

Waving goodbye to the 'boat':

copy cataloging after migration from Voyager to Alma

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CORE INTEREST GROUP WEEK

COPY CATALOGING INTEREST GROUP

Land acknowledgement

We recognize that the University of Pittsburgh occupies the ancestral land of the Adena culture, Hopewell culture, and Monongahela peoples, who were later joined by refugees of other tribes (including the Delaware, Shawnee, and Haudenosaunee), driven here from their homelands by colonizers. We honor these traditional Native inhabitants of this place and uplift their relationship with this land, which is their ancestral territory. We pay our respects to their Elders and their past, present, and future people, community, and culture. While we cannot change the past, we can commit to continued gratitude for the gifts of nature, along with ongoing respect, care, and stewardship of the land, each other, and future generations.

To learn more: <https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/land-acknowledgement/>

University of Pittsburgh libraries

Barco Law Library, Health Sciences Library System, University Library System (ULS), each with its own OCLC symbol

Together, they serve an R1 research university with:

- 17 undergraduate and graduate schools and colleges
- Around 19,000 undergraduates and 9,000 postgraduates

The ULS has a seven-million strong collection and comprises:

- Hillman Library
- Departmental libraries: Engineering, Ctr. for American Music, Music, Fine Arts
- Library Resource Facility: Technical Services, Collections Storage Unit, Archives
- Regional campus libraries in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville

Copy cataloging in the ULS

Primarily (but not exclusively) done by Catalog Management Unit

Multiple formats and content types:

- Print monographs
- DVDs and Blu-rays
- Special collections

Multiple languages:

- East Asian (CJK)
- English
- Hispanic and Latin American
- Slavic and East European
- Western European

Migration

Voyager to Alma

- Implementation team formed which included representatives from around the ULS, Law Library, and Health Sciences Library
- Kick-off meeting: August 2019
- Go-live date: July 2020

Challenging conditions

- Pandemic, remote work, new ways of operating and communicating
- Retirement incentives; reduction in staff particularly pronounced in Technical Services department

Learning about Alma

During migration process:

- Implementation team meetings with Ex Libris
- Ex Libris's online training resources
- Sandbox access
- Working group for Resource Management
- Online training sessions led by Ex Libris and shared with colleagues

Around go-live date and afterwards:

- Canvas course about Alma
- Group and individual meetings
- Listservs, webinars, conferences

Differences from Voyager

New interface, terminology, keyboard commands

Searching: indexes, articles, facets, display

Client (Voyager) vs. cloud-based platform (Alma)

Views of windows and panes in Voyager vs. Alma Metadata Editor

Navigation between bibliographic, holdings, and item records

Ability to search WorldCat and authority files without leaving Alma

Normalization rules and processes help with making changes to records in Alma

Configurations and settings

Consolidation of location codes

Gateway export settings for OCLC Connexion

Normalization rules

- Merge rules
- Record enhancements

Workflow for student employee

Pitt Partner copy cataloging Science Fiction Novels Collection:

1. Searches for copy in Connexion and exports selected records to file
2. Adds field containing barcode and collection note to every record
3. Sends file to cataloging staff for import into Alma

Import profile configured to create bibliographic records and inventory, i.e., holdings records (location specified in settings, collection note from file) and item records (material type specified in settings, barcode from file)

Reflection and takeaways

Migration as opportunity

- For learning
- For getting to know colleagues better

Migration as collaboration

Preparation and planning should be done early and often

Thank you!

Additional questions? Contact me:

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