

School & Community

FACHRS School Log Books Project



Introduction

Hypothesis: that school log books are an understated primary source when identifying life and events within a community

- Record community events that impacted the school
- School/Education policy that impacted the community
- People information

Introduction (cont...)

- The concept was discussed at conference 2008
- A pilot study launched in the autumn of 2008.
- The project has been publicised on the Society web site
- Now is the outcome of the pilot study.

The Pilot Study

Outcomes of the pilot study to test the data collection process that used Microsoft Access™ to record data from school log books

Challenges

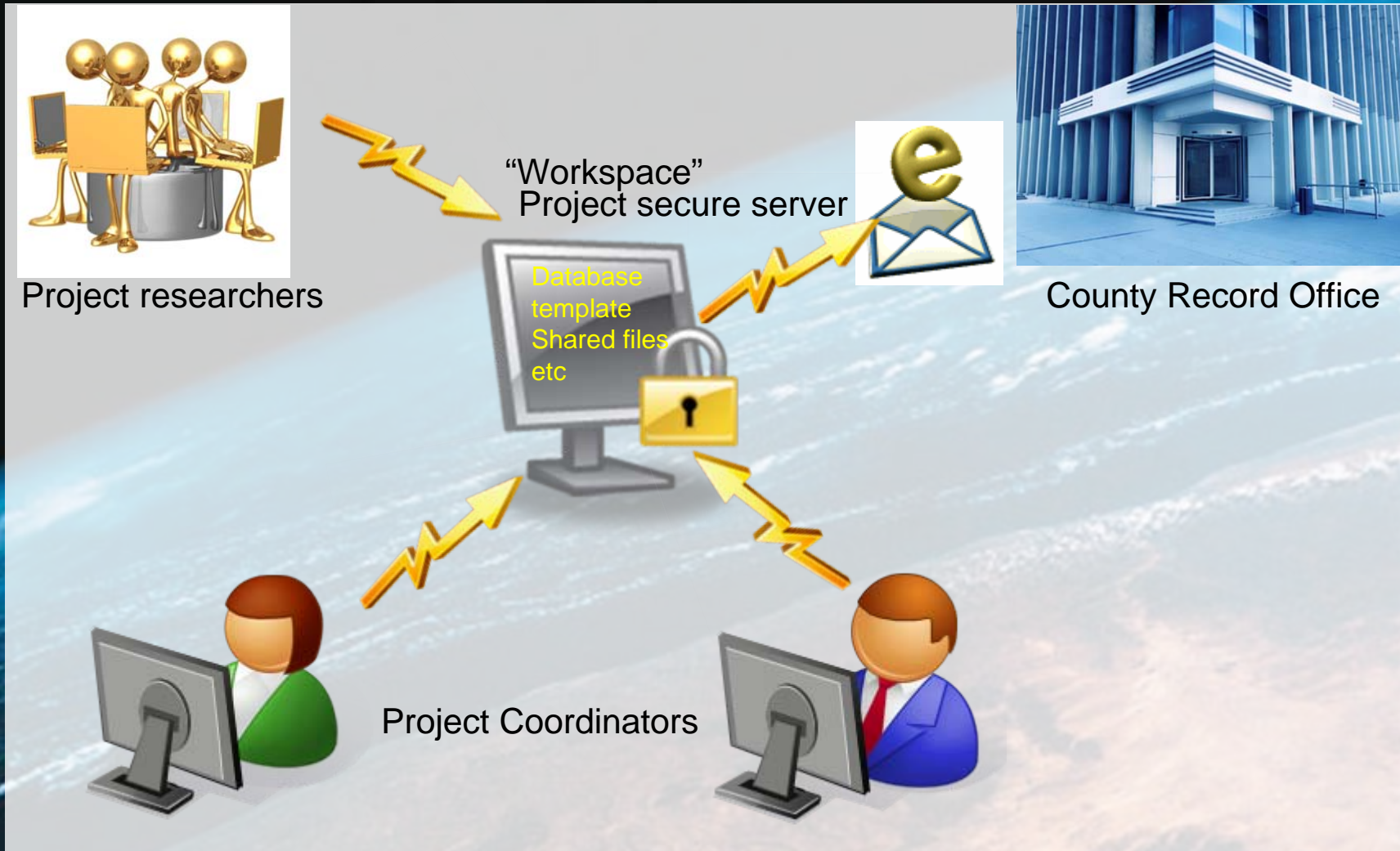
- The log book data format is unstructured
 - Each author of a log book had their own style.
- It was easy to “bloat” the data when recording
 - Example: Lessons were recorded in many combinations
 - Some initial uncertainty on how to classify data
- A significant amount of data entry
 - Log book has >400 pages and a school can have several log books.

The Pilot Study

Opportunities

- Log books are readily available
 - County Record Offices and some still with school
- Local events and information are recorded in log books (not all)
 - Visiting fairs, effect of education/work legislation, health
- Most CROs' are keen to support a transcription

The Pilot Study communication



Project Resources

Pilot Study tested resources

– **The database:**

- The database structure worked though incremental updates were needed to meet expanded needs of the researchers.
- “Standard” lessons need to consolidated into one heading

– **Online support:**

- **Workspace Server:** Worked well for sharing information but the bulleting board was not well supported.
- **Software Support:** The remote PC support was used once and worked perfectly.
- **Streaming Video:** well received
- **Online survey:** Worked well and is a good way of tracking progress.
- **General support:**
Two physical meetings were held and proved to be useful.
This is a good way of keeping in touch.

Academic status

New opportunity!

School & Community Project research volunteers, via the project administration, will be to apply for accreditation as a *Research Associate* with Oxford Brookes University, Department of History, School of Arts and Humanities

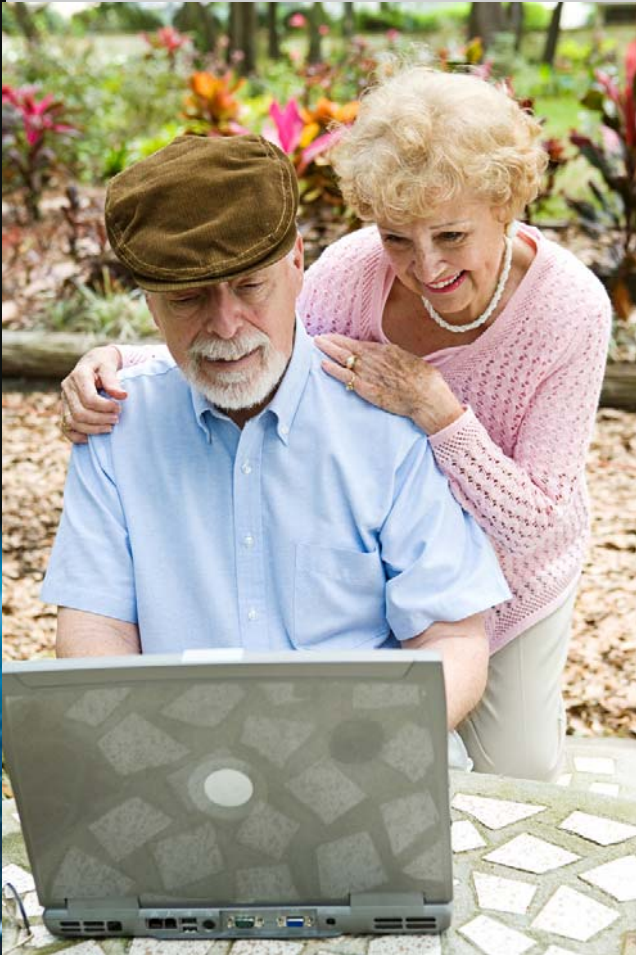
Pilot Study outcome



Conclusions

- As a project concept – Yes!
- Interest is high
- Tighten up the database template
 - Include Scotland
 - Consolidate Lessons
 - Name search
- Training
 - Use of database template
 - How to use online resources
- Researcher Feedback
 - More opportunity for researchers' to report progress

Next steps



- Complete modification to database template
- Schedule a final Pilot Team meeting
- Develop group leader opportunity
- National launch end of June
 - County Record Offices
 - Info pack
 - FFHS/Family & Local History
- More training videos
- Program coaching sessions
- Establish Academic status
- Preliminary results Conference 2010
- Publication of papers 2011

Conclusion

- At conference 2008 the pilot project was considered
- The pilot has been useful in identifying the challenges and the opportunities.
- A popular research project
- Academic authenticity
- Local and family historian involvement to achieve adequate geographical coverage.

Make sure you sign up!