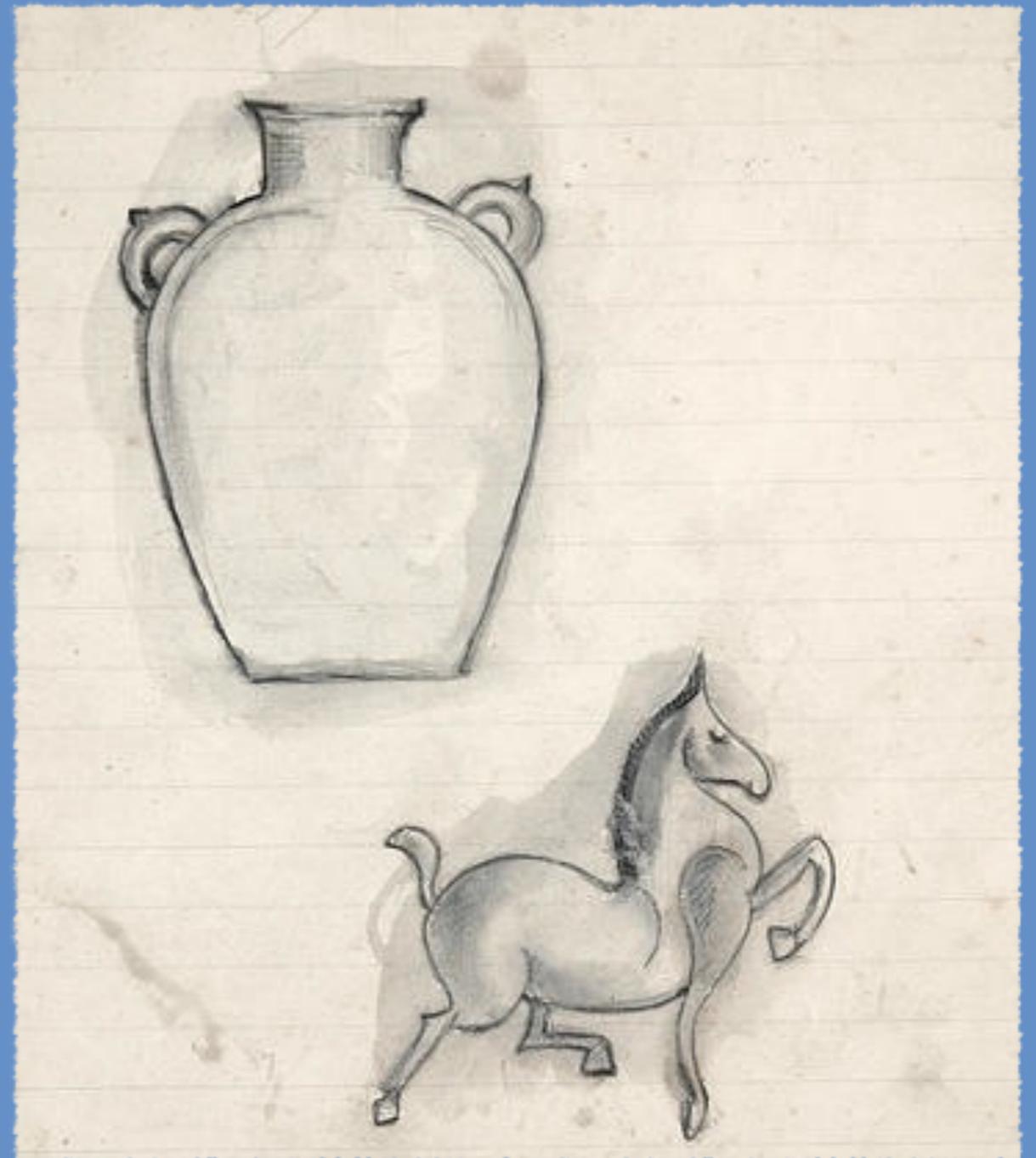
Internal dissemination

- creation of toolkits and training materials for researchers and professional support colleagues
- internal and national workshops

External dissemination

- partner case studies
- technical case study
- national and international conferences and papers

Project conference and workshops



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Service development

- leadership
- responsibilities
- engagement
- technology
- resources and costs



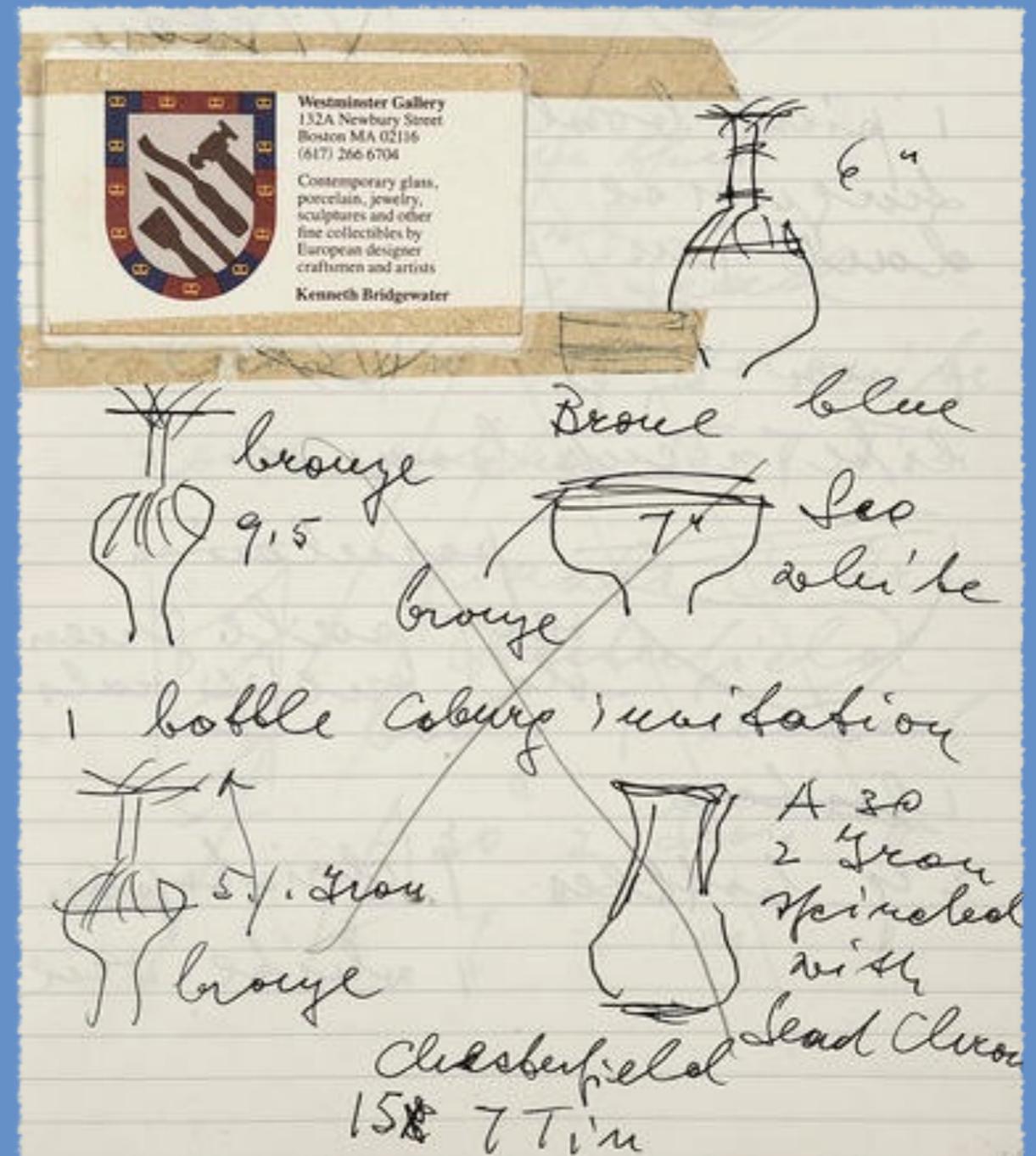
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Conclusions

Service development

- directing, developing and embedding good practice will be ongoing
- our understanding of research data and research practice is evolving
- identify an effective technical solution



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Lessons

- interdepartmental dependencies
- external collaboration
- researcher engagement
- project sponsors



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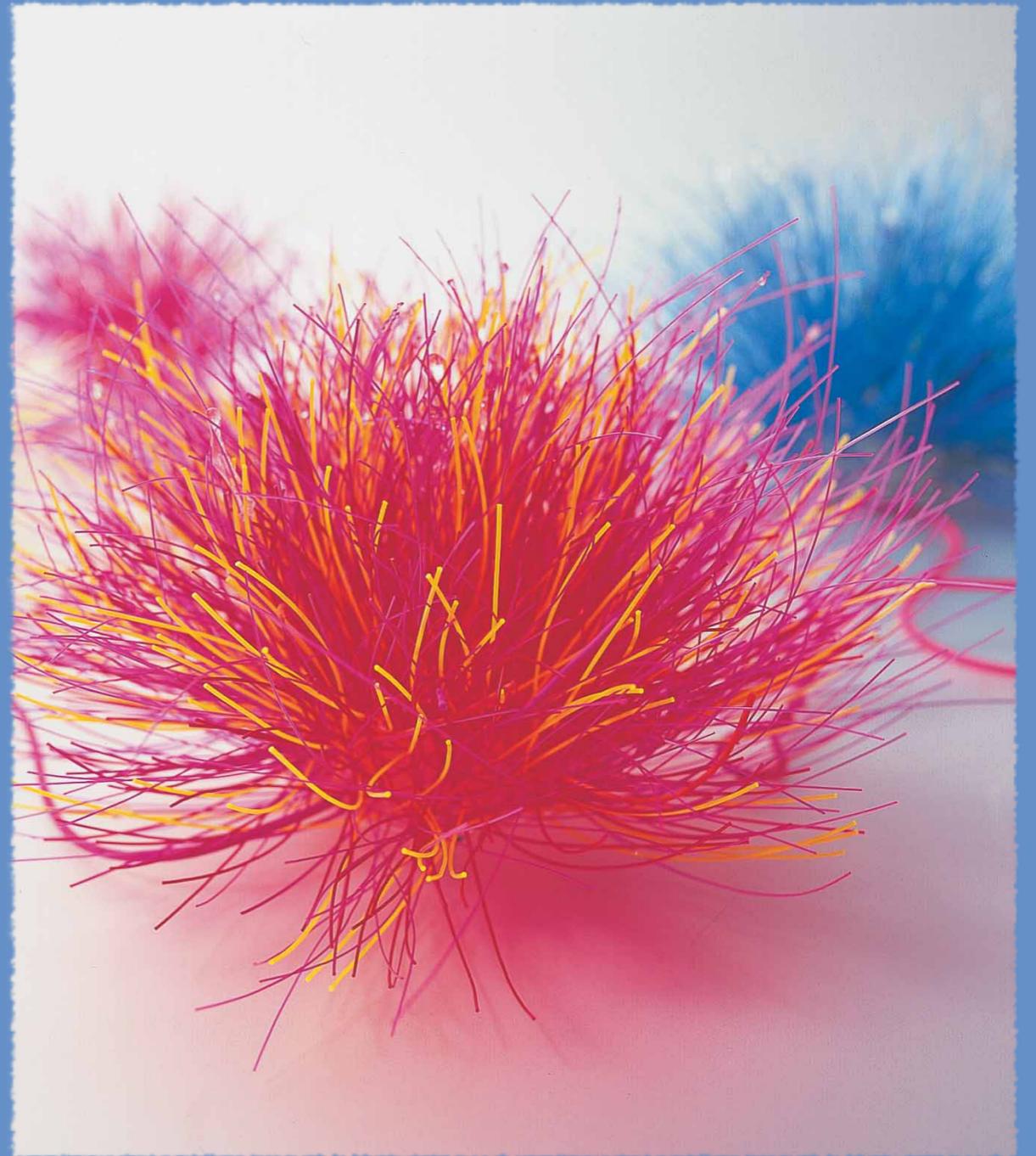
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Textiles Collection, University for the Creative Arts (1988) Tea cosy. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=31718>.



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Zandra Rhodes Digital Study Collection (1981) Zandra Rhodes. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=200470>.



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Denise Wren (1960s) 21 small tiles used to demonstrate different salt glaze tests. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=74581>.



Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr, Vice Chancellor, University for the Creative Arts.



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BA (Hons) Three Dimensional Design (2009) University for the Creative Arts.