



Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

School of
Computing

The RIVAL network

Network-building and the coronavirus



- **Key messages**
- **Why was RIVAL?**
- **What was RIVAL?**
- **Adapting to lockdown**
- **What did RIVAL achieve?**

Key messages

- **Building collaborative networks is possible and worthwhile**
 - If you work at it and get funding
- **It is possible to do good things under lockdown**

Why was RIVAL?

“a collaborative network of Scotland-based Library and Information Science researchers and practising library and information professionals interested in maximising the impact and value of library and information science research”

Why was RIVAL?

collaborative: participants are experts

Scotland-based:

- big enough to make differences
- small enough to cover
- condition of funding



*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

Why was RIVAL?

researchers: Edinburgh Napier, Robert Gordon, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde



Why was RIVAL?

library and information professionals

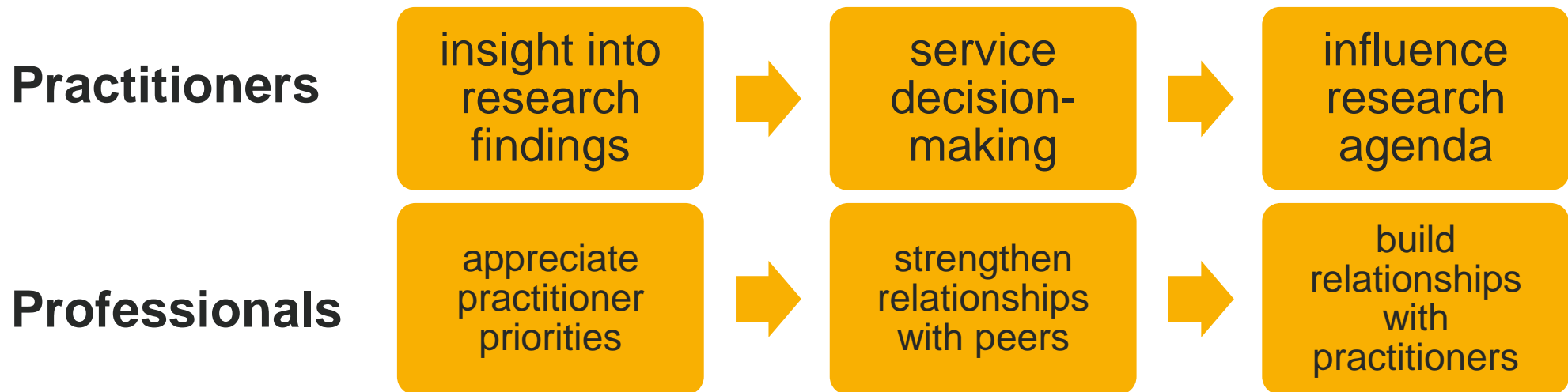


**Scotland's library
and information
professionals**

Why was RIVAL?

impact and value: why? how?

- LIS 'research-practice gap': a mutual lack of understanding between practitioners and researchers



Why was RIVAL?

Network

- Closing research-practice gap etc
- Sharing skills
- Co-creating tangible, beneficial outputs

Why was RIVAL?

Demand: 'pilot' event in summer 2018

Ability: Hazel + Bruce, DREaM

Knowledge: requirements and costs

What was RIVAL?

4 networking events

- Jul '19, Nov '19, Mar '20, Jul '20
- Events 1 to 3
 - 'research into practice' presentations
 - ice-breakers
 - unconferencing
 - planning for event 4
- Event 4: whatever the network wanted

What was RIVAL?

Foundations and recruitment

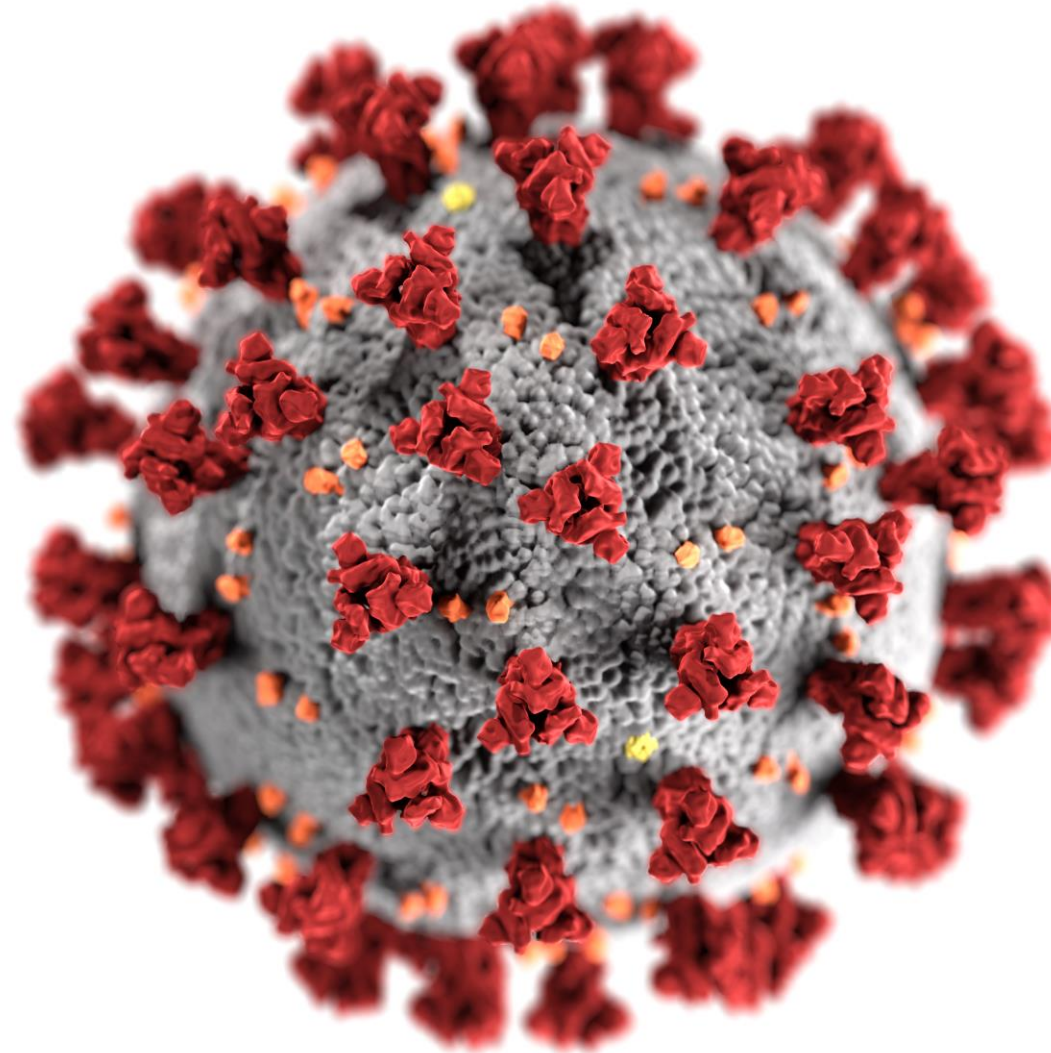
- Previous experience: DREaM
- RIVAL board
- Pilot event
- Publicity: EDGE and EBLIP conferences, personal networks
- Event 1 = taster, commit to events 2-4
- Key speakers
- Free to attend
- Website and twitter

What was RIVAL?

Collaboration and co-creation

- Group-work on ideas for event 4
 - ‘We want to make tangible outputs’ ...
 - ... and they will be...
- Self-selected teams and co-ordinators, with Napier facilitators

Adapting to lockdown



Adapting to lockdown

- Pessimism and optimism
 - Delay until ready
 - Online life exists already



Personal

- 1 my wife's personal blog
- 2 my blog
- 3 some family stuff
- 4 music
- 5 fuel (soya latte, diet Irn Bru and e-fags)

Professional

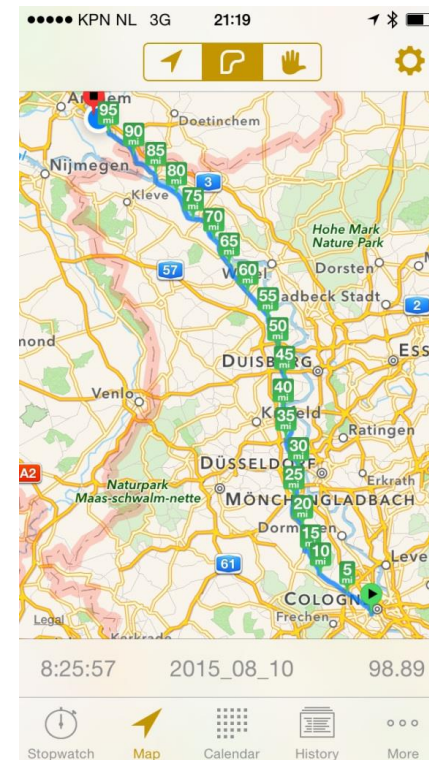
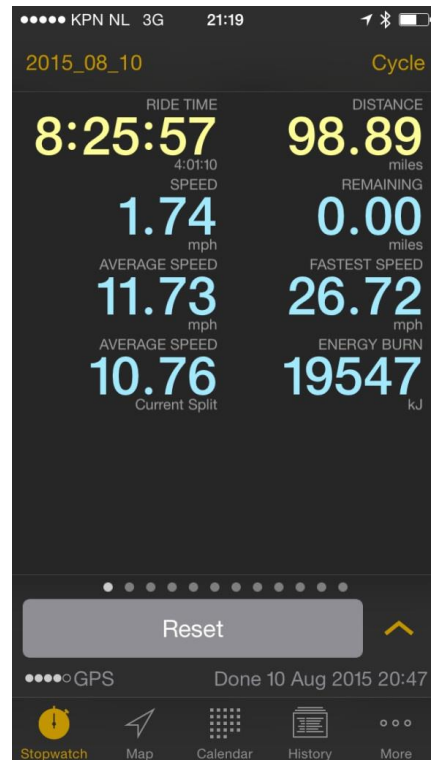
- 6 RIVAL task-list
(Excel on Napier PC via VPN)
- 7 talking with colleagues via MS Teams
- 8 quick notes

Community

- 9 community council websites
- 10 LeithChooses website

Adapting to lockdown

- Online even when we're offline



Adapting to lockdown

- Learn from others – and get confidence

asis&t

Pretoria
28 Sept- 2 Oct 2020
South Africa
2020 ISIC
The Information Behaviour Conference

INFORMATIONSKOMPETENZ UND DEMOKRATIE

Weg zur Informationskompetenz und digitaler Teilhabe in der digitalen Welt

CILIPS

Scotland's library
and information
professionals



Adapting to lockdown

- Accept there are risks
- Be nice to ourselves and others
- Delegate
- Practice and prepare
- Adapt your programme
- Use channels
- Ice-breakers
- Be seen to have fun

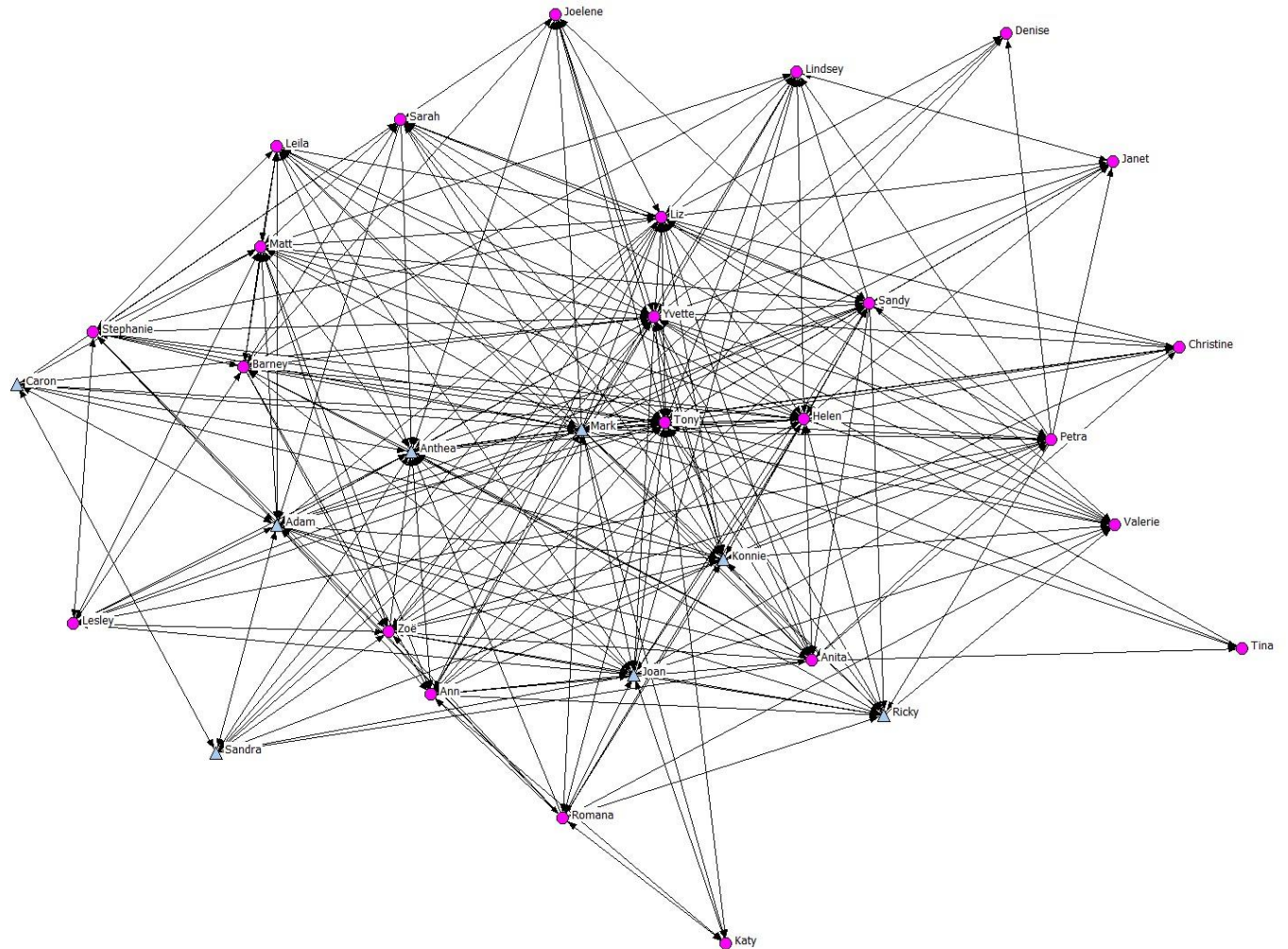
What did RIVAL achieve?

- **Outputs**

Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hazel Hall: introduction (slides & video) 2. Sarah Morton: Keynote 'Getting research into action: issues, challenges, solutions' (slides & video) 3. Martina McChrystal: presentation 'Scotland's school library strategy: advocacy and impact' (slides & video) 4. Hazel Hall: review of round table discussions (slides & video) 5. Panel discussion (slides & video) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hazel Hall: Introduction to the day: (slides & video) 2. David Stewart: Keynote: 'Catalysing research into practice from the ground up' (slides & video) 3. Hazel Hall and Bruce Ryan: RIVAL members map and big business card (slides & video) 4. Interactive map of RIVAL network membership 5. RIVAL big business card: contact details of all network members 6. Network members' news (video) 7. Hazel Hall and Sean McNamara: Research into practice 1 – CILIP/ARA Workforce mapping project (slides & video) 8. Hazel Hall: network planning for event 4 (video) 9. Diane Pennington and Laura Cagnazzo: Research into Practice 2 – 'Library linked data implementations and perceptions: implications for practice' (slides & video) 10. Andy Taylor: closing remarks (video) 11. Directory of network members 12. Network members skills and interests 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bruce Ryan: 'From despair to where? Some lessons from lockdown' (blog post) 2. Leo Appleton: Keynote: 'Public library services and citizenship: a longitudinal analysis of roles, impact, and value' (slides with audio) 3. Paul Gooding and Frankie Wilson: Research into Practice 3 – 'Digital library futures: the impact of e-legal deposit in the academic sector' (slides with video) 4. Konstantina Martzoukou and Simon Burnett: Research into Practice 4 – 'Syrian new Scots' information literacy way-finding practices' (slides with audio) 5. Hayley Lockerbie: 'Turning school library provision digital and return to school in times of COVID19' (video) 6. Scottish university departments which undertake LIS research (posters): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh • Edinburgh Napier • Glasgow • Robert Gordon • Strathclyde 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team A: RIVAL event 5 2. Team B: Article in Information Professionals 3. Team C: funding bid 4. Team D: evaluation report

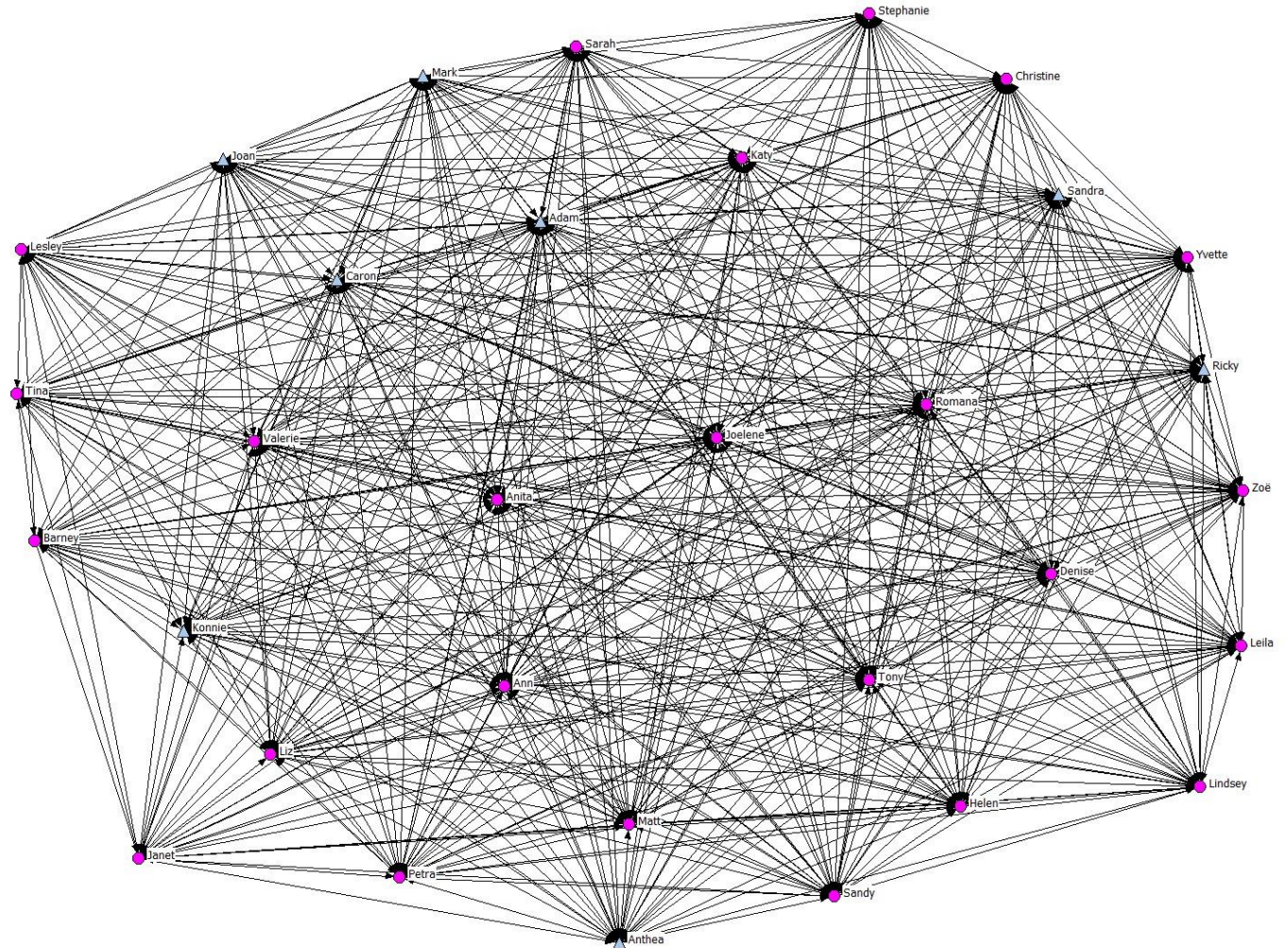
What did RIVAL achieve?

- A network



What did RIVAL achieve?

- A network



What did RIVAL achieve?

I suspect that for some participants engagement in the RIVAL network sessions is quite wide but not that deep. So, the network has been useful for lesson learning, building contacts and knowledge across research and evaluation themes but after 6 sessions, many online, it will not have impacted on behaviour to a major extent.

What did RIVAL achieve?

- development of *existing* connections
- creation of *sectoral sub-networks* to discuss specific work challenges
- value of participation in a *Scotland-wide* initiative
- the diversity of the network
 - profile of network members
 - research topics covered

What did RIVAL achieve?

- New and strengthened relationships

Academics & practitioners

- created new: YES
- strengthened existing: YES

Practitioners

- created new: YES
- strengthened existing: YES

Academics

- created new: NOT PROVEN
- strengthened existing: NOT PROVEN

What did RIVAL achieve?

- increased self-belief and confidence
 - beliefs in attaining their professional goals as **research users**
 - beliefs in attaining their professional goals as **research partners**
 - confidence in other ways as **research users**
 - confidence in other ways as **research partners**

What did RIVAL achieve?

- Practitioners can already integrate learning into their practices...
 - ... or plan to do so.
- Academics can already incorporate research ideas expressed by practitioner members

What did RIVAL achieve?

- A model for other areas of research/professional expertise (e.g. nursing, social work, policing)
- Success despite the pandemic...
 - ... but it did have some negative effects

What did RIVAL achieve?

It is a real shame that the network was forced to take a hiatus, and that we weren't able to have further face to face meeting. In general the pandemic has really reinforced to me how important in-person meetings can be, and inevitably their lack had an impact. However, I have absolutely no criticisms about how [the RIVAL team] managed the post-lockdown events, which I thought were fantastic in the circumstances

Key messages

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Thank you!

napier.ac.uk/soc

