What to do when your repository enters middle age

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Outline

- Introductions
- Our repository's mid-life crisis
  - Refining the scope
  - Focusing our work
  - Centering the repository
- Conclusion
- Q&A

CurateND

The Technology

The cutting edge (~2013)

Fedora 3

Solr 4

Sufia (pre Hyrax)

Custom ETD Workflow (Sipity)

Custom Preservation Storage (Bendo)

pre-2012: Idea conceptualized

2013: First code commit

2014: Soft-launch

2015: Oversight team

2016: First PO appointed

2017: PO leaves; another appointed

2019: Don and Mikala become co-POs

The Timeline

The Team

Two developers

Two product owners

Innumerable stakeholders

Mid-Life Crisis

Repository Scope

- Scholarly materials
  - ETDs
  - Patents
  - Datasets
- Digital Collections
  - Lantern slides
  - EAD Finding Aids
- Miscellaneous
  - “Just put it in Curate”
    - E-Resources: e.g. journals, videos

CurateND: jack of all trades

Master of none

Mid-Life Turmoil

- Limited adoption or campus awareness
- Technical debt
- Limited internal buy-in
- Limited outreach
- Organizational upheaval

HOW FORWARD?

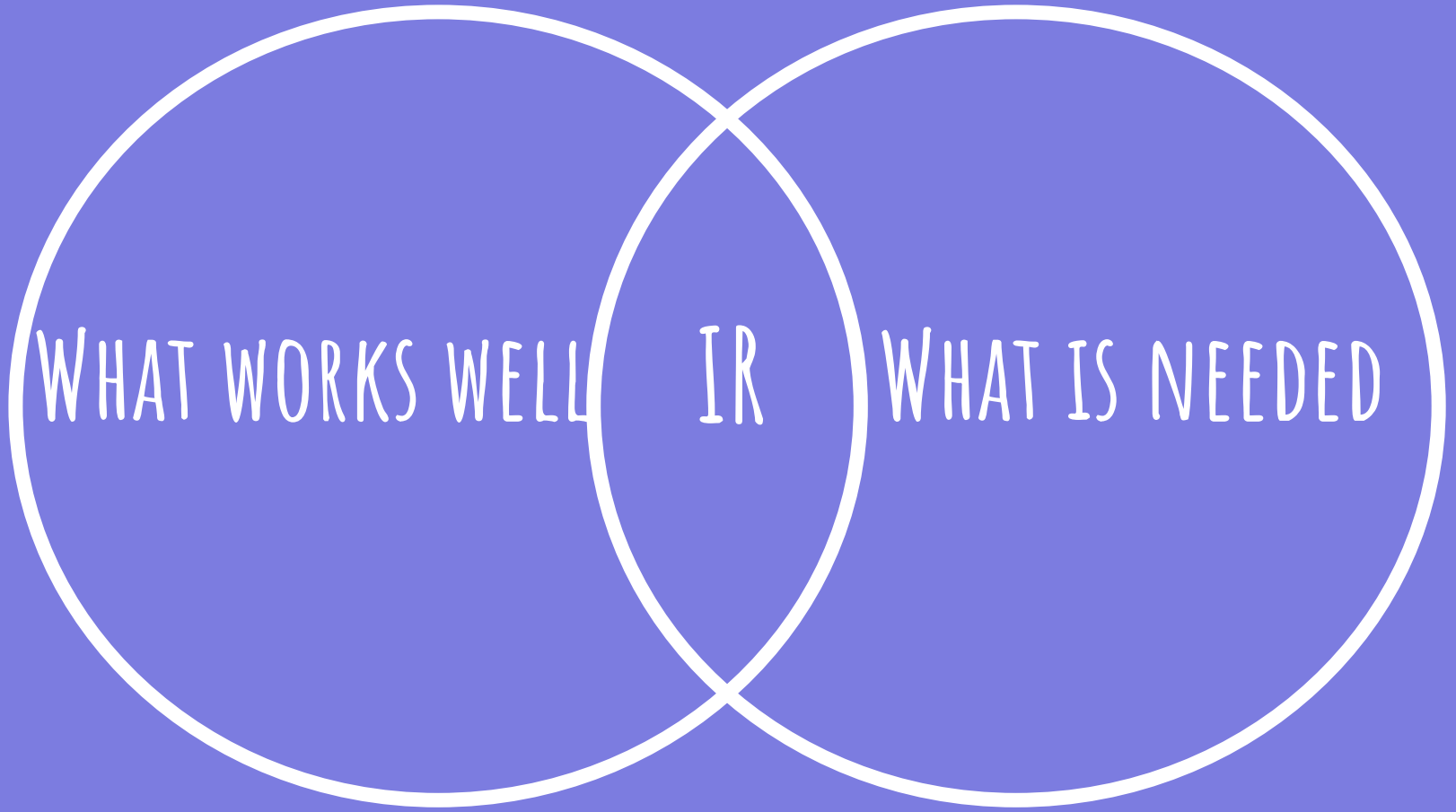
Make it useful.

Focusing our efforts

- Refined the scope
- Focused development effort
- Centered the repository

~~New and improved?~~

Old and refined


What works well
IR
What is needed

Usefulness
Everything else

- Limited staffing
- Paying technical debt

Useful > Comprehensive

Focused Development

Incremental changes

- Articulated our boundaries
- Projects with a high return on investment
- Paying down technical debt

Easier to use ->
Increased adoption ->
More resources

Centering the repository

Support network

- ~~Faculty and graduate students~~
- Outreach and marketing
- Administrative professionals
- Internal advocates and allies

Meet champions where they are

So what?

- Strong internal advocate(s)
- Mid-life crises can be an opportunity
- Use > Sunk costs
- Marketing 101

Mid-Life ~~Turmoil~~ Rebirth

THANK YOU, ND FAMILY

Questions?

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