



DC-NET WP3



New services workshop

**FIND: access to information.
The needs for accessing existing
ressources, databases and content.**

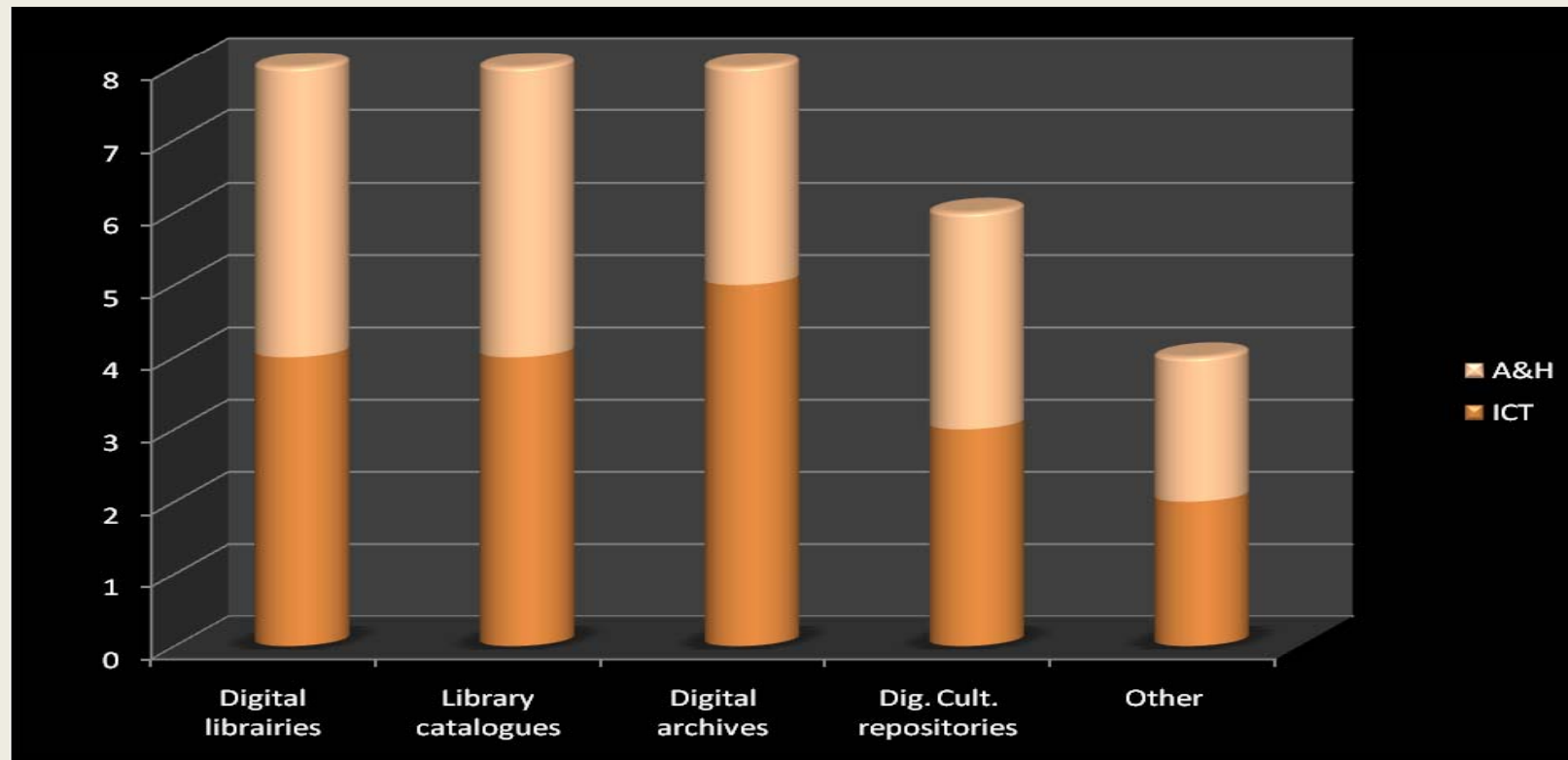
Börje JUSTRELL – RiksArkivet



A (PROVOCATIVE ?) QUESTION TO re- START THE DISCUSSION :

HAS THE CONDITIONS FOR USING E-INFRASTRUCTURE AN IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF RESEARCH ?

Providers of basic digital services



Typology of used and accessible database



Behind the figures

- Mainly external database providers (over the Internet)
- Several researchers are using a mix of external and internal database service providers
- Databases consulted through the Internet are mainly provided by public services.
- However, within the public sector, the NREN and e-infrastructure are not used broadly for database access!
- Some researchers are asking for aggregation and semantic research facilities in their specific domains of research; an audiovisual data bank would also be good to have

Behind the figures

- According to the EARNEST study, researchers have identified a need for
 - More support
 - Better sustainability of the infrastructures
 - A higher degree of virtualisation and correlation of the various tools, services and infrastructure
- There is an increase in multi-disciplinary scientific projects (involving researchers in humanities, social sciences, computer-science etc)

Questions

- Is the poor use of NREN and e-infrastructures the result of an inadequacy of the offered services compared with the needs? Or is it because
 - other existing services already cover the needs?
 - the researchers are not aware of services offered by NREN and e-infrastructure?
- Is the use of e-infrastructures a guarantee for quality of services ?



New digital services proposed

- **Centralized search tools specialized for DCH data (2D and 3D images, audio-visual items and metadata)**
- **Data base tools for aggregation and semantic search**



Best practice

- The offered service has to be defined in accordance with identified needs and avoid “over-equipment”.
- New services can result in (positive) enlargements of the researchers models, methods and tools, and also in increased multi-disciplinary involvement.
- Provided data base services has to be wide, but also accurate (attention has to be paid to specific needs, especially in the A&H domain).
- An e-Infrastructure can normally offer a more reliable data base service in terms of high capacity and sustainable connection to the Internet