Western Kentucky University

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2015

ALCTS CRS Holdings Information Forum, 3-4 p.m. January 31, 2015

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Cecilia Genereux (data management & access/metadata & intellectual access, University of Minnesota Libraries) introduced the session by confessing to a pun intended for her presentation: Alma: To Have and to Hold. The levity quickly shifted into some very detailed analysis of the way the Ex Libris Alma system handled specific types of serials during a migration from Aleph. The University of Minnesota started with Aleph (Ex Libris) in 2002 and moved to Alma on December 26, 2013.

While holdings data transferred smoothly and correctly in general, Genereux focused on two areas of concern for the system migration: the Aleph LKR field ("Linker") and the publication patterns and predictive check- in. In Aleph, LKR is a non-standard MARC field used to link to the bibliographic records such as "bound with" and analyzed serials and series that are classed together but each with its own holdings records. One example was the series *Advances in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology* and the analytic title *Biotechnology of Hairy Root Systems* (no.134), as illustrative of series that are analyzed and code in the 852 subfield x with "analz" and the holdings record for the analytic record coded with "anal" in the 852 subfield x.

Genereux noted that from 2002-2013, they systematically added LKRs to analyzed records in a retrospective project for nearly 4800 host records. These records were in prominent series, identified as analytic-dense class ranges, and for currently received series. This linker project represented a significant time investment with links back to each series. With the Alma migration, no one wanted to lose this data. Not an option. The questions were how would Ex Libris map the LKR field and then how would it display in Primo, Ex Libris' discovery layer or user interface named MNCAT Discovery. If the mapping from Aleph to Alma worked, the holdings the user sees are for the series record where the 773 field and subfields for chronology and enumeration would be mapped over. Genereux briefly showed how Alma has real-time availability via a direct query "Get It." Her

screenshots illustrated the LKR converted to the 773 field and the subsequent OPAC display. Quirks emerged, however, during this changeover. The item availability only filtered to the first level of enumeration. The series and volume numbering had to be highlighted so the user could readily determine if this met their needs.

Other aspects of migration involve turnaround time for reflecting changes to the database. In Aleph one could check results of LKR in the OPAC immediately. Students often verified these changes. With Alma, changes fold into scheduled jobs, usually overnight, and then were published in Primo. Now one staff member has the primary responsibility for serial analytics and classed sets.

After nine months of tracking links and analyzed sets/series, a few errors appeared that are misleading to users. If the library owns a title, Primo might reflect "not owned." This most often happens when there are multiple holdings locations associated with the record. The 773 links fail when there are multiple locations associated with an analytic record. For locations that have cataloged the item as a monograph classed separately from the series, these holdings will display in Primo. (The joy of a shared catalog with locations making different treatment decisions.) In other words, items held in additional locations are not reflected as such, meaning that the 773 links are not always generated despite being correctly formatted. Ex Libris is aware of this concern.

Other 773 issues involved the 773 fields pointing to items that are in suppressed locations yet display in Primo. One lesson learned is not to delete the 035 field residing in the previous system. The migrated 773 fields are dependent on retention of the Aleph ID in 035 records for series.

Genereux shared further observations about publication patterns and predictive check-in. Ex Libris supports patterns. Paired fields (853/863, 854/864, 855/865) are used for semi-automated updating of textual holdings statements (fields 866, 867, 868). Predictive check-in functionality was recently added to Alma. Predictive check-in uses the 853/854/855 fields in conjunction with a fill-in form to roll out item records for future issues.

University of Minnesota Libraries used publication patterns for predictive check-in in Aleph and pushed hard to get them added to Alma. At the time we migrated to Alma, we were informed that predictive check-in functionality in Alma would be added in 1-2 years. So we decided to migrate our pattern data from Aleph to Alma. We will be reviewing the new functionality starting in February with an eye toward implementing predictive check-in in Alma.

The library is able to process materials more quickly, reduce training for check-in and allow for uniformity in predictive claiming of item description with fewer errors; however, predictive check-in is one or two years out. Pattern data will be migrated at that point. She quickly covered the publication pattern fields and Alma holdings allowing for use of paired fields (853/863, 854/864, 855/865) and how they work.

The second speaker was Frances McNamara (director, Integrated Library Systems and Administrative and Desktop Systems at University of Chicago) who discussed migrating serials data from Horizon to Kulai OLE. Since 1996 the library has been migrating serials from Horizon to Kuali OLE. The history of integrated library systems at the University of Chicago has included Horizon in 1995 for cataloging, circulation, and checking in serials; then adopting III in 1997 for acquisitions only, and, by August 2014, using VuFind as the public interface with Kuali OLE.

McNamara cited migrating data from two separate systems (Horizon and III) as a challenge with bibliographic records, holdings, 866 fields, item records and active receipts. Their analytics totaled 128,000 after the migration process. They moved III continuing orders for acquisitions. They did not migrate closed orders but have the last seven years for historical verification stored separately. The Kuali OLE partners agreed not to migrate prediction data.

McNamara identified three groups of serials for migration: bound, unbound, and Internet. In OLE, the bibliographic record contains both bound and unbound holdings within one holdings record (referred to as

Extent of Ownership) and e-holdings. As one might imagine, conversion from multiple systems created complexities for handling holdings, linking to purchase orders (from Horizon and III to OLE), accommodating additional media types like law materials, loose leafs, and for collapsing bound/unbound holdings information. She had numerous screen shots of Horizon serials data compared to the OLE structure. *The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* provided a public catalog view of a serial in print and electronic formats in OLE.   Future enhancements of OLE will allow for a shared pool of data GoKB and ERM functionality.

The VuFind public catalog merged information from SFX to display recent issues, holdings, e-link and automated storage retrieval. The summary holdings display first and are not stored as MARC holdings. McNamara's migration involved 7,001,624 bibliographic records and 822,147 summary holdings. Following the focus that Genereux had on analyzed sets, McNamara noted that Chicago has eleven million items with 3.6 million multi-volume, monographic series and serials.

Both presenters shared the sentiment that migrations are replete with clean-up projects and requests for vendor enhancements. The best cases, at least, allow users to have positive and successful discoveries of information through a library's public catalog, like Primo and VuFind.

In answering questions afterwards, Genereux responded that it took about two years to prepare for the migration from Aleph to Alma and to streamline processes, scale back on their circulation tables, and get people to commit to certain standards. The Twin Cities and law library have 14,000 subscriptions. The concentration of time was six months to one year. McNamara had different groups doing specific aspects of clean up for about one year.   She advised that the more one can improve the database prior to migration, the better the migration process and results.

The Latin motto of the University of Chicago sums up quite well the essence of the discussion: Crescat scientia;

vita exolatur. Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched.

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