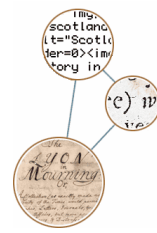


Take it or leave it ?

A review of Voyager at NLS

nls
National Library of Scotland

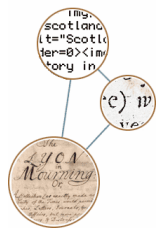
Gill Hamilton
Systems Librarian
Digital Library Division



About NLS

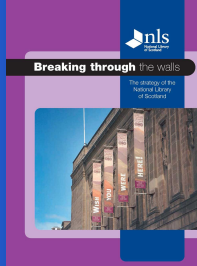
- Based in Edinburgh
- Legal deposit library
- More than 13 million physical items
 - But not lots of “e”
- Digitisation
- Trusted Digital Repository
- John Murray Archive
- Scottish Screen Archive

nls
National Library of Scotland



Why review Voyager

- in place 7 years
- Hardware replacement
- Library strategy



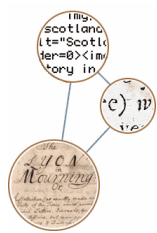
nls
National Library of Scotland



Strategic objectives

- Mission critical requirements
 - Access
 - Interoperability
 - Support for collection development
 - Efficiency

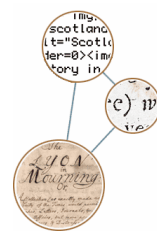
nls
National Library of Scotland



Access

- Seamless, unhindered access to all Library resources
 - Easy-to-use
 - Flexible
 - Accessible
 - Content rich environment
 - Service rich environment


nls
National Library of Scotland



Interoperability



- Internal systems
- external systems
- Exploit open standards

nls
National Library of Scotland





Support for collections

- Acquisitions
- Metadata recording & management
- Respond to changes in metadata rules & encoding
- Support for non-print formats



Efficiency

- Reporting
- Smooth workflow processes

Methodology

- Read a lot of stuff
- Interviewed module leaders
- Spoke with external colleagues






Findings - Access

“The Voyager OPAC has little to recommend it as an information retrieval system that is easy to use and accessible”

“... opportunities available to side step OPAC ...”

“...consider use of third party products ...”






Findings - interoperability

“...perhaps one of Voyager’s great strengths is its support for the MARC21 standard ...”

“... concern regarding ability to interoperate dynamically with internal and external systems ...”

“...limited support at the service layer. There are no APIs ...”

Findings – collection development


“...supports requirements for purchase of materials regardless of format ..”


“... the cataloguing API enables use and development of additional functionality ...”

“...only supports MARC21 ...”

“... is fully adaptable to RDA ...”



“... should be adaptable to FRBR ...”






Conclusion

- “The OPAC sucks ...”
- Support for traditional Library backroom business processes is adequate
- Complacency on the part of suppliers and customers
- Change for the sake of change is disruptive and expensive
 - Alternatives ? What alternatives ?
- Retain the status quo but

Next steps ...

- RD, access & delivery project
 - Do something about the OPAC
 - Do something about interoperability with internal systems
- Influence LMS development
- Replace hardware
- Look elsewhere ?
 - Ask Amazon ?




Thank you

Gill Hamilton
g.hamilton@nls.uk
www.nls.uk

