

Archival Appraisal in UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

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INTRODUCTION

- 336 university archives (UAs) in the UK.
- UAs function as in-house custodians of university records.
- Some UAs also acquire specialist fonds/collections.
- Stakeholders: governing bodies; university & external researchers; local and national communities; depositors.

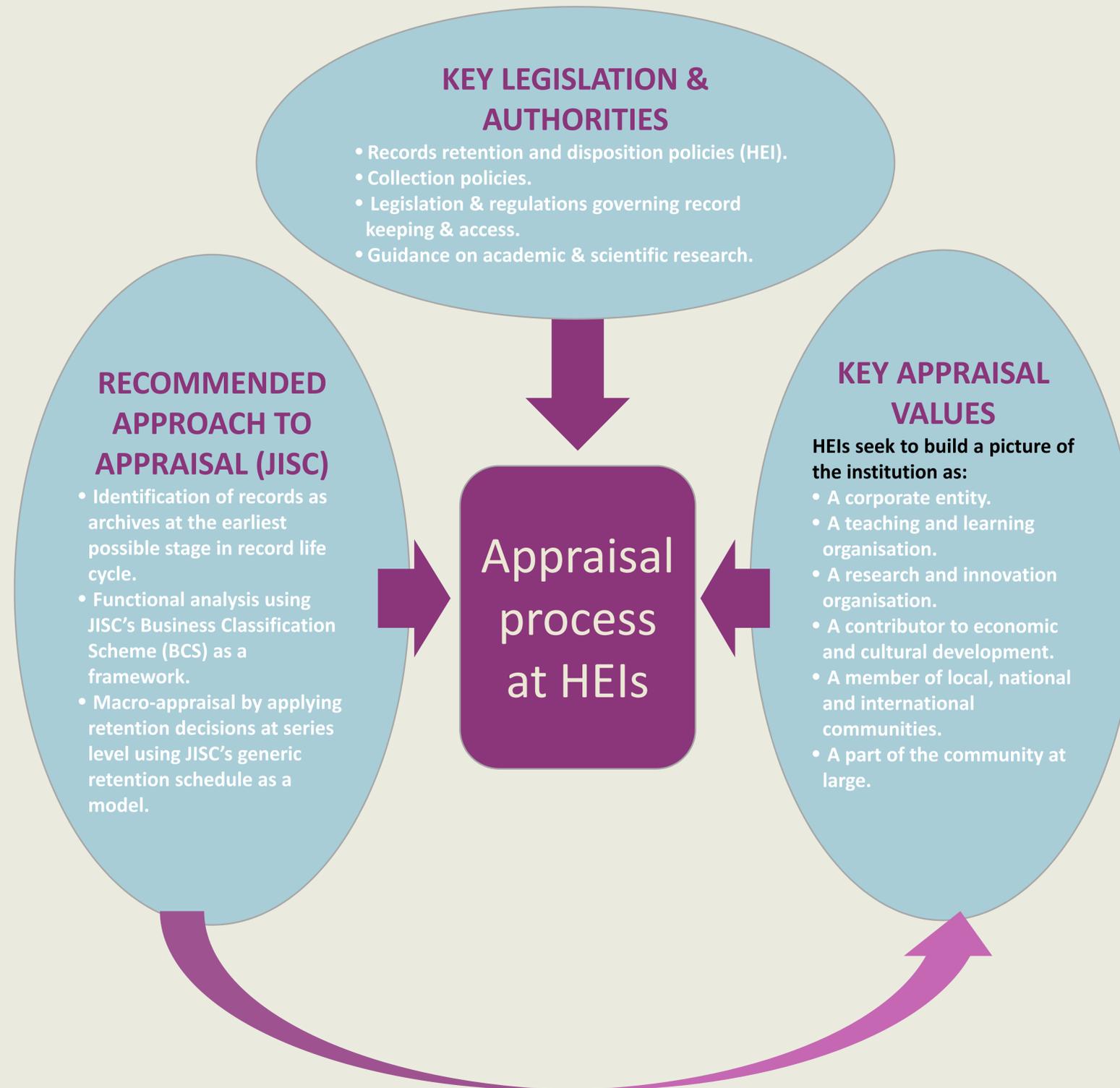
Record-keeping framework & guidelines:

- The majority of HEIs seek to preserve their archives.
- UAs are not covered by the Public Records Act.
- No mandatory guidelines on records management and appraisal for HEIs.
- Some guidelines have been formulated.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education: <http://www.siu.no/eng>.
Photograph courtesy of World ORT Archive



FINDINGS

There are no figures as to how many HEIs have appraisal policies, but many examples to be found via websites.

Common elements include:

- Adoption (or moving towards adoption) of a functions-based BCS.
- Commitment to macro-appraisal as far as possible, though some correspondence and subject files still appraised at micro level.
- Media-neutral approach to appraisal.
- Appraisal of digital records – still developing techniques.

REFERENCES

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