



Technology trends, requirements and models for providing sustainable technological support for libraries in an evolving environment

Dr. Panagiotis Stathopoulos, Dr. N.Houssos, G.Stavrou

Presenter: Panagiotis Stathopoulos,
Head, Systems and Networks Unit
Information System Dept.

National Documentation Center (EKT/NHRF)

www.ekt.gr

Overview



- The Hellenic National Documentation Center
- 2. Libraries applications
- Technology support requirements and IT systems lifecycle
- 4. Technology trends and the library s/w ecosystem
- 5. Conclusions



The Hellenic National Documentation Centre (1/2)



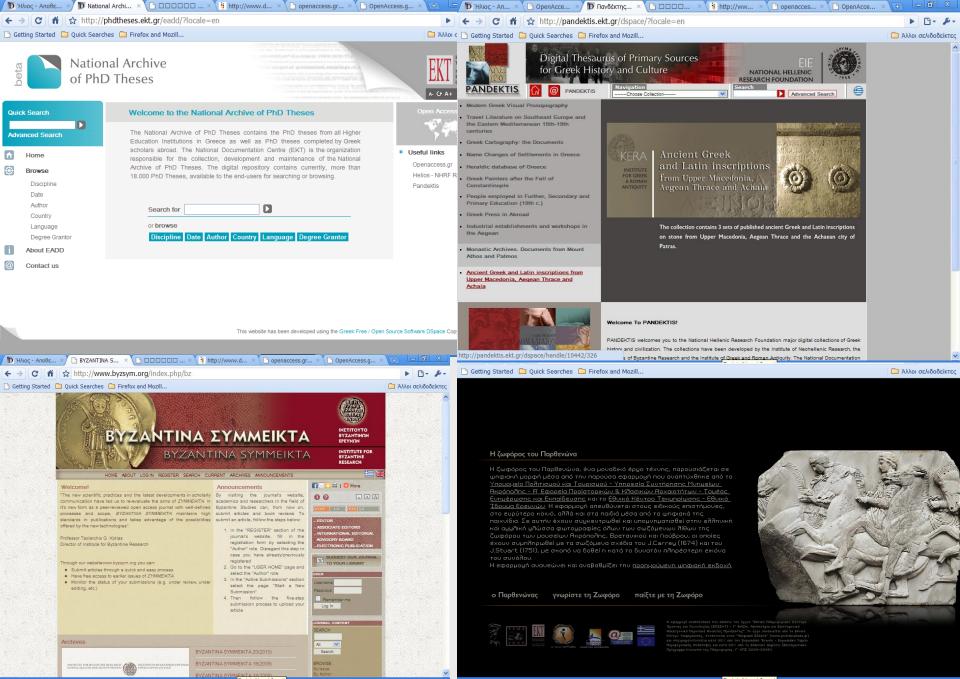
- National organisation:
 - for scientific documentation, online information and support services on research, science and technology
 - Target making knowledge accessible to everyone
 - Part of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)
 Εθνικό Ίδρυμα Ερευνών (ΕΙΕ)
- Open access advocate
 - www.openaccess.gr
 - NHRF signee of the Berlin declaration (2003)
 - www.openaire.eu, FP7 OA pilot national liaison office
- Interdisciplinary approach
 - Digital library and Information Systems
 - In-house software development expertise
 - IT Infrastructure for the delivery of large volumes of digital content using state of the art tools (OSS, virtualisation, Monitor & Control Systems)



The Hellenic National Documentation Centre (2/2)



- Repositories and catalogs
 - National Archive of PhD Theses, est. 1985, 14.000 items, 2.5M+ pages, phdtheses.ekt.gr,
 - Humanities and cultural content thematic repository, pandektis.ekt.gr
 - NHRF institutional repository (papers, technical reports, monographs), etc, helioseie.ekt.gr,
 - The parthenon frieze, www.parthenonfrieze.gr
 - DSpace implementations and extensions (e.g., DSpace plugin for Europeana), included in DRIVER, Europeana
- Six peer reviewed open access e-journals in the areas of humanities
 - Βυζαντινά Σύμμεικτα, www.byzsym.org, etc
 - Multilingual, i.e. Greek, English, French, (Russian, etc).
 - Custom peer review work flows
- Current Research Information Systems (CRIS)
 - Active participants in the development of the CERIF standard
 - Coordinator of the Enerprise Europe Network Hellas for spreading innovation
- Library automation software (ABEKT 2.200 installations),
- Union catalogs, argo.ekt.gr
- Overall
 - ~50 public web sites, >1,2M visits/year
 - ~80 physical and virtual servers, TBs of data
 - Virtualised infrastructure, management, monitoring and control 100s of services





Applications for libraries



- New and old:
 - 1. Integrated Library Systems
 - 2. Electronic Reading Rooms
 - 3. Backoffice digitisation processes and tools
 - 4. Metasearch engines
 - 5. Institutional/subject repositories
 - 6. E-Journals
 - 7. CRIS
- New applications and tools + emerging interoperability requirements (Europeana, DRIVER, OAI-MPH/ORE), will continue to emerge
- Although not applicable for all libraries it indicates the IT burden for developing, maintaining and supporting these systems
 - Could become a bottleneck
 - Sustainability issues



Εθνικό Κέντρο Τεκμηρίωσης Technological support requirements and lifecycle



- Open source has being a disruptive force but:
 - look beyond the initial purchase and installation cost
- IT systems lifecycle:
 - 1. Initial design, development, customisation
 - 2. Software maintenance and support, bug fixes, security fixes, new features requested
 - 3. System administrators, Monitor and Control Loop
 - 4. Hardware initial purchase cost, depreciation, maintenance and support
 - 5. Datacenter/computer room infrastructure,
- Lifecycle (although not costs) largely independent from closed/open source software.
 - Total Cost of Ownership for each system/service provided



Economies of scale



Reverse pyramid, some hints

- Datacenters/Computer Rooms optimised for **100s** to **1000s** servers, with virtualisation even 10Ks.
- Hardware maintenance: 1 person per 100s of servers
- System administrators/Monitor and Control Loop: 1 person per 50 100 well run servers, depends on system heterogeneity
- Software customisation: Some 0,5PM 6PM for open source customisation projects
- Design, migration planning and full roll out (apart from IT systems/applications) much harder

IT support and library

- IT costs per application have fallen however new applications are needed to cope with new requirements
- Technology support should not be a limiting factor for offering library services
- Need to provide sustainable support and not limit each libraries development possibilities
 - What are the new options?



Εθνικό Κέντρο Τεκμηρίωσης **Technology trends (1/3)**



Virtualisation

- Mature technology, allows multiple virtual machines to run over the same h/w.
- No actual performance penalty, completely uncouples the service from specific h/w
- Enchances flexibility, could lower costs, however needs higher level of technical competence and skills

Cloud computing

- The new "hot" (buzz?) term
- Disruptive in some areas, has been around for years in some other forms
 - Hosted services, Application Service Providers



- Infrastructure/Platform as a Service (laaS, PaaS)
 - Computing resources, storage over the "cloud"
 - Dispense hardware fixed and basic sysadmin costs
 - Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud, Simple Storage Service and the Rackspace Cloud, etc
 - Cost models based on CPU use, disk space, etc.
 - Cost modelling?
 - applications management/monitoring depend on the end organisation



Εθνικό Κέντρο Τεκμηρίωσης **Technology trends (3/3)**



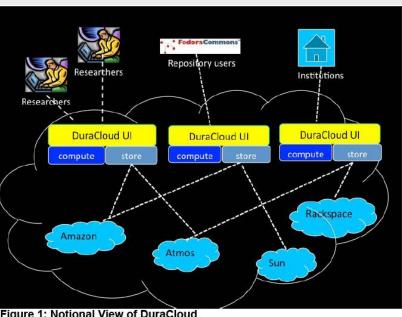
- Software as a Service (SaaS)
 - Complete solution, outsource a system
 - hardware / software maintenance
 - Monitor and Control, management
 - can resemble hosted services but usually with a lesser degree of customisation
 - Examples: docs.google.com, Microsoft Live, Adobe Connect
- Promise for cost reduction (?)
- Issues for cloud computing
 - Cost and flexibility VS control
 - Migration paths to different systems, "cloud lock-in",
 - Interoperable APIs,
 - Security (?)
 - Long term cost and availability
 - Transparency issues, closed and open source



Developments in library related s/w



- SaaS for ILS, closed and open source:
 - SirsiDynix, VTLS, etc
 - Koha and Evergreen offered with SaaS option (Liblime/Equinox)
 - Significant uptake
- Repositories:
 - Duraspace (DSpace + Fedora)
 - New DSpace to offer operation also over the "cloud"
 - Introduction of Service Providers notion
 - Already available as **Hosted Service** by various providers
- Possible worries: altering the character of OSS development model and targets
 - "Enterprise Koha Prompts Frank Conversations on Open Source" libraryjournal.com
 - Possible "conflict of interest?"





Libraries and the cloud



- PaaS/laaS/SaaS could cut costs on some libraries.
 - Could also give an immediate, easy way to offer new innovative services
- It depends on:
 - library size, expertise and intended focus/strengths
- Tool to focus to the libraries core functions and targets
- Not "a size fits all" or a solution with a generic applicability.
 - Depends on the library profile, and the accumulated experience
 - Should consider if facing IT support issues or feeling that IT capabilities is limiting their potentials
- However, cons:
 - General cloud computing issues
 - Library related issues



Prerequisites for successful adoption of Cloud technologies in the libraries



- Ensuring data portability and preservation both in laas/Paas and in Saas solutions.
- 2. Invest if a readily available open source alternatives, exist, avoid lockin. Ensures portability of not only metadata/content but of the full platform.
- 3. Built on the capability to **monitor** and **manage** the **Service Level Agreements** the service provider and the library have agreed.
- Trust issue, long term sustainability and preservation:
 - Library consortia and alliances can form or participate in SaaS and Cloud Computing technologies as an enabler for achieving economies of scale or enforce the aforementioned.
- Where libraries stand:
 - Cloud/SaaS infrastructures can assist libraries to better manage their costs
 - Since library IT systems <u>are thoroughly being built around standards and migration strategies</u>, and <u>open source solutions exist</u>, could be a viable solution for some institutions



ABEKT developments



- ABEKT, 2200 installations, large local user base on small and medium libraries.
 - An enabling tool
- New edition under initial design
 - Available as open source
 - Based on modern web interfaces
 - Modern development technologies, languages, frameworks
 - Wide support of standarws, (MARC21, UNIMARC, MODS, DC), authority databases, etc.
 - Capability to operate in standalone mode (exactly like today + operation over Linux) but also capability to operate over a cloud infrastructure/or using a SaaS model.
- Under initial internal design,
 - an intermediate version to replace ABEKT 4.0 for older setups will become available sooner

Concluding remarks



- Libraries have new applications and requirements to fulfill
- Rising IT suport costs and new tools
 - IT can be a limiting factor
- According to each library conditions/status laaS/PaaS/SaaS could be a solution
 - No generic solution, should not be feared, gives opportunities
- Key prerequisites should be met, standards, (proven) portability, preferably open source option





Ευχαριστώ!

Thank you!