Innovating CV Frameworks

Simon Bell. 21st November 2013.

I wanted to provide a basic outline of my thinking on cultural value frameworks and amoeba. This is very much a 'holding' doc .. but it sets out my main suggestion.

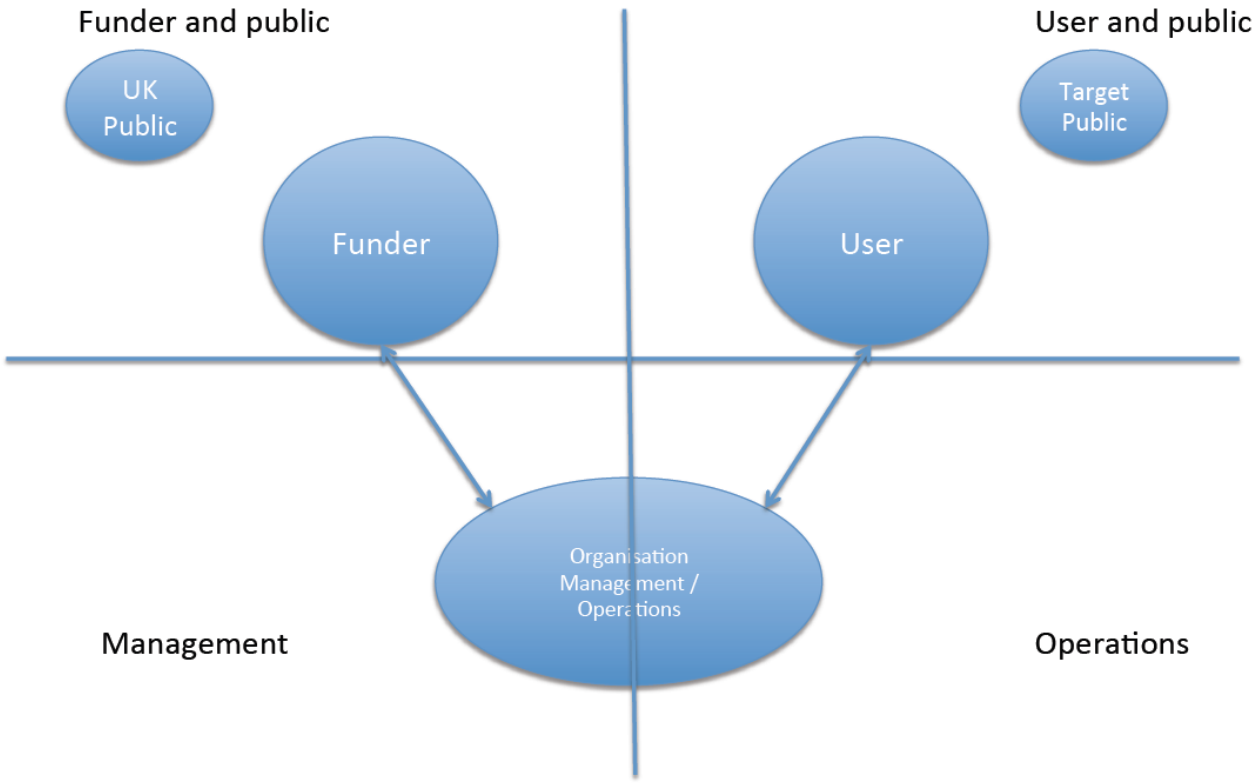
Background

Colin's conceptual diagram was great. What I liked most about it was the notion of the four quadrants of 'interest' in CV and the idea that each could be teased out in terms of metrics.

Methodological Framework – amoeba "dashboard"

Remembering that this note is primarily concerned with framework methodology or a means to operationalise a CV framework – here is the migration of the idea – step by step.

A version of Colin's conceptual model and basis for this development is shown in Figure 1.
Figure 1. Colin's conceptual model.



We can do a lot with this but you will see that I have labeled each quadrant.
Now, it may be that we use a common set of value drivers or some such label as the basis for indicators to measure each quadrant or, we might use Simon Tanner's drivers (as Colin suggested) for the top right quadrant and maybe the Imagine set of issues as value drivers for quadrants to the left? All to talk about.

An amoeba to present this is shown in Figure 2

Figure 2: Quadrant amoeba

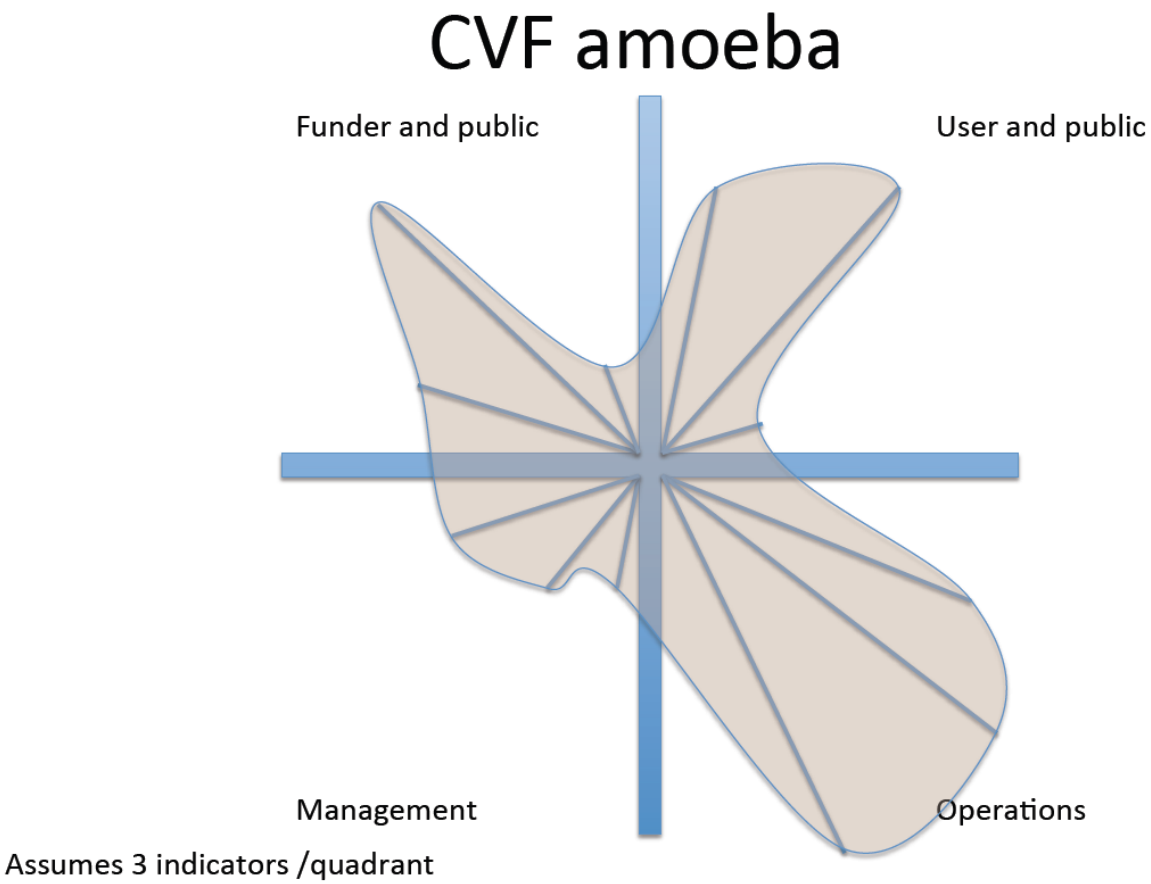


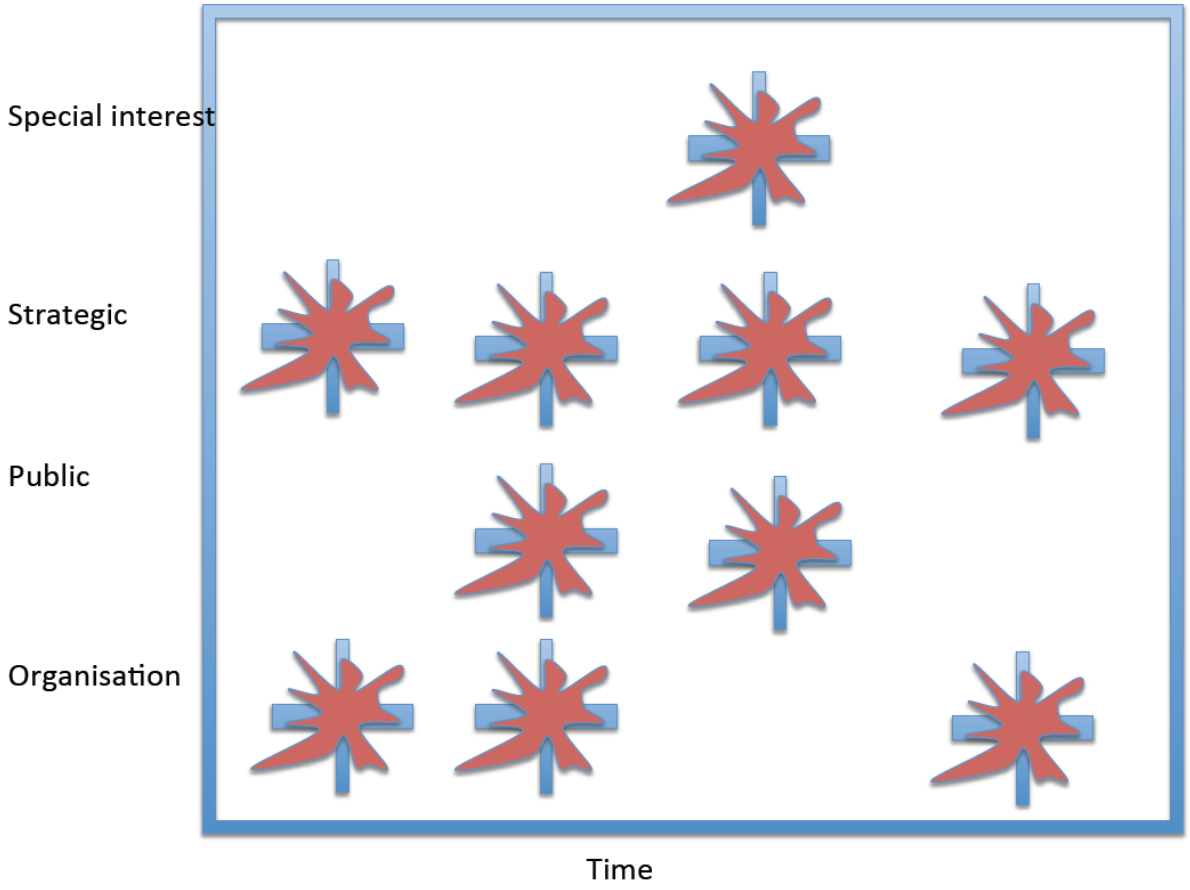
Figure 2 is an amoeba diagram and is the outcome of the full version of the Imagine methodology. So far we have been using Imagine simply as a means to organize a workshop and derive good ideas. Here Imagine is seen in its fuller expression, as a means to produce stakeholder facing indicators. In this case, indicators of value.

In Figure 2 each 'arm' of the amoeba represents an agreed upon indicator derived from value drivers. The indicators are clustered into the four specific quadrants. Indictors can be simply compared within and between quadrants. In this manner the amoeba, although requiring exhaustive preparation and metrics agreement, provides an easy to understand and effective means to compare indicators against each other. It has been seen to be effective in a number of contexts (e.g. see Bell 2011, Bell 2012, Bell et al 2013, Cassar et al 2013 and Coudert et al 2011). The indicators can be assessed in terms of quadrants and could be operationalised at any chosen level of scale. Further, such a methodological process could be time-lined to any given convenient reporting period. Figure 3 demonstrates one how this could be envisaged across various scales

The full methodological dashboard shown here indicates an incomplete set with amoeba and related indicators being available for some but not all time periods and levels of scale. This is argued to be realistic. It is rare for a monitoring exercise to have consistent and unproblematic access to metrics at all times. The amoeba dashboard methodological process can accommodate break down as circumstances intervene such as changes in agreed metrics (the methodological framework will undoubtably need periodic refreshing and renewal), changes in data collection processes and other accidental and/ or unavoidable discontinuities from the surrounding

environment. The overarching concern is to provide a scalable harmonisation model which allows for most of the indicators to be produced most of the time.

Figure 3 Amoeba and Framework



Summary and suggestions

The previous sections have briefly suggested the Imagine methodological framework which could operationalise the CV framework suggested by Colin's conceptual diagram by means of an amoeba dashboard. The amoeba dashboard has the advantages of being flexible and capable of accommodating a range of different types and forms of underlying metric. It is proven to be scalable and to provide visually engaging information which are understandable to non-specialists and provide in one frame a view of the overall condition of the object of enquiry.

References

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