A unified Library Management System for NHS Scotland

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NHS Scotland library landscape

- 14 geographical Health Boards

- Special Health Boards, e.g. NHS 24, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), providing national services

- Approx. 80 library sites

- Some services contained with University systems / catalogues (e.g. Dundee, Edinburgh)

ULMS feasibility study

Questionnaires returned in 2003 reflected:

- The diversity of library systems, policy frameworks, funding streams, and management arrangements

- Some library services still using card catalogues or local Access databases

- Few online catalogues due to NHS network restrictions

- Lack of cataloguing standards (no AACR2, no MARC)

- Lack of prioritised IT support

- Cost of ILLs from the British Library

ULMS for NHS Scotland

Benefits to include:

- Creation of a networked Scottish Health Information Environment

- Equity of provision via centrally-funded, centrally-supported system

- Linking with eLibrary – http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk

- Cost savings on maintenance and system development

- Collaborative practice and professional staff development

- Management information – stock control, budget tracking

- Raises NHS systems to the level of HE and national research libraries

Unified systems approach

Current single-system projects include:

- NHS South West – four Strategic Health Authorities
  Devon & Cornwall
  Dorset & Somerset
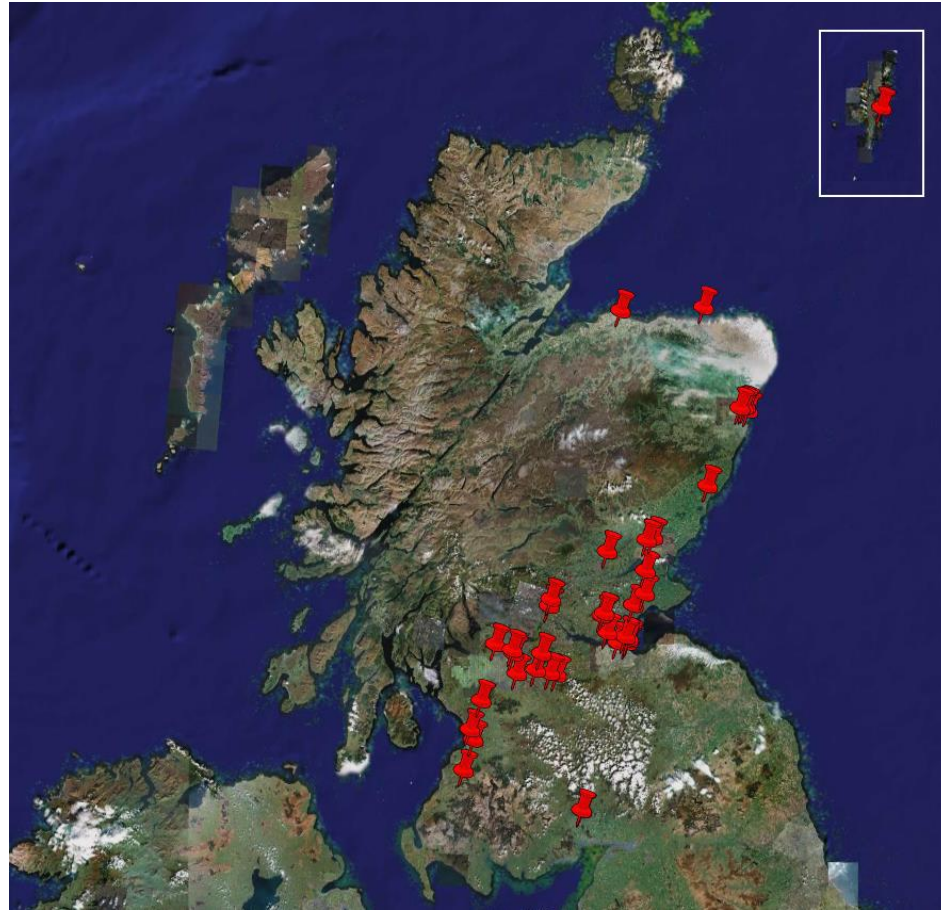 Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire
  Hampshire & the Isle of Wight

- Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust
  UHCW Acute
  Coventry PCT
  South Warwickshire PCT
  Warwick Acute
  Myton Hospice

Phase 1 implementation scope

- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- NHS Dumfries & Galloway
- NHS Fife
- NHS Forth Valley
- NHS Grampian
- NHS Lanarkshire
- NHS Shetland
- NHS Tayside

- Vale of Leven Hospital
- NHS 24
- Health Management Library
- NHS QIS
- NHS SIGN
- ISD Library Services
- Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association
- Dementia Services Development Centre

43 library sites; 60% of total in NHS Scotland

Implementation map

The decision

The ULMS Working Group recommended the purchase of the **Aleph** library management system from **Ex Libris**. Deciding factors included:

- Online resource booking for Health Promotion services

- Unique Z-targets at multiple levels, e.g.
    - all libraries
    - specific Health Board
    - specific library within a Board
    - specific library collection
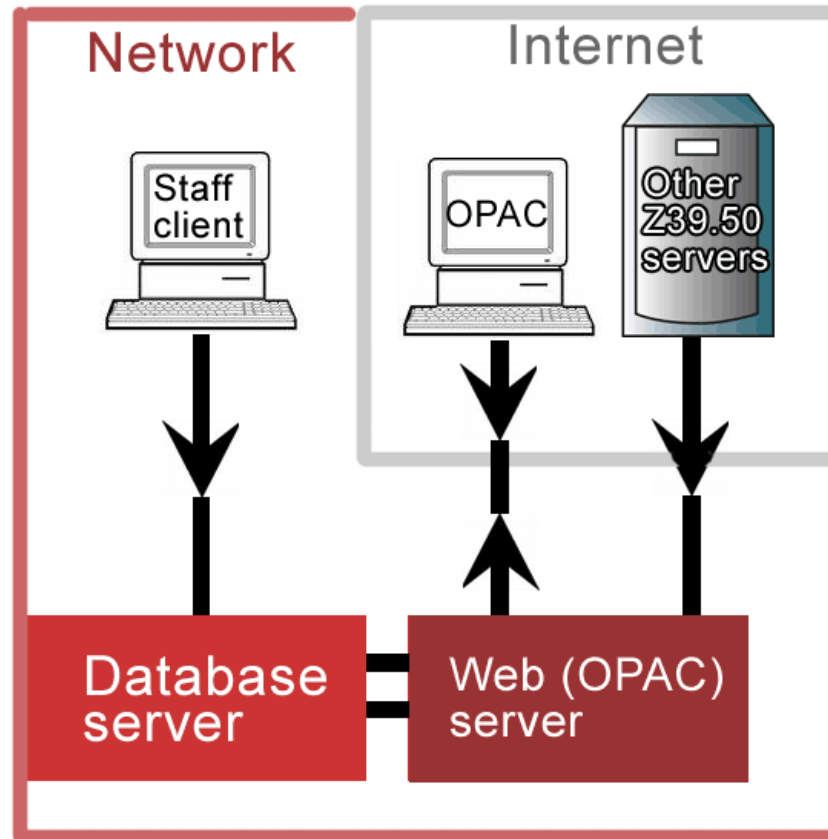   - specific material type within a collection

    thus allowing external partners to specify which elements of the union catalogue they wish to cross-search

- High quality MARC cataloguing interface

- New ILL module for the automated management of intra-library loans between Health Boards

- Self-issue functionality integrated into the OPAC: essential for 24-hour access to hospital libraries

- High profile customers including The British Library, BMA, Dundee / Napier / Aberdeen universities
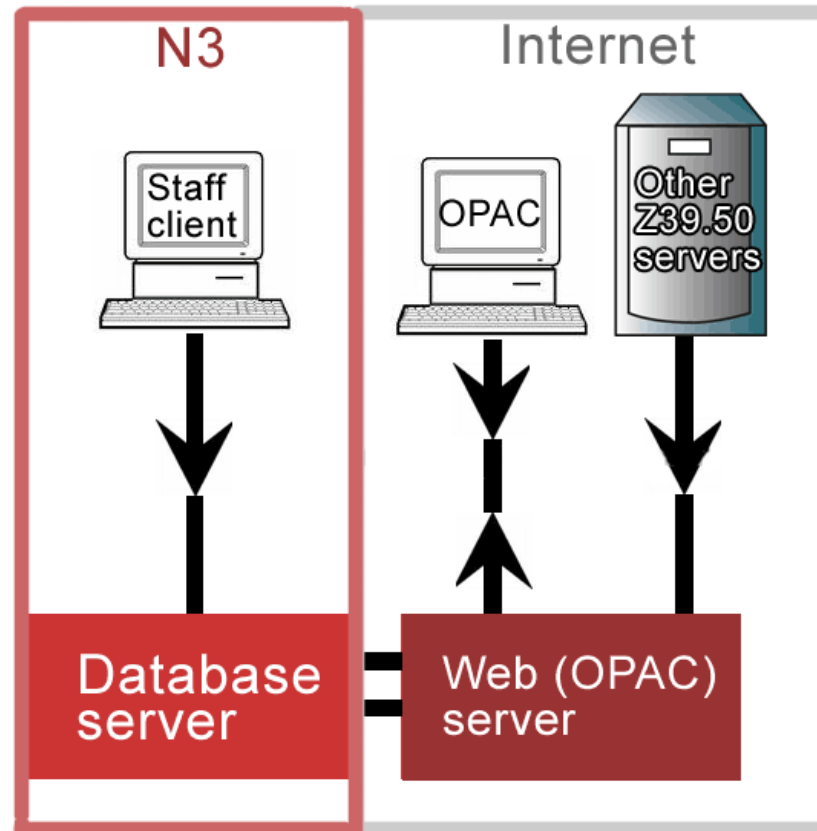
NHS network issues

- As mentioned previously, the high-level security of the UK-wide NHS network **N3** (with a national firewall managed by BT) has been the primary block to library system development within the NHS.

- Hosting of the Aleph servers was contracted to Atos Origin, an NHS Scotland partner company with a link into **N3**.
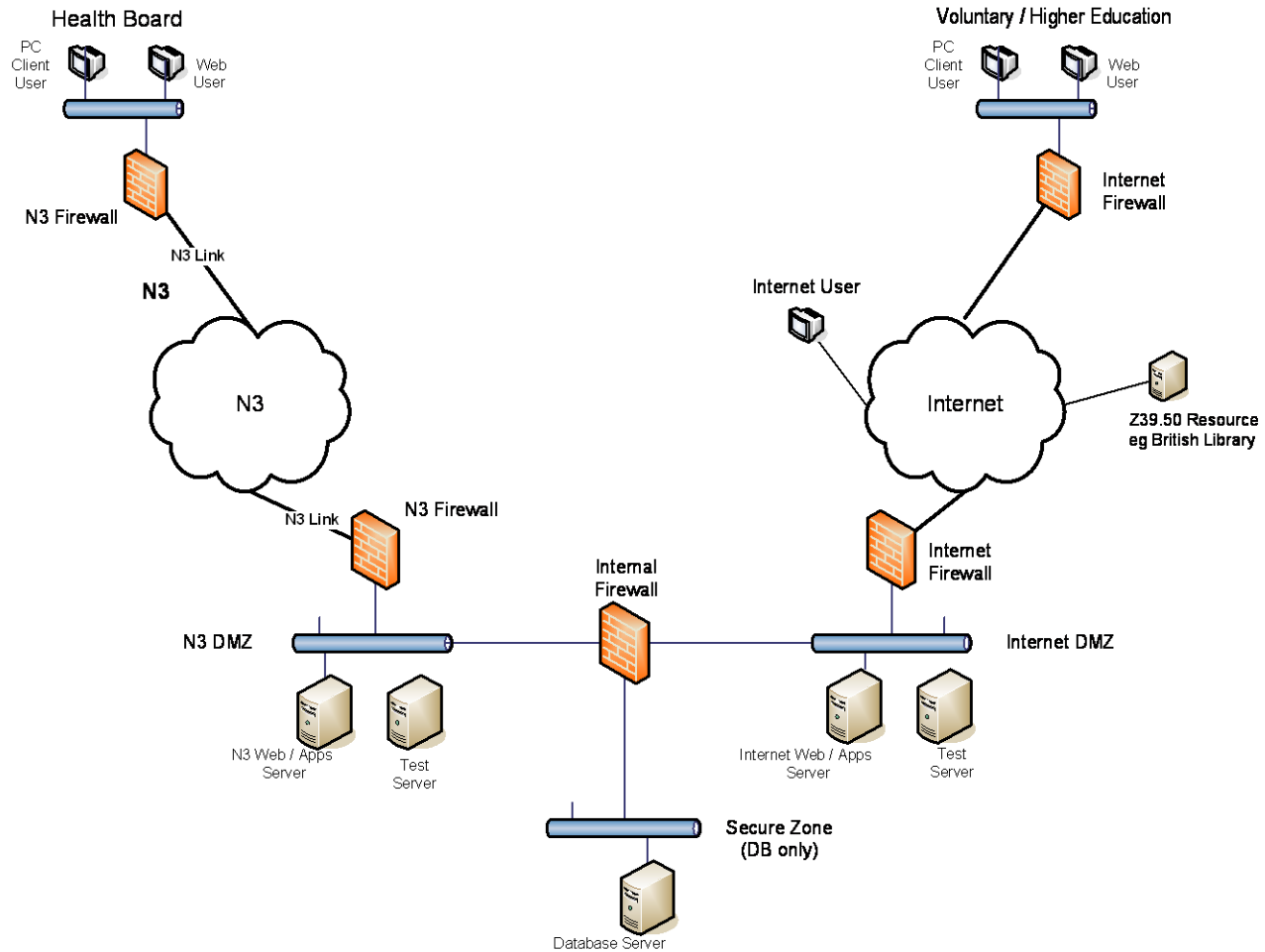
Standard architecture

NHS problem
no incoming traffic allowed from the Internet

The solution

Associated work

- **Barcoding**

From July 2006 to March 2007, NES employed six library students via job agencies to (re-)barcode all book stock at the 40+ sites around the country.

A single database requires a unique identifier for each item.

- **MARC training**

All staff will complete a beginner's course in AACR2 and MARC 21 (created in-house) before cataloguing training begins on Aleph

Online catalogue branding

Library staff were asked to propose a name for the online union catalogue, with the majority of votes going to …

Shelcat – **S**cottish **He**alth **L**ibraries **Cat**alogue

SHELCAT

www.shelcat.org

Live …

late Feb/ early March 2008

… with Phase 2 implementations expected in 2009, for other NHS Scotland and partner services wishing to join the system.

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