

LIBRAS Continuing Education Report
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Preconference: Implementing ERM Systems: Challenges and Lessons Learned

Speakers (from Haverford, UCSD, and Florida State) described moving from home-grown systems for tracking electronic subscriptions (most were Excel or Filemaker Pro) to purchased systems (such as Verde, VTLIS Verify). All strongly recommended referring to the Digital Library Federation's ERM report

(<http://www.diglib.org/pubs/dlf102/>) for guidance on workflows and other considerations. ERMs can be quite costly; they might make good consortial purchases. Things to look for in an ERM: flexibility; workflow tracking; report generation; read-only options; links to PDFs (for scanned images of license agreements and the like); ability to handle ejournals, ebook packages, and databases; and usage/pricing/overlap data availability. Things to plan for before/during ERM implementation: institutional agreement on principles, documentation of decisions, allowance for mistakes and time, perform data tests, develop name authorities for targets (to use SFX lingo).

Plenary Sessions:

These were given by Ray English (Director at Oberlin), David Lankes (School of Information Studies, Syracuse), and Michael Pelikan (Information Sciences and Technology Librarian, Penn State). Open access was touched on in most of the talks. Ray English focused on analyzing the market effect of library site licenses as well as the impact of for-profit titles, particularly in the sciences. David Lankes discussed Moore's Law and its relation to the current explosion of data. His presentation is available on his website (<http://quartz.syr.edu/rdlankes/>).

Moreover, he is a very strong, entertaining presenter. I would encourage any institution looking for a good presenter to talk about libraries and IT to consider him. Michael Pelikan issued a *cri de coeur* on behalf of "old fashioned" student learning and the preservation of the codex.

A presentation on "Next Generation ILS" followed. The University of Rochester demonstrated C4, which returns

federated search results on a page that links out to Amazon, to Google, to related articles (via findartciles.com) and related blogs and RSS, etc. Aspects of library 2.0 were also discussed.

LOCKSS and Portico:

A number of presentations on digital preservation via LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, and Portico were given. Libraries interested in signing on to Portico should do so sooner rather than later because of rising costs.

Deep Indexing:

CSA presented a demo of "deep indexing," which is an enhancement currently in beta for its databases. It entails creating object records for each object (image, graph, photo, map, etc.) in an article. Most articles have 8-10 such objects and they frequently are not referred to in article abstracts, so that a researcher looking for a particular image or chart wouldn't know an article included it. Searchers will be able to limit searches to object and object records will link to article records. Although they will to a large degree be using terms supplied in the captions of the objects, indexers will add metadata descriptions. Persistent links to objects, geographic coordinates, and other enhancements are planned. A researcher (Carol Tenopir) presented her findings on the demos she presented to scientists at a number of US and European research universities. There was an emphasis on the need for high resolution images, data on instrumentation, and a strongly expressed desire not to divorce objects too much from their articles. Cost was discussed only obliquely, but CSA said that it would offer better pricing (by far) to existing customers, taking a loyalty model of pricing. The product is being called CSA Illustrata. A prepublication preview of Tenopir's findings is at info.csa.com/csaiillustrata.

Library web site navigation:

Simon Inger, the director of Scholarly Information Strategies Ltd. (they are researchers and consultants). Discussed the confusion patrons encounter in navigating through databases, OPACs, and link resolvers. He specifically said that they are interested in speaking to librarians about concerns with link resolvers and knowledge bases.

More ERM:

Anjana H. Bhatt gave a presentation on taking baby steps toward an ERM. She included guidelines on what ERM systems should include. She also provided a link to Cornell's ERM Web Hug, which discusses functional and workflow requirements. It's available at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/elicenestudy/dlfdeliverables/home.htm>. Since she is at a smaller school (Florida Gulf Coast University), she would undoubtedly be a good resource for any LIBRAS schools to turn to before exploring or implementing ERM.

The Long Tail:

If there were any central themes for this conference, Open Access and the Long Tail would be the primary ones. Peter Banks, the owner of Banks Publishing and another inestimable speaker, discussed the "long tail" (see <http://longtail.typepad.com/>) and its relationship to open access. He noted that open access works best for niche titles and that it doesn't work as well for highly popular or important titles. He further described how a subscription model for journals doesn't work well with the long tail because of excessive cost and limited access. He mentioned, as an aside, Larry Sanderson's peer-reviewed Wikipedia as well as freeculture.org and <http://www.downhillbattle.org/> and how these movements relate to the open access movements in libraries.

I attended a number of other sessions as well. I highly recommend this conference for anyone doing electronic services, acquisitions, or collection development.