

# Don't panic ...! Are all library systems dying?

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# University of Plymouth

- Single campus in south west England.
- Providing degree level education for more than 40 years, become a university in 1992.
- 22,000 students plus 10,000 at partner colleges.



Library

# The Library

- 400,000 titles in purpose built library. Extended by a third to 7,500 sq m in 2004.
- Various sorts of online catalogues since 1979.
- Voyager customer since 2003.



# Preamble

- Consider in general terms the functions of the OPAC.
- List a few thoughts about the back office functions.
- Pose questions not provide solutions.
- Development team/ project based/ planning days/membership on focus groups.

# Why question the need for an OPAC?

- WebVoyage and Voyager are entering the final phase.
- Need to consider what we really need, not just what the suppliers are offering.
- The range of resources has increased.
- The learning environment and the systems that support that environment have evolved.

# The library catalogue

- Originally a single file held within the library.
- Computer Output Microform provided multiple access points and multiple copies.
- Early OPACs required specialist protocols (telnet)
- Today's OPAC is available through IE some other browsers. (Several clicks from the desktop).

# Today's OPAC

- Voyager 7 revamp is only skin deep.
- Updating with e-resources is time consuming and open to matching errors.
- More resources without MARC records.
- Is it efficient to provide both an A-Z e-journals list and put MARC records in the catalogue?



Do we still need an OPAC?

# Alternatives

- Primo, Encore, Aquabrowser, etc
- Embed the basic search in the student portal.  
Taking the search and delivery direct to the desktop.
  - The majority of our ILL requests are satisfied by SED. (Reducing the need to visit the library)
  - Reading lists such as Aspire which, as well as providing availability information, also provide web2 features such as ranking and in-line views.
- Front-ends to resources outside the OPAC.

**BOB** UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH BOX OF BROADCASTS

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Latest additions to archive



Oceans : (Ep.3...)

Oceans : (Ep.3...)

Embarrassing T...

Oceans : (Ep.3B) Red Sea (part 2 of 4) BBC TWO on Thursday 30th July 2009

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2. Darwin200  
Thu, 26th February, 2009
3. Geography demo list  
Wed, 1st July
4. Testing  
Fri, 27th February, 2009
5. mets play  
Fri, 20th February, 2009
6. Employment  
Wed, 20th Feb

**MetaLib** ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

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- Computing+Comm+Electronics
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Peter Price (P.Price@plymouth.ac.uk) 3 Friday, 31 July 2009 - week 1

Information and learning services menu

- Menu items
- Private items
- Community Search
- Provide Feedback
- Community home

Information and Learning Services

**Exam Papers**

How to find exam papers

Exams are available in a browsable folder. Find the exam paper you are looking for by opening the folder for the year and:

- Browsing via Module Code
- Searching via Module Code
- Use Find (Ctrl-F) and type in "SOFT131"

Notes

- Not all exams are released to the library. If you cannot find the one you are interested in, please contact your Department.
- All exam papers are available on-campus and off-campus

Information and Learning Services Home

Academic Years

- Academic Year 2005/06
- Academic Year 2006/07
- Academic Year 2007/08
- Academic Year 2008/09

# My WebVoyage

- Using Keystone from Talis we have created webparts to provide due dates and fines data from the OPAC to Sharepoint, our VLE. We are introducing web payment for library fines.
- This is another example of taking the data to the user and providing functions on the desktop.
  - more immediate than emails or login to OPAC.

# But...

- Reading lists are not universal.
- External users may not have access to the VLE.
- Does the library catalogue require a web presence?
- Will lack of an OPAC detract from marketing the library service?

# Back office

- We have been buying metadata for years
  - Bib records from suppliers (shelf-ready)
  - MARCIt records for e-journals
  - Authority records
  - Author-provided metadata for repository resources
- MMS extends this principle
- Shelf-ready – straight to shelves

# Patron data

- Student record systems, HR systems, payroll systems, finance systems hold data about almost all our patrons.
- For many years the library provided the only ID card on campus, now it is centrally administered and multifunctional, linked to car parking, sports facilities and security.
- There should be no need for the library to maintain a separate patron database. Link to the true source of data.

# Acquisitions

- MMS and supplier databases should continue to provide metadata about what we buy.
- The university finance system is the true source for financial data.
  - The finance department writes the cheques or authorizes the bank transfers.
- Why do we mimic a lot of those functions with the library system? And spend much time mapping or re-keying data from one system to another?



# URM

- Welcome many of the concepts.
- Provides an opportunity to review workflow and acquisitions staff deployment (currently divided by format).
- Is it radical enough?
- Recognise that different institutions may require different solutions.
- We are having the debate internally now about our requirements so that we can evaluate what is being offered.

# Are all “library” systems dying?

- Not dying but ailing.
- Major step on the evolutionary path.
- More integration.
- More interoperability.
- Doing more with less.
- Data held once but used many times.
  - “Make the data work harder”.

# Further reading

- DLF ILS Discovery Interface Task Group (ILS-DI) Technical Recommendation (2008). Revision 1.1. Available at [http://www.diglib.org/architectures/ilsdi/DF\\_ILS\\_Discovery\\_1.1.doc](http://www.diglib.org/architectures/ilsdi/DF_ILS_Discovery_1.1.doc).
- Tamar Sadeh Extending the Openness of Aleph and Voyager, in The Ex Librian Newsletter, August 2009

Thank you

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