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The Future of Libraries in  
Human Communication  
IATULCrete May 1999

# **Changing trends in national data purchasing**

**Mike Johnson, CHEST**

# 11 + years of CHEST

- 10 years of data deals
- What CHEST has done over the last 11 years
- The changes in electronic content delivery over that time
- What will happen next?

# History

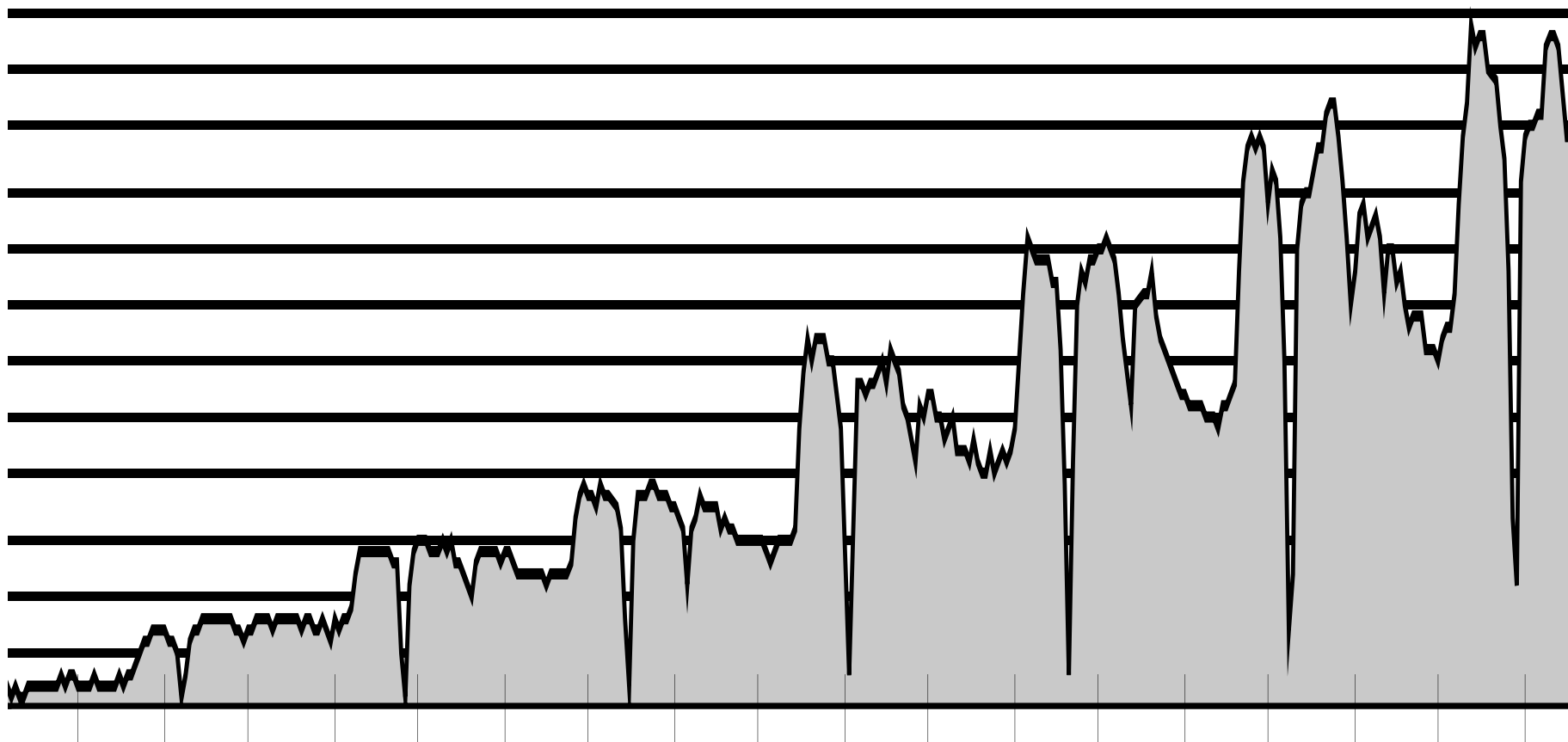
- Founded to do software deals for UK Higher Education (HE)
- First data agreement ( ISI Citation Indexes ) 1990
  - ◆ a leap of faith
  - ◆ caused the formation of BIDS
- extended into Further Education and Republic of Ireland

# Currently

- manages over 5000 licenses
- over 130 agreements, approx 40% data inc:
  - ◆ indexes
  - ◆ abstracts
  - ◆ full text
  - ◆ mapping
- 10 staff, approx 50% data

# ISI

- 1990 start of initial contract
- expected 40 institutions
- now have 120
- renewed after 4 years for a further six
- now part of the culture



# At the time ...

- no fixed price services available
- little online culture
- unfriendly interfaces
- crude networking

# Technology Changes

- the network
- the web
- the client
  - ◆ PC
  - ◆ user
  - ◆ librarian
  - ◆ server



# Content Changes

- indexes
- abstracts
- full text

# Publisher Changes

- recognize the need for electronic
- frightened by potential loss of print
- expanding titles
- reducing library budgets

# So ....

- Decision to provide the service “in house”
- fixed annual institutional fee
- unlimited usage
- tendered for data centre, BIDS chosen
- “homegrown interface” with librarian input

# Things we have got right

- Free at the point of use
- Standard licenses
- Long term contracts
- Separation of content and service
- No compulsion
- Wide base
- Access Management
- Full time staff

# **We wouldn't have done it if we had seen all the problems**

- act of faith at the time
- cost a very large amount of resources
- but it worked!

# The next act of faith?

- Integration of A&I and full text and holdings and CDROMs
- Only played round the edges so far
  - ◆ specific subject areas
  - ◆ publisher centric collections
- Someone needs to take the plunge
- Big investment needed
- Who will do it?

# CHEST

- [www.chest.ac.uk](http://www.chest.ac.uk)
- [chest@chest.ac.uk](mailto:chest@chest.ac.uk)
- [mike@chest.ac.uk](mailto:mike@chest.ac.uk)
- [www.athens.ac.uk](http://www.athens.ac.uk)