# Sakaibrary: Bridging Course Management and Digital Libraries

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### Outline

- +Course Management Systems
- Motivations for integration
- +The Sakai project
- +Sakaibrary
  - → Project overview
  - ◆Technical implementation
- Conclusion and questions

# Course Management Systems (CMS)

- ✦Also known as Virtual Learning Environments (VLE) or Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- → Becoming principal place for facultystudent interactions outside of the classroom
- → Used for both traditional and online courses
- ★ Examples: Blackboard, WebCT, Angel, Moodle, Sakai

# Typical Functions of a CMS

- → Course calendar
- → Discussion forum
- + Chat
- Online tests and quizzes
- → Homework turn-in
- → Grade entry/dissemination
- → Content management
- **†**...

# Motivations for CMS-Library Integration

- Library content and services important for teaching and learning
- → Represents an evolution of library's instructional support services (e.g. reserves) into the current environment
- → Students often unfamiliar with library sources
- → Needed for libraries to remain relevant to today's students and teachers

### What is Sakai?

- → A software framework and set of tools and services for implementing "collaboration and learning" systems (including CMS)
- → An organization: the Sakai Foundation
- → A community: Sakai Partners
- "Community source" model
  - → Both institutional and individual contributors

### What is Sakai?

"Iron Chef" Hiroyuki Sakai



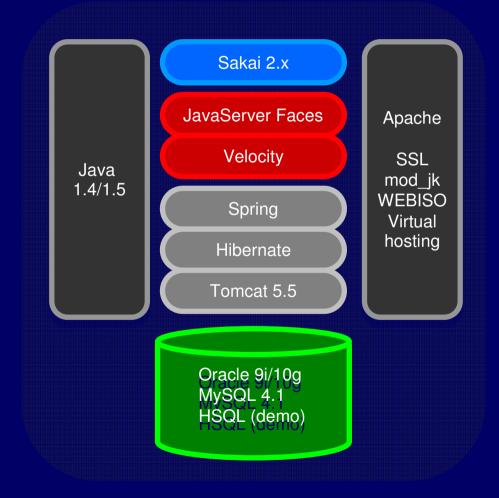
# Sakai: Origins

- → Begun in 2003 by:
  - →University of Michigan
  - → Indiana University
  - → Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
  - **→** Stanford University
- → Grant funding from Mellon and Hewlett Foundations
- → Motivations
  - → More control over institutional CMS destiny
  - → Gain more value working as a group than by going alone

# Sakai: Today

- → 105 paying partners: universities, colleges, non-profit organizations, companies
- ◆In production at 8 institutions in early 2006
- → 11 more scheduled to go online Fall 2006
- → Mainly US/UK (but not exclusively)
- → Twice-annual conference
  - → Last had over 550 attendees

# Sakai Technologies



# Sakaibrary Project Overview

- → Partnership of Indiana University (IU) and University of Michigan (UM) Libraries
- → Supported by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and IU/UM
- → January 1, 2006 June 30, 2008
- → 2.5-3 FTE per institution
- → Co-Project Directors:
  - →Jon Dunn, Indiana University
  - → Susan Hollar, University of Michigan

# Additional Sakaibrary Project Partners

- Libraries at:
  - →Johns Hopkins University
  - **→** Northwestern University
  - →Stanford University H
  - **→**Yale University
  - →University of California Berkeley

### Sakaibrary Project Goals

- → Build tools to provide seamless integration of content from licensed library databases within Sakai for instructors
- ★ Leverage existing library technology infrastructure
- → Prototype functionality for librarians to present content in Sakai and students to discover licensed content within Sakai.
- Engage librarians, students, and faculty in the design and testing

### Sakaibrary Project Process

- → Develop requirements and designs with feedback from partner institutions
- Develop tools in two phases
- Conduct evaluation at IU and UM
- +Release tools as open source

### Tasks: Instructor

- → Search for articles
- → Import references from RefWorks, EndNote, etc.
- Create persistent links to articles for student access
- ◆ Create customized search box or "canned searches" for students
  - → Constrained to search specific databases or include specific keywords
- → Obtain assistance from librarian

### Tasks: Student

- Access articles found by instructor
- +Search for articles
  - →Possibly constrained by course subject
- Export references to bibliographic management tools such as RefWorks
- Reference articles from assignments, papers
- Obtain assistance from librarian

### Tasks: Librarian

- Create links to appropriate databases
- Create customized search boxes
- Create help guides and suggestions for use of library resources
- Provide assistance to instructor and student

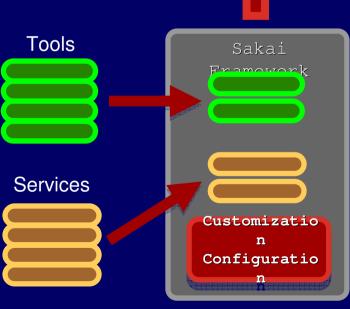
# Where does the library fit in Sakai?

- Library databases are just one source of course content
  - → Web content
  - → Personal documents
  - → Digital repositories
  - **→** Electronic reserves
- ◆Need to be able to work with all types of content in the same way

### Sakai Tools and Services

- +Tool
  - **+**User interface
- +Service
  - Backend functionality
  - Can be used by many tools

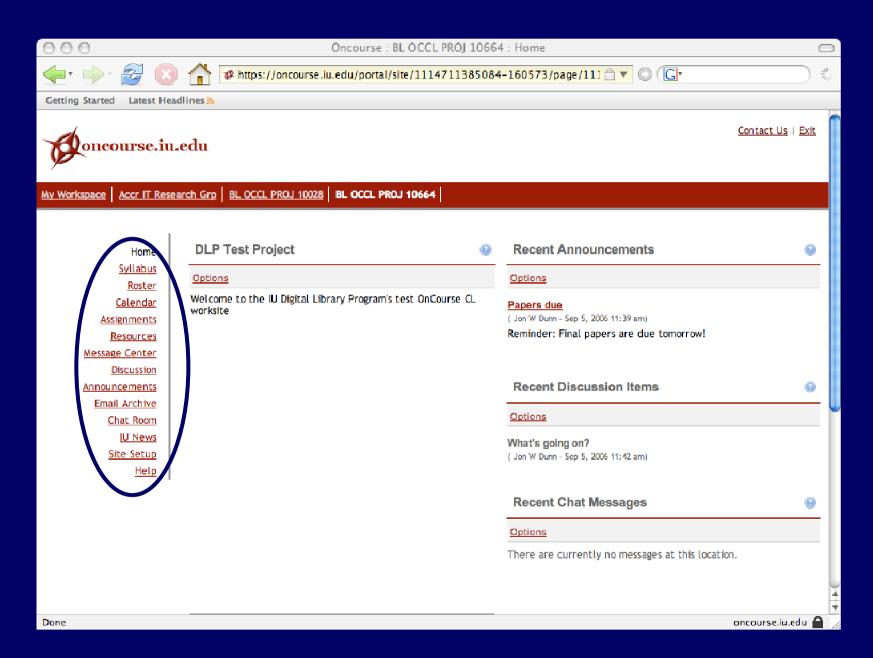


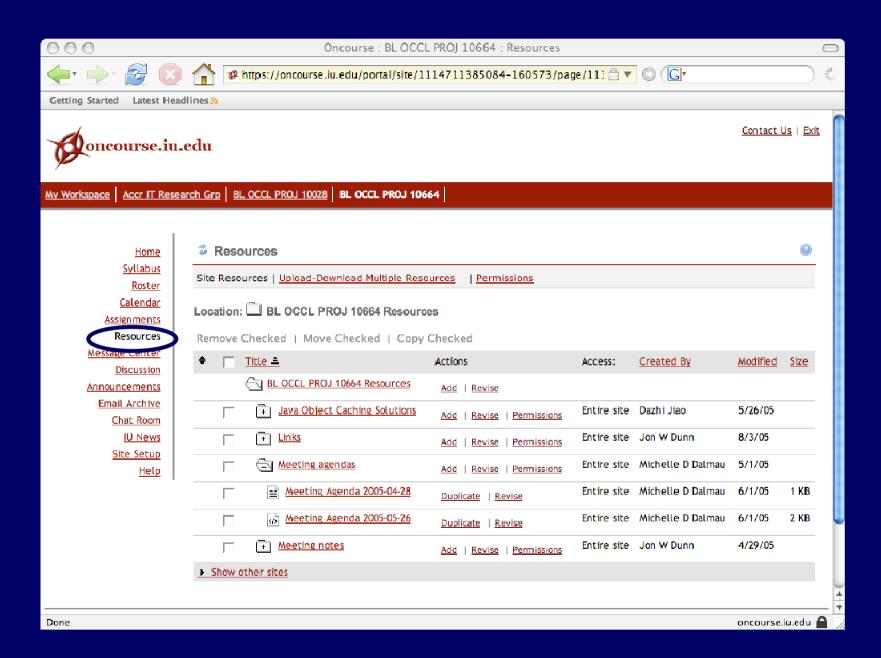


### Standard Sakai Tools

- → Announcements
- → Assignments
- → Chat Room
- → Drop Box
- → Email Archive
- → Gradebook
- → Help
- → Message Of The Day
- → News/RSS
- **→** Preferences

- → Presentation
- → Profile/Roster
- **→** Resources
- **→** Schedule
- → Section Mgmt
- → Syllabus
- → Threaded Discussion
- → Web Content
- → Worksite Setup
- → WebDAV





# Sakaibrary Project Deliverables

- →Phase 1:
  - Library search tool\*
  - →Citation management tool\*
- →Phase 2:
  - **→**Subject research guide tool\*

\*And associated services

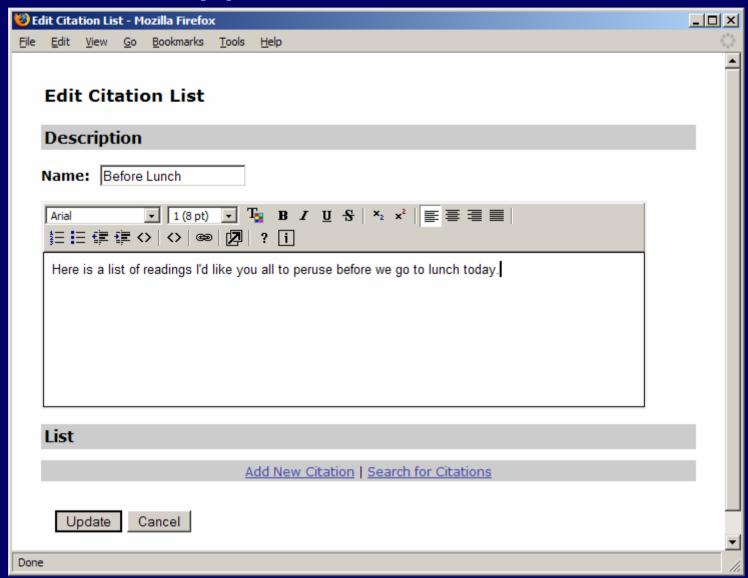
# Library Search Tool

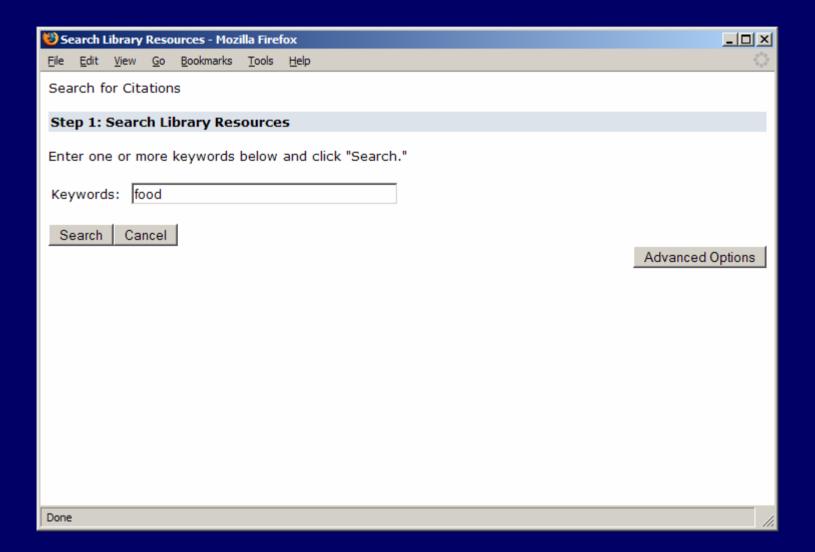
- +Based on existing work
  - **★**Twin Peaks Navigator
  - →OKI: Open Knowledge Initiative
- Leverage existing Metasearch technology to connect to various search sources

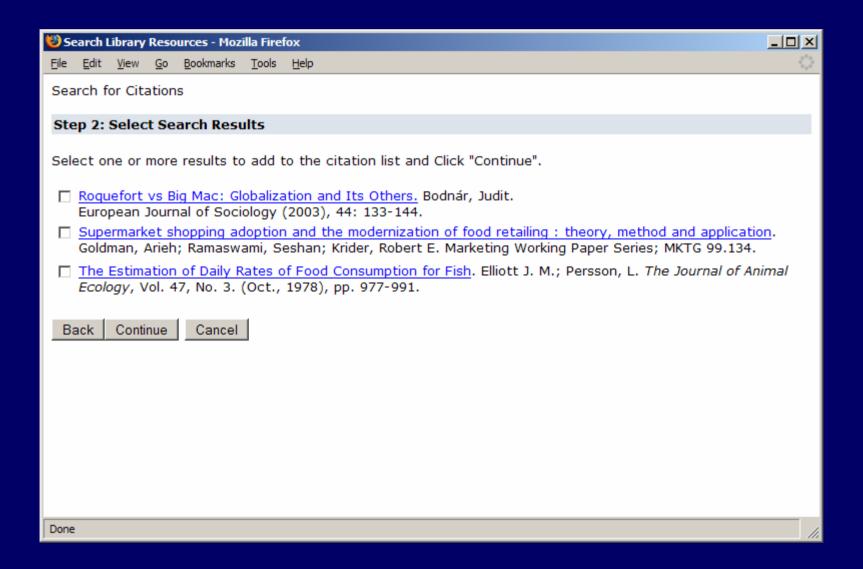
# Citation Management Tool

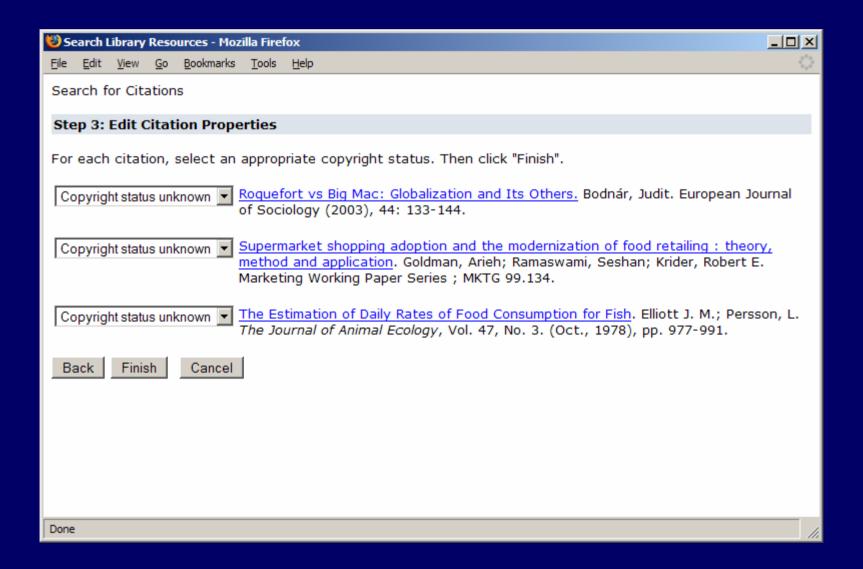
- →New capability in Sakai
- Create references from library search, import, or direct entry
- Generate persistent links using OpenURL
- →Support export of citations to RIS and other relevant formats
- →Use RDF triplestore for persistence

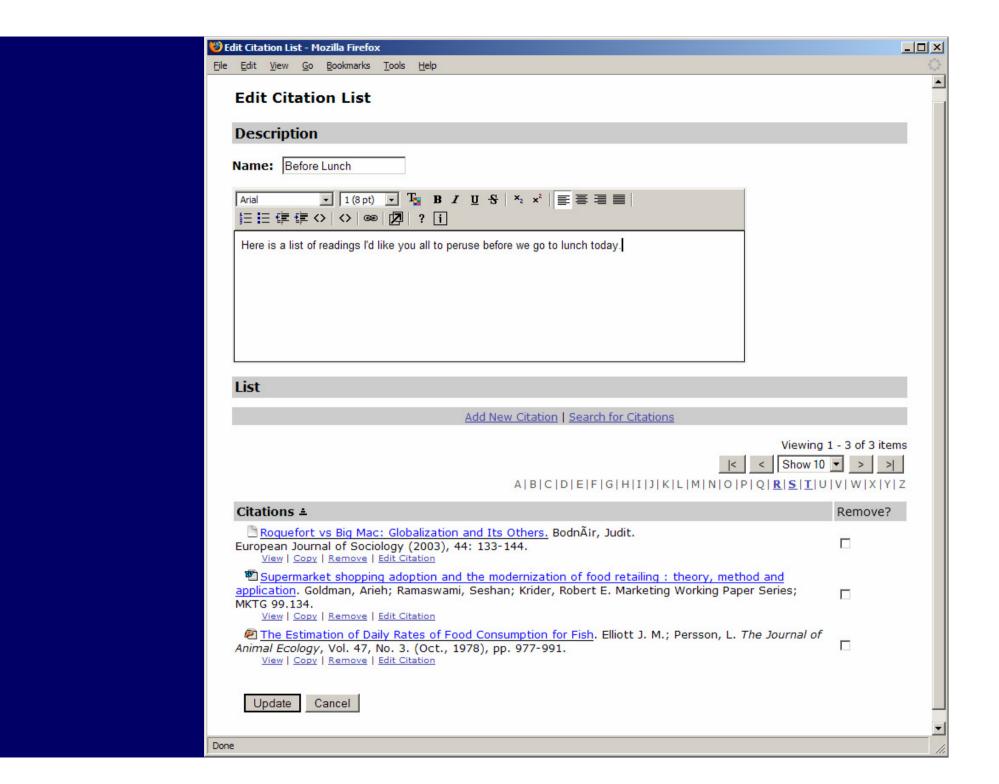
### UI Prototype

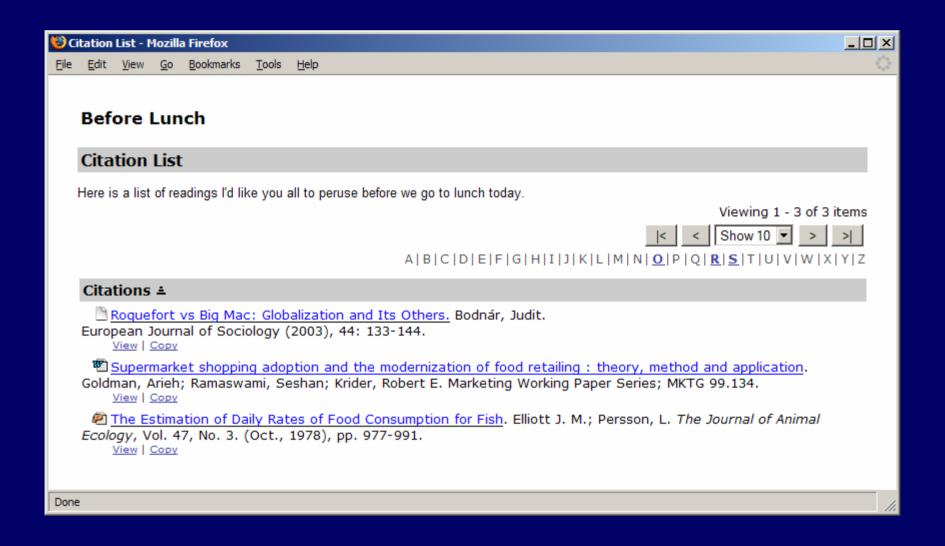












### Subject Research Guides

- Support faculty and librarian creation of:
  - +Constrained searches
  - **→** Canned searches
  - →Help guides
  - →Links to contact librarians: chat, e-mail, course discussion forum

# Technical Implementation

# Technologies in Use

#### Indiana:

- → Sirsi Unicorn
- → Sirsi SingleSearch (MuseGlobal)
- **→** ExLibris SFX

#### Michigan:

- → Ex Libris Aleph
- → Ex Libris MetaLib
- **→** Ex Libris SFX

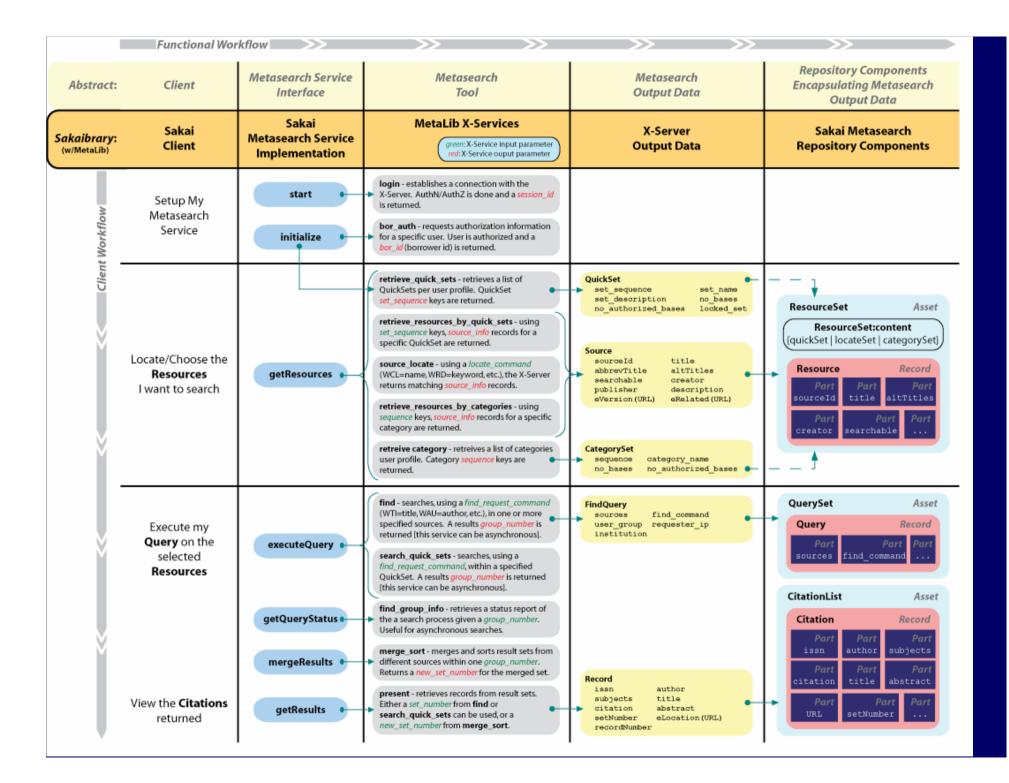
→ Need to abstract across technologies from different vendors

### How to abstract?

- → Goal: Single UI, multiple backends
- → Solution: OKI Repository OSID
  - **→**OKI: Open Knowledge Initiative
  - ◆OSID: Open Service Interface Definition (essentially an API spec)
- → Developed by MIT with Mellon support
- → Provides standard interface to repository query and delivery functions
- → Already in use in Sakai

### MetaLib Integration

- → Work being carried out by UM
- Creating an OKI Repository OSID implementation for MetaLib
- Using X-server for access to MetaLib functions
- Using CQL as internal query representation
- Working in tandem with developer at IU implementing Sirsi SingleSearch OKI OSID



### MetaLib X-Server Benefits

- →Allows us to develop our own userinterface on MetaLib engine
- → Relatively simple to use
- → Documentation for the X-Server API exists and is easy to access

# MetaLib X-Server Limitations

- → API documentation could be more robust: more detailed examples; edge cases
- → Some X-Server XML encoding issues cause parsers/validators to fail:
  - → Invalid XML character data
  - → Repeated xmlns references for each record returned
  - → Records do not contain proper MARCXML.
- Merge command does not have an appending merge option
  - → Difficult to continuously page through records retrieved asynchronously from the X-Server

### SFX

- Generating OpenURLs from citation data
- +Used to link to full text content

# Sakaibrary Schedule

- + Fall 2006
  - → Search and citation management
  - → Internal testing at IU/UM
- → Spring 2007
  - → Subject research guide tool
  - → Testing at partners (and beyond?)
- → Summer/Fall 2007
  - →Open source release
- + After that
  - +???

# Questions As Yet Unanswered

- → Who will use search within the CMS?
- → Will metasearching ever be good enough?
- → Will OpenURL link resolution work consistently enough for full text access?
- → How will the Sakai development model work in libraries?
  - → Will other institutions step up to tackle other library integration issues?

### Thank You

- +Sakaibrary project team
- +Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- +Sakai Foundation board
- **→**IGeLU organizers

### More Information

- +Sakai: <a href="https://www.sakaiproject.org">www.sakaiproject.org</a>
- → Sakaibrary:
   <u>www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/sakai/</u>
- → OKI: <u>www.okiproject.org</u>
- → Sakai Library Discussion Group: collab.sakaiproject.org
- → Contact: jwd@indiana.edu

