APIs and technical services

Richard McCart
Purpose of this talk

• Use of APIs (Application Programming Interface) within technical service areas
• When Alma functionality is not yet on the roadmap
• Interaction with third parties
• Evolution of a functioning API in conjunction with Macro Express to print spine labels
• Acquisition-related APIs for orders, invoices and serials accessioning
• APIs related to Analytics
• Use of APIs within an AutoIt framework
• APIs can greatly enhance the functionality and utility of Alma, especially in relation to third parties
Alma APIs

- Available as a paper
- Includes a short video
Basic Alma API setup

- Basic API setup is based on “How to create an API application to retrieve data via Alma analytics” by Yoel Kortick, available on the Developer Network
- https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/
- My paper on Spine label setup “API for Barcode printing spine labels”
Building a house: traditional
Building a house: modern
Traditional tool
Modern tools
Fitting APIs into the Alma workflow

• Transfer of skills from “traditional” to “electronic”.
• Using staff wisely in straightened times when more service is expected
• The change in work practices and philosophy brought about by Alma
Developing APIs

• Frustration, time-consuming, painful.
• Look for someone else to do it and document it
• Developers Network, Tech blog, Discussion forum
• APIs on the Alma-I email list
API for printing spinelabels

- Development from Voyager based macro
- Need for quick working solution
- Basic Macro Express setup
- SOAP API (Simple Object Access Protocol)
- RESTful API (Representational State Transfer)
- Blog article in Developers Network
Barcode video

www.rmit.edu.au
Barcode printing with Psycho soundtrack
API for delivering Analytic reports

- API set up for getting reports
- Inputting into Excel
- Formatting for Excel
- Creating an XML Mapping Schema in Excel 2010
API for serials receipts

- Problem to be solved
- Working out the individual pieces
- Proof of concept
- Developing a working solution
Developing a working API
Third party APIs, other Alma APIs

- API for PeopleSoft for the transmission of invoices margaret.briandwolfe@bc.edu
- Online fine payment system
- Synchronize user data Erik Biever e-biev@umn.edu
- Database discovery application Justin Kelly jjkelly@swin.edu.au
YBP orders API

- GOBI Alma API
- Alma New Order API
- Creates POL in Alma from GOBI
- ISBN vs. YBP order key
Invoices APIs

- APIs to deliver invoices to third-party financial systems
API to check ISSN info from Ulrich’s

- Digital object management systems using APIs
- Ulrichs serials database for a theses submission form
- 360Ulrich’s Client Center
- Publisher, Place of Publication, Refereed data for journal articles
Use of AutoIT, Selenium and AutoHotKey (1)

- AutoIT is based on Selenium
- AutoHotKey is limited
- https://www.autoitscript.com/site/autoit/
Use of AutoIt, Selenium and AutoHotKey (2)
Use of AutoIt, Selenium and AutoHotKey (3)
Articles


• The fallacy of the multi-API culture. By: Verborgh, Ruben; van Hooland, Seth; Cope, Aaron Straup; Chan, Sebastian; Mannens, Erik; Walle, Rik Van de. Journal of Documentation. 2015, Vol. 71 Issue 2, p. 233-252. 20 p. DOI: 10.1108/JD-07-2013-0098.

Established in 1887 as the Working Men’s College with the aim of bringing education to the working people of Melbourne.

In 1954, Queen Elizabeth II granted the College royal patronage for its educational service to the Commonwealth and contribution to the war effort. We remain the only Australian higher education institution with the right to use the prefix “Royal” and the Monarchy’s coat of arms.

The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology was established as a public university in 1992.

In 1994, RMIT became the first Australian university to adopt a strategy incorporating the delivery of education offshore and onshore.

RMIT Vietnam University opened its doors in Ho Chi Minh City in 2001, the first foreign-owned private university in Vietnam. A campus in Hanoi was established in 2004.

In 2013, landmark new buildings – Swanston Academic Building and Design Hub – opened in Melbourne.

RMIT opened a centre in Barcelona, Spain, in 2013.

RMIT named International Education Provider of the Year 2013 and winner of Excellence in International Education – University award (inaugural Victorian International Education awards)
By the Numbers

81,570 Students
- Postgraduate research: 1,945
- Postgraduate coursework: 9,990
- Undergraduate: 49,156
- Vocational and training: 14,298
- Online (Open Universities Australia): 5,393
- Others: 788

38% International Students
- 15% studying in Australia
- 23% studying outside Australia

Applications per place (UG and PG): 8.3
First-year retention rate: 85.17 per cent
First-year success rate: 87.65 per cent
By the Numbers

Financial Performance

Annual revenue: A$1,078 million
Net operating result: A$75.5 million
Total assets: A$2,683 million
EBITDA (Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation): 14.0%

Staff

5,426 FTE (full-time equivalent), Australia, Vietnam and Barcelona
(Academic and Teaching 2,644; Professional and Executive 2,782)

Facilities

Melbourne: 425,080 square metres
Vietnam: 40,441 square metres
RMIT Quarter
Melbourne CBD

RMIT’s City campus has long been part of the fabric of Melbourne’s Central Business District, presenting an edgy architectural mix of the old and the new that is surrounded by, and integrated with, all that the city has to offer.

— Covers 8.2 hectares in the heart of the Melbourne CBD
— Represents 6.6 per cent of the CBD footprint
Bundoora Campus (Melbourne)

7,069 students

Home to RMIT’s Health Innovations Research Institute

Core learning and teaching fields include:

— Biological sciences
— Medical radiations
— Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences
— Chinese medicine
— Nursing
— Education
— Automotive and aerospace engineering
— Mechanical engineering
Brunswick Campus
(Melbourne)

2010 students

Core learning and teaching fields include:

— Education
— Fashion
— Merchandising
— Textile technologies
6,263 students – both Vietnam campuses

Core learning and teaching fields include:

— Accountancy
— Business information systems
— Commerce
— Economics and finance
— Electronic and computer engineering
— Fashion and textile merchandising
— Information technology and multimedia design
— International business
— Marketing
— MBA and Executive MBA
— Professional communication
— Project management
Core learning and teaching fields include:

— Accountancy
— Commerce
— Economics and Finance
— English
— Information technology
— Marketing
— Professional communication
Questions?
Thank You