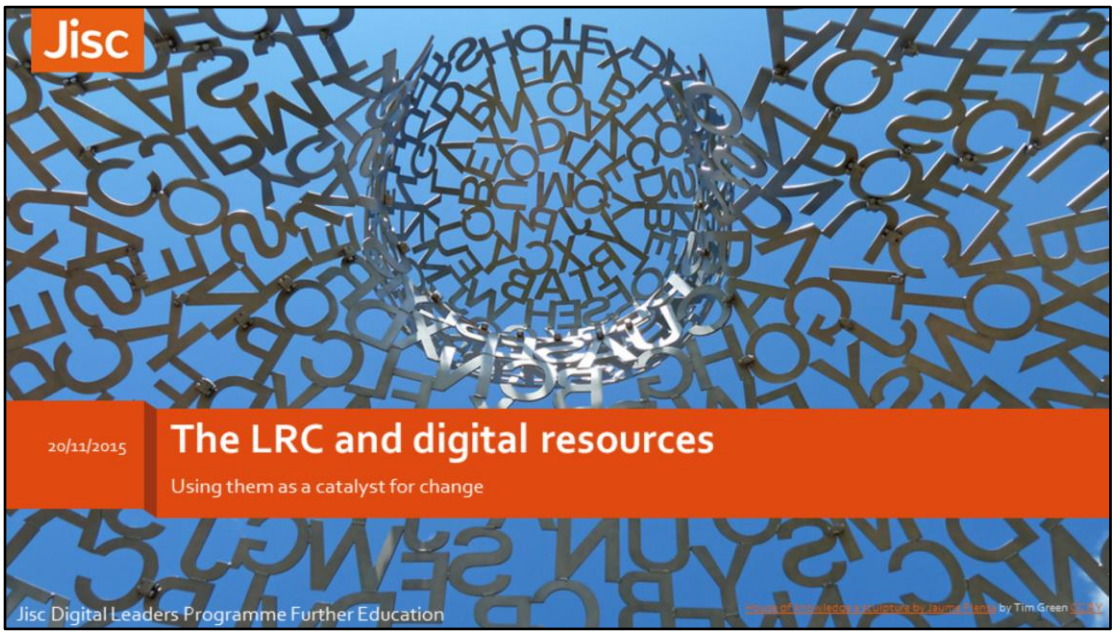
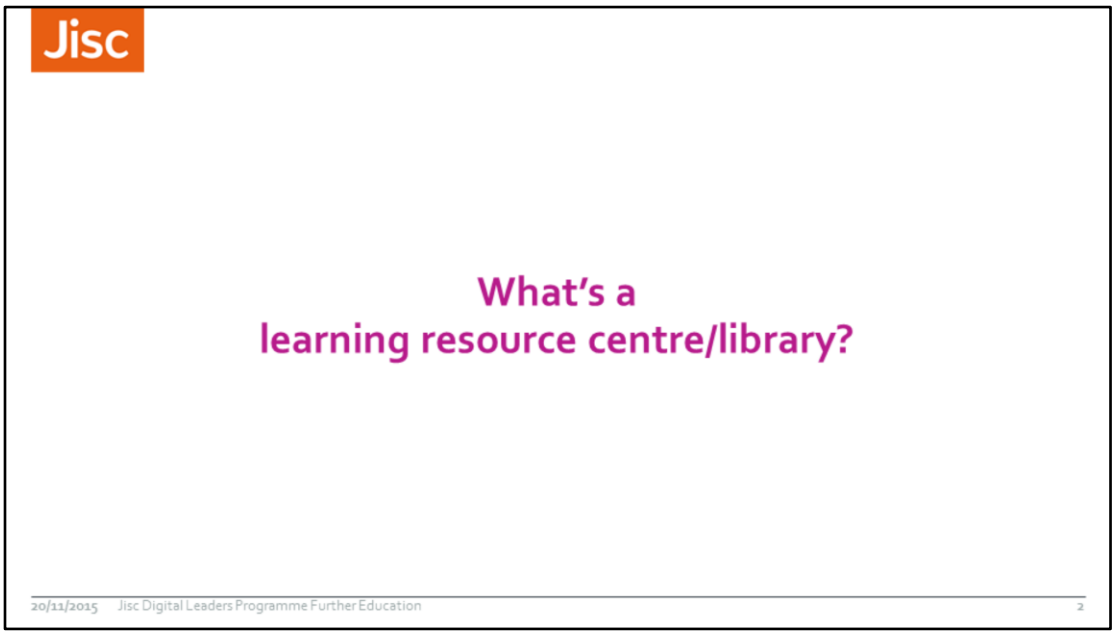


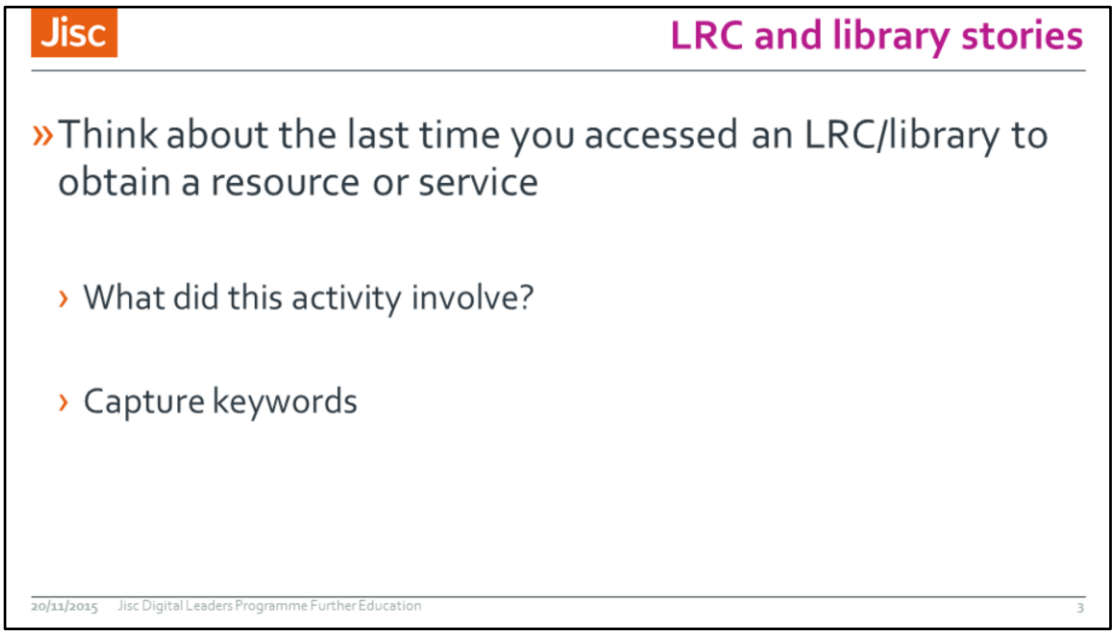

» Image entitled House of knowledge a sculpture by Jaume Plensa. It shows a view from the inside of the sculpture looking up into blue sky: Image source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/atoach/6093826210/

» The learning resource centre (LRC) and digital resources: using them as a catalyst for change.

» I've used the term LRC as this is still a very common term in FE (sometimes 'learning centre') but some of you will use the term library to mean the same thing, particularly if you serve HE learners




I'd like to begin with what might seem a rather obvious question: what's a learning resource centre or library?



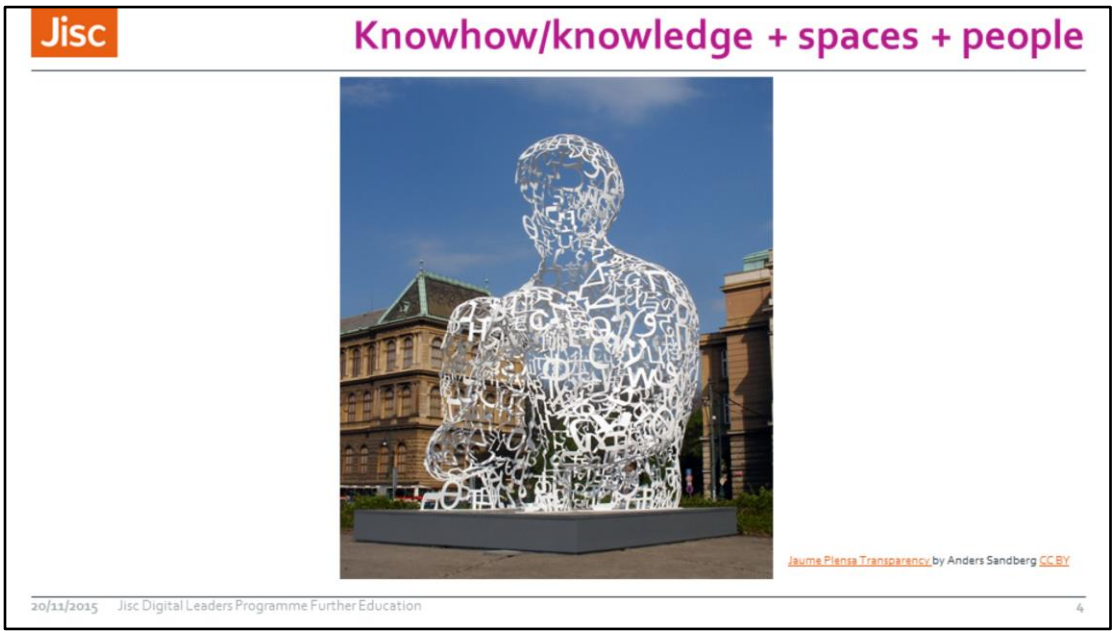

Activity in small groups:

When was the last time you accessed a library/LRC to obtain a service or resource?

- › As a student/learner or for professional reasons
- › Your own LRC or somewhere else eg university or public library
- › What did this involve?
- › Capture keywords on postits

» Report back to plenary

- › Results to be captured as digital images




» Image source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/arenamontanus/3473678750

» A library is not just a building or a collection of physical objects though these may be its most tangible signs.

» It provides a means of access to knowledge and ideas whether those are transmitted by print, digital or other formats.
» It can occupy a physical or a virtual space
» It's above all a service delivered by people for a community

» Image source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/markfaviell/5913031798

» Learning resource centres and libraries have been at the forefront of digital development for many years and many continue to lead the way:

› using technology to make processes more efficient

› supporting staff and students to be digitally literate

› Innovating with technology to do new things

» But digital development, combined with financial constraints and changes in the wider environment, present unprecedented challenges for the learning resource centre/library

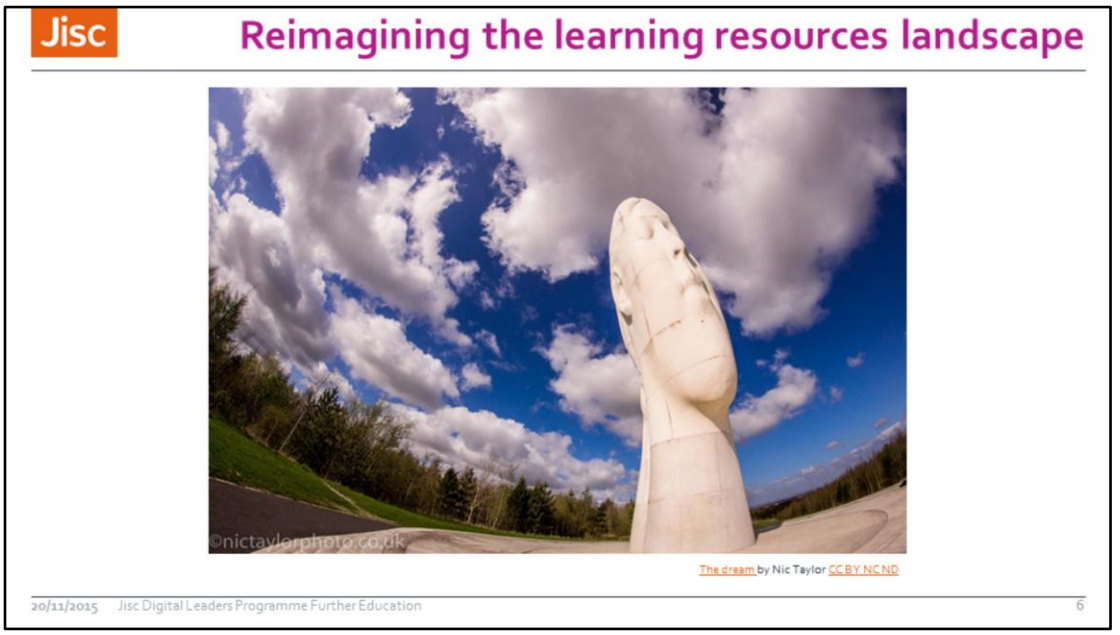
› Library or LRC in the past was to a large extent a store for a college's learning resources and provided the main routes to accessing that material.

› But if learners and staff increasingly go to Google, as recent research shows they do, the library or LRC has to reappraise its place in the ecosystem and work out the best way to focus its resources.

» The following reports are focussed on HE but will shed light on the way many staff coming in to work and teach in FE will have learned to find digital resources, habits they may pass on to their learners

Jisc report: Spotlight on the Digital: recent trends and research in scholarly discovery behaviour
http://digitisation.jiscinvolve.org/wp/files/2015/10/spotlight_literature_review_sept2015.pdf

"We love the library but we live on the web" report https://www.iii.com/sites/default/files/UK-Survey-Report-July-2015.pdf




» Image source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/n1ct4ylor/13878581644/

» In colleges the role of the library or LRC has been undergoing major change in the last couple of years.

» Often staffing and spaces have been cut and in some cases the LRC or library has ceased to exist, to all intents and purposes, a assumption sometimes being made that learners can get all they need from Google and that all textbooks are available as e-books

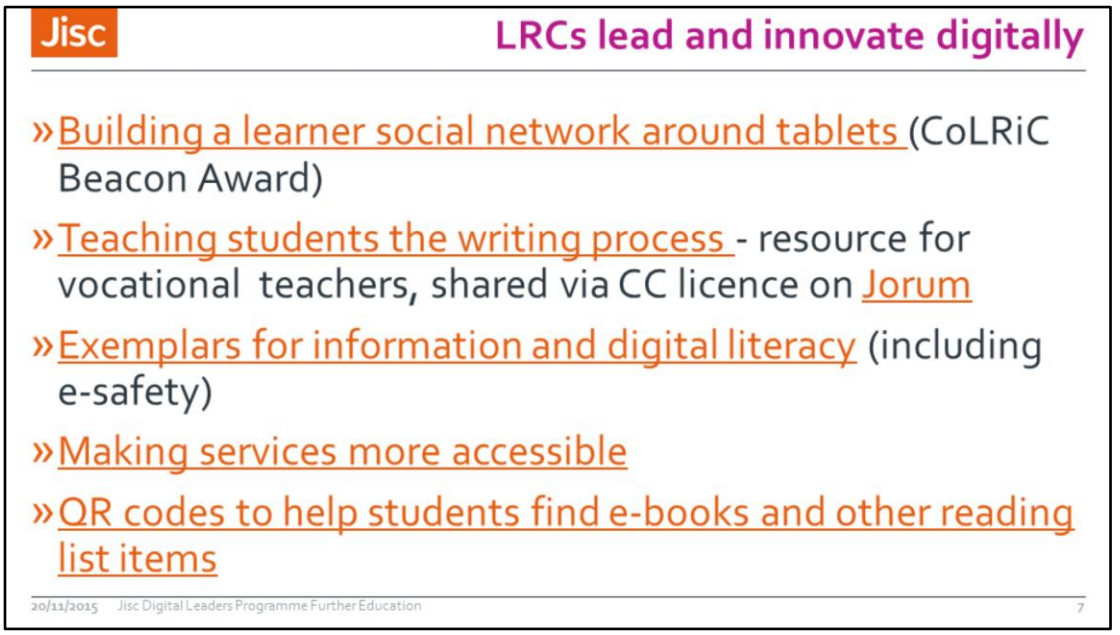
» Restructuring has sometimes been an opportunity for LRCs – it is not uncommon now for someone with a library background to be head of elearning (sometimes combined with a learning resources management role). This has given some the opportunity to take charge of change, but it also means resources are very thinly spread.

» The following while focussed on HE may give a flavour of the way the world of libraries and digital resources are changing, and may have some useful pointers for FE learning resources managers, particularly those supporting HE students

› NMC Horizon Report 2015 for Libraries http://www.nmc.org/publication/nmc-horizon-report-2015-library-edition/

› NMC commissioned strategic brief "Course apps" focussed on 'reimagining the textbook' http://cdn.nmc.org/media/2015-nmc-strategic-brief-course-apps.pdf

» Libraries of the Future – Tod Colegrove at TEDxReno http://youtu.be/RvEogHhK3ss




» Building a learner social network around introduction of tablets (Beacon Award 2014) – Northern College LRC http://www.northern.ac.uk/content/?id=197

» Teaching students the writing process - resource for vocational teachers by Hackney Community College LRC shared via CC licence on Jorum

» For updates on new developments at om Jorum following the retirement of the service in 2016, see http://www.jorum.ac.uk/retirement/. Current activities include a content audit and assessment for inclusion in Jisc's development of a new Content and App Store.

» Exemplars for information and digital literacy (including e-safety) – note St Aquinas 6th Form College – librarian led on e-safety programme leading to the library's strategies providing a lead for college elearning plan. Library now delivering a wider programme of information and digital literacy.

» Making services more accessible – Hillcroft College won a CoLRiC best practice award for their work to make their VLE easier to use by dyslexic learners by using overlays to make reading easier, and making the most of accessibility plugins. They are also creating podcasts for their FAQs and sharing their news via Twitter https://hillcroftlrc.wordpress.com/2015/07/17/audio-faqs/

» QR codes to help students find e-books and other reading list items – Coleg Sir Gar used QR codes to point learners to reading lists so it was easier to find things including e-books. It also provided a chance to talk to teaching staff and build an innovative team around the project while raising the profile of the LRC.

» Common factors in award winning LRCs:
  - » tend to have clear strategy articulated with college priorities, with strong communication and engagement plans
  - » led by needs rather than technology
  - » librarians good at sharing across organisations

» ColRiC Awards page http://www.colric.org.uk/about/colricawards.php – includes information on both the Beacon Awards and the CoLRiC best practice awards.

- How many colleges present are members of CoLRiC?
- How many support and encourage their staff to participate in professional networks like CILIP or UKSG? Access to peer networks can be a lifeline in hard times, for peer support and resource sharing but also to help see a way ahead.

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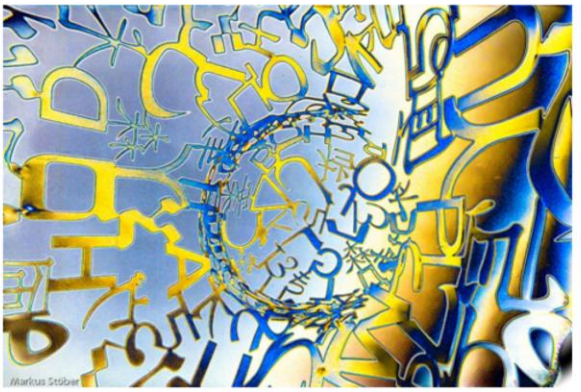
## Focus on your organisation

» How do your LRC/library and digital resources act as a **catalyst** for digital change?

» How could you capitalise on these assets to extend your digital capability?

› **catalyst** cat·a·lyst (kāt'l-ĭst) n. A substance, usually used in small amounts relative to the reactants, that modifies and increases the rate of a reaction without being consumed in the process.




Inside the "Body of Knowledge" II by Markus Stöber CC BY NC ND

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» Image source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/mcmac_70/8252017374/

Activity in small groups using flipchart/pens or postits

Results to be captured as digital images

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