The Electronic Resource Management Enigma: The Vendor Solution, The Homegrown Realities, and the Grey Areas of Practicality

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Electronic Resources

- Databases
- E-Journals
- E-Books

Graph showing the growth in resources from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006.
Florida State University Libraries

• In 1962, became ARL member

• Based on 2004 ARL ranking, FSU was #63

• 2004 ARL data reported that FSU held:
  2,874,988 volumes
  9,057,015 microforms
  38,271 serials
  4,516 manuscripts

• Is a member of the SUS

• The SUS is comprised of the individual library of each institution combined with the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA). Currently there are 11 universities in the state of Florida that make up this system

• Out of the 11 universities, only two currently have an ERM, 3 are implementing one in 2006 and one is implementing one in 2007
Digital Library Federation (DLF) Report

“As libraries have worked to incorporate electronic resources into their collections, services, and operations, most of them have found that their existing integrated library systems (ILSs) are not capable of supporting these resources. A 2001 study by Jewell et al. determined that a number of libraries had begun developing local systems to overcome these shortcomings”

Factors considered by FSU for implementing Electronic Resources Management (ERM)

- Increased number of electronic resources with the same amount of staff; information being housed in different locations
- Wanted common data and to create data authority (ie need to eliminate multiple spreadsheets, webpages, outdated files, etc.)
- Help achieve standardized inputting of information
- Facilitation of troubleshooting: current contact information; can document steps taken to resolve conflicts with electronic resources
- Ability to more easily track renewal dates and subscription costs of licenses; see what licenses allow for ILL, emailing of articles, faxing, etc.
- Helpful for Collection Development-can see where titles overlap, what title is in what package, provide usage data
Why ERMS?

• Cost was affordable
• Integration was favorable; already had ejournal portal through Serials Solutions and could be implemented quickly
• Would be able to download MARC records from Serials Solutions directly into catalog
Implementation

• Determine what would be in ERMS and the naming structure for contents
• Licenses were then sorted according to vendor and subsequently scanned in alphabetical and currency order
• Next step: Entering contact information, license renewal costs and dates, and reviewing publisher titles list will be next step
• Final step: Will be the downloading of MARC records into the OPAC
Important Considerations

• Access Restrictions
• If multiple libraries, does everyone have the same access
• How the information would be entered that would be easy to maintain but accurately reflect what we needed it to
• Determining which packages the database or ejournal is in
• What home-grown solutions need to be created to account for any shortcomings the ERMS may not address
In-House Database: Overview

• A repository of the electronic resources that FSU subscribes to, as well as other useful free resources that we want to present to the patrons

• It functions as a temporary solution before the commercial ERMS is implemented

• However, some functionality of this in house database will remain even after commercial ERMS implementation

• The primary purpose is for displaying the electronic resources on our website
In-House Database: Overview

• Tracks several types of electronic resources:
  – Databases
  – eJournals
  – eBooks
  – Websites
  – Internal Guides

• The entries in this database represent both paid and free resources
In-House Database: Overview

• Fields in Database:
  – Name of Resource
  – Brief Description of Resource
  – Hyperlink
  – Contains Full Text? (all, some, none)
  – The type of resource (database, ebook, etc.)
  – Works with citation linker? (Y/N)
  – Paid resource (Y/N) (Y requires authentication)
  – Abbreviation (unique)
  – Alternate Names
  – Trial (Y/N)
  – Newly Added (Y/N)
  – Academic Disciplines
In-House Database: Overview

• Major Functions and Applications:
  – Listing electronic resources on the website in a variety of ways:
    • A-Z
    • By academic discipline
    • Most frequently used
    • By type of resource
  – Allowing users to keyword search electronic resource names and descriptions
  – Providing short, durable urls to resources and managing off-campus authentication and access
In-House Database: Durable URLs

• The unique abbreviations stored for each resource are used to create a durable URL

• For example:  
  www.lib.fsu.edu/get/ieee will link to the IEEE database
In-House Database: Durable URLs

• Advantages:
  – The url is always the same and correct. This allows the url to be printed on handouts, listed in various places online, and stored in the catalog without it becoming obsolete. If a vendor does change their url, we only have to update it in one spot.
  – The url is short and simple. Frequent users will be able to remember the url and type it in directly.
  – Electronic resources that require off campus authentication will automatically forward the user to the proxy and then on to the resource itself.
In-House Database: Keyword Search

• Utilizing the boolean full-text search functionality built into mySQL and sorting by relevance and omitting stop words and words under 3 characters

• The Name, Alternate Name, and Description fields are full-text indexed
Databases

Databases >> Browse by Description

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K
L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W

Databases >> Browse by Title

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K
L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W

Search for a Database

Find a Database

Type the first 3 letters of database name

Search

Note

Some resources require a "proxy" for off-campus use. See the "Off Campus Access >> EZ Proxy" web page for more information.
The boolean full-text search capability supports the following operators:

- **+**
  - A leading plus sign indicates that this word *must* be present in each row that is returned.
- **-**
  - A leading minus sign indicates that this word must *not* be present in any of the rows that are returned.
  - *Note:* The - operator acts only to exclude rows that are otherwise matched by other search terms. Thus, a boolean-mode search that contains only terms preceded by - returns an empty result. It does not return “all rows except those containing any of the excluded terms.”
- (no operator)
  - By default (when neither + nor - is specified) the word is optional, but the rows that contain it are rated higher. This mimics the behavior of MATCH() ... AGAINST() without the IN BOOLEAN MODE modifier.
- **> <**
  - These two operators are used to change a word's contribution to the relevance value that is assigned to a row. The > operator increases the contribution and the < operator decreases it. See the example following this list.
- **()**
  - Parentheses group words into subexpressions. Parenthesized groups can be nested.
mySQL Reference Boolean
Full-Text Search (continued)

- A leading tilde acts as a negation operator, causing the word's contribution to the row's relevance to be negative. This is useful for marking “noise” words. A row containing such a word is rated lower than others, but is not excluded altogether, as it would be with the - operator.
- *  
  The asterisk serves as the truncation (or wildcard) operator. Unlike the other operators, it should be appended to the word to be affected. Words match if they begin with the word preceding the * operator.
- "  
  A phrase that is enclosed within double quote (""") characters matches only rows that contain the phrase literally, as it was typed. The full-text engine splits the phrase into words, performs a search in the FULLTEXT index for the words. Prior to MySQL 5.0.3, the engine then performed a substring search for the phrase in the records that were found, so the match must include non-word characters in the phrase. As of MySQL 5.0.3, non-word characters need not be matched exactly: Phrase searching requires only that matches contain exactly the same words as the phrase and in the same order. For example, "test phrase" matches "test, phrase" in MySQL 5.0.3, but not before.
- If the phrase contains no words that are in the index, the result is empty. For example, if all words are either stopwords or shorter than the minimum length of indexed words, the result is empty.
License Manager

- A homegrown application under development to manage licenses, invoices and other correspondence from vendors
- Allows user to upload, search, browse, and view documents
- Licenses, invoices, and other supportive documents are scanned into full text PDFs and stored on a web server
Questions?

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with any follow-up questions.