



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Access to collections- an essential part of research collaborations

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The Question?

“To license or not to license that is the question”



University of Birmingham Strategy 2026



We aim to:

- ❑ Increase research awards by 10% per annum to £350m
- ❑ Secure a top 100 position in all major international rankings
- ❑ **Enhance student:staff ratios**
- ❑ **Grow our student numbers by around 11,000, many of whom will be studying overseas**
- ❑ **Recruit 1,400 additional academic and research-focused staff**
- ❑ Be among the UK's top 5 research intensive universities



The fateful meeting...where it all started



Small Steps...Big Vision



Incubator Space opened
September 2018



‘Comparable’ offering to the UK

Full Campus opening
2021/2022



The Another fateful meeting



electronic resources cost implications



Issue: Honesty is the best policy?!



Issue- University of (Not in) Birmingham?

- Singapore ~1,000 students (with two different collaborating institutions):
 - Fully registered students complete with UoB user names and passwords;
- China ~300 students (via a Joint Institute):
 - Fully registered students but *not* given UoB user names and passwords (yet);
- Plus several small UK based validation arrangements (~200 individuals).



Issue- Technology!

- Granular authentication
- Walled garden
- Access & Entitlement



Strategic Driver - Governmental

“International Education Strategy: global potential, global growth”

- “a world-class education offering, a global reputation and a strong presence in international markets”

Figure 1. UK revenue from education related exports and TNE activities

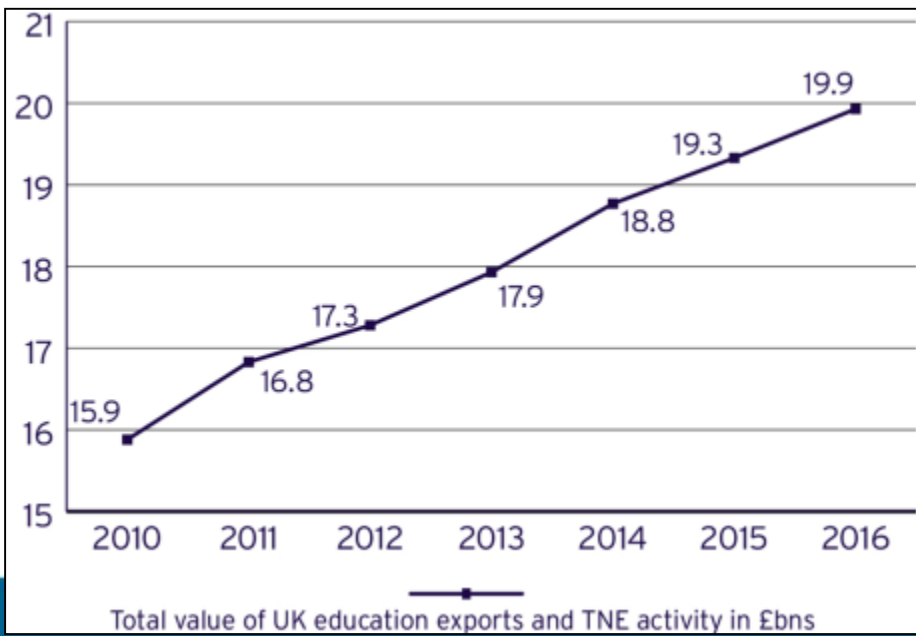
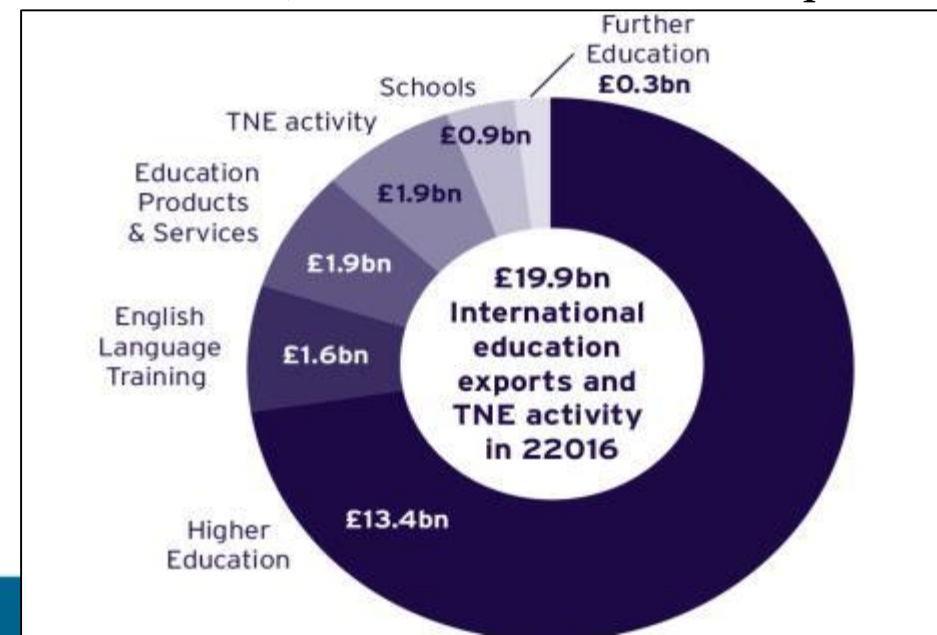


Figure 2. Share by revenue stream of education related exports and repatriated income from TNE activities, 2016 (£billions in current prices)

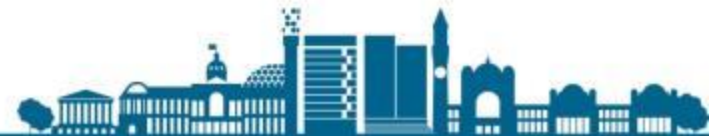


Strategic Driver - University

Strategy 2026

In 2026 the University of Birmingham will be:

- A multi-site global university with **Edgbaston** at its heart. Students will be able to study for a Birmingham degree at a number of dedicated sites, other institutions and online.

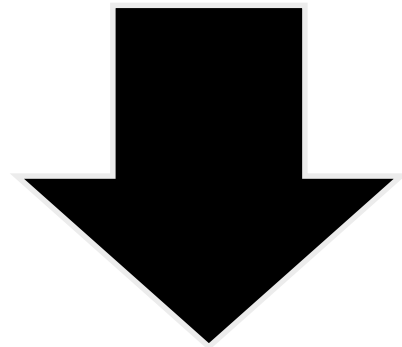


Strategic Driver – Library Sector

- Print to electronic
- Fundamental change in the basic business model: ‘ownership’ to ‘rental’
- Licensed content specifies:
 - Who can access
 - Sometimes who can’t
 - What it can/can’t be used for
 - Where it can/can’t be accessed from
- Profile spend on information resources: 85% vs 15%

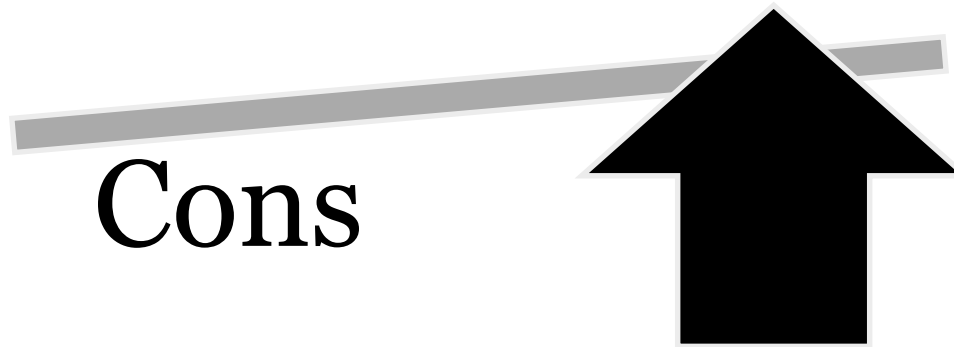


Remember the question?



Pros

“To license or not to license that is the question”



Cons



“To license”

Pro	Con
Full access to content	Reduced content availability
Future proof solution	Unknown feasibility, expense
Potential to lead sector	Significant resource
Cover all arrangements?	Preventing possible breaches
Comparable experience	Unknown expense



“Not to license”

Pro	Con
Extensive print collection	Extensive print collection
Dedicated tailored collection	Limited collection
Known costs	Significant resource
Cover all arrangements	Location specific solution
Support student experience	Unequal experience

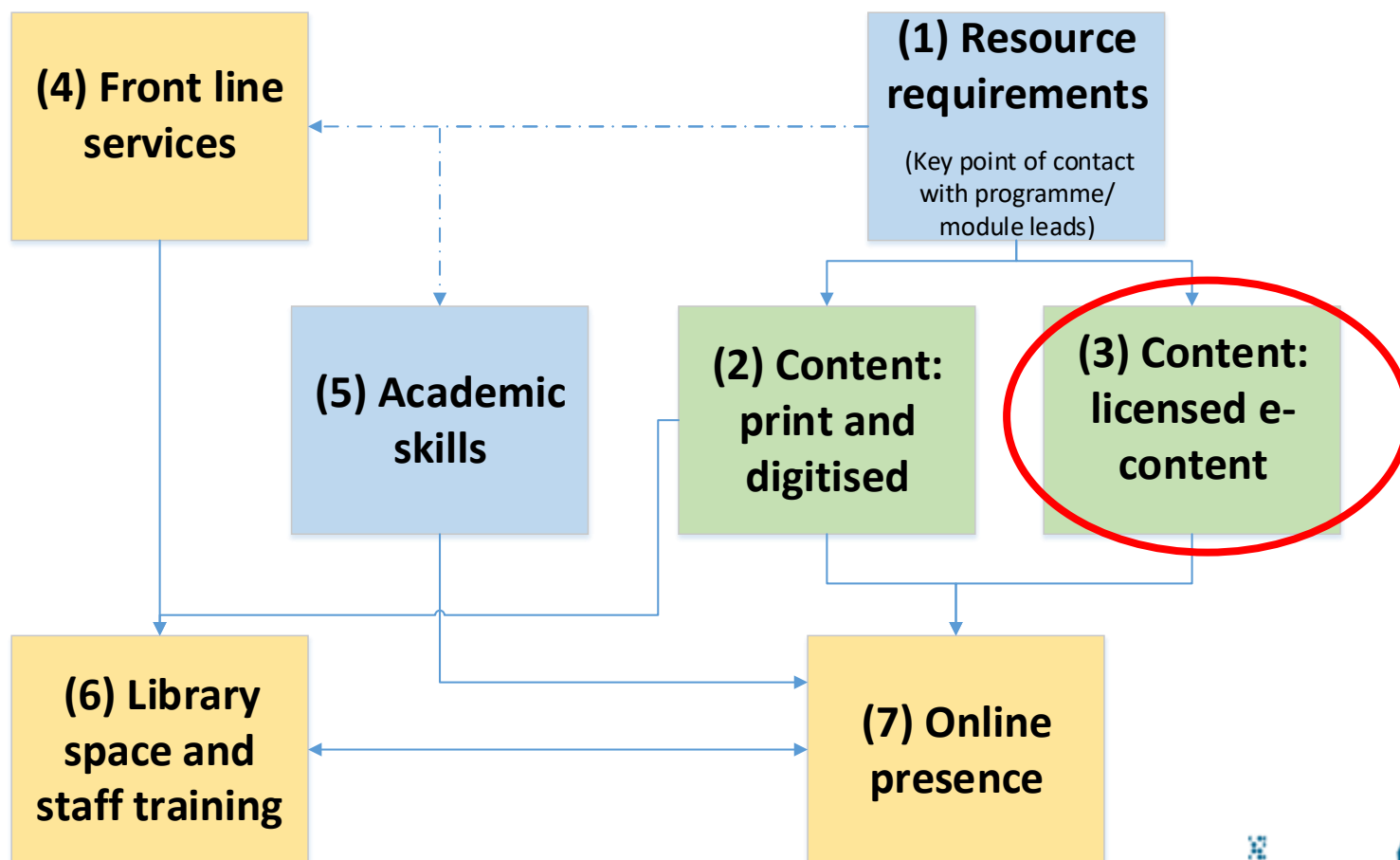


The Decision

- Fully support UoB Strategic aims and to ensure comparable student experience
 - Significant resource
 - Time/ Staff/ Money
 - Short term and long term
 - Significant challenge
 - Internally and with suppliers
 - The Risks
 - Financial/ Reputational
 - Student experience



Library Services Dubai project



The Implications

- A comprehensive licence review & renegotiation would be required.
 - All licences
 - 980 licences
 - 380 suppliers
 - £5.8 million annual spend
 - All UOB Activity
 - Full disclosure

- Futureproofing
 - One time

- Budget required
 - Staff resource
 - Financial resource



University Approval



SILENCE



University Approval





- ❑ Full scale audit of licences
- ❑ Full review of relevant terms
- ❑ Prioritised resources
- ❑ Talked to other libraries
- ❑ Got involved in sector discussions, e.g. JISC TNE Pilot
- ❑ Engaged the supply chain





Library Reach

- ❑ Committees, programme approvals
- ❑ Closer working relations with key teams
- ❑ More engagement
- ❑ More expertise
- ❑ More opportunity
- ❑ More partnerships?



Alex says – thanks!

