The Future of Integrated Library Systems

Part Two: User Interaction

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Designing A Discovery Interface

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We know what they need.
We know what they need.

What do they need?

We know what they need.

What do they need to do?

User research is of limited value if a library doesn’t have control over its discovery environment.

- Our solution:
  - Develop our own software (eXtensible Catalog)
  - Offer a modular architecture (4 “toolkits”)
  - Build in tons of configurability
  - Use established standards and protocols
  - Give it away (open source)
**eXtensible Catalog (XC) Software**

**User Interface**
- Highly customizable

**Metadata Tools**
- Enables batch cleanup, augmentation, etc.

**Connectivity Tools**
- Connect to an ILS, etc.

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**XC: “Taking Control” of metadata**

**More Control over Metadata**  ➡️  **More Options for Customizing the User Interface**

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**XC User Interface Customization**

- Themes
- Indexes
- Facet definitions
- Result Lists
- Record Displays
- Browse interfaces for specific users/purposes

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**User Research for the eXtensible Catalog**
XC User Research Partners

Cornell University
Ohio State University
University of Rochester
Yale University

XC User Research Approach

- What articles, books and other resources had researchers used most recently?
  - How did they know the items existed?
  - How did they obtain them?
  - How did they use them?
  - How do they keep current in their fields?

A Few User Research Findings

- Users want to choose between versions of a resource, see relationships between resources
- XC approach:
  - Underlying XC metadata is based on FRBR model: works, expressions, manifestations, etc.
  - Use some RDA data elements in FRBR structure
  - Metadata services to aggregate/group FRBR entities in the User Interface
User Research Findings

- Researchers value scholarly networks
  - Teacher/student relationships, etc.
- XC approach:
  - Define a local metadata element for thesis advisor
  - User interface can display it appropriately (NOT as another author!)
  - Metadata limitations: non-standard, not in our legacy metadata

User Research Findings

- Users have preferred material and format types, depending upon their projects
  - Show online materials only
  - Exclude microforms
- Users want to know why items appear on a search result list
  - Show keywords in context

XC User Interface Demo

Translating User Research Findings into XC Functionality
XC and RDA

RDA in the XC Schema

- RDA elements can interact with data elements from other schemas using an Application Profile
- XC Schema contains a subset of RDA elements
- RDA elements help us maintain granularity of MARC data and improve upon it
- RDA serves as a “bridge” between MARC-based systems and emerging applications
Implementing RDA in XC

- FRBR-based, not MARC-based
- Separate but linked records for FRBR Group 1 entities
- XC works alongside a MARC-based ILS
- Implements a subset of RDA in a non-MARC environment
- Sets stage for other non-MARC RDA implementations, perhaps linked data?

Benefits of RDA in XC

- Enables conversion of MARC fields to RDA elements using bulk processing services
- Uses RDA data in a working discovery interface
- Integrates with current library systems
- Will make library metadata more usable via the open web
www.eXtensibleCatalog.org

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