

Catalogers Group Minutes

May 23, 2002

2:30-3:30 West Electronic (Media) Classroom

Present: Gia Aivazian, Valerie Bross, Elie Chammou, Beth Feinberg, Joan LoPear, Janice Matthiesen, Renée McBride, Luiz Mendes, Jeff Morehead, Nancy Norris, Jean Rashedi, Louise Ratliff, John Riemer, Angela Riggio, Rita Stumps, Jeff Sundquist.

OTNG Report Discussion

First, JR asked for overall reactions to the report. Comments received: The report makes clear that no one system serves all the needs. One system seems better for Collection Development; another seems better for Cataloging. The grading system does not seem clear—in some cases, all of the systems received the same grade, even though the comments within the category clearly differentiated among the systems or seemed to contradict the grades.

Further questions and comments from John (with responses included in text and chart below):
Pg. 4. What other functional areas are needed? Pg. 5. What do you think of the two big subjective factors and the likelihood that they could tip the balance? Pg. 6. What do you think of the global questions, particularly for Sirsi? Pg. 9. Can the record structure problem ever be fixed in ExLibris for libraries wanting to upgrade to the next version of software? It's not enough to think it has to be right in the first software version we use. Could we live with the ambiguity by setting administrative policy to abide by one of the possible structures?

Indexing is one area of general concern (p. 10 of report). LR drew attention to the comment about Sirsi requiring 13 days to build headings indexes (p. 10); this is very problematical. RS pointed out the overnight indexing needed at Iowa for Ex-Libris, and the 2-day period required to re-build indexes at MIT.

Rank	Pg.	Discriminator	Comment
	6	Key questions	Response to comment on "good features of Taos": Some good features that should be specifically asked about (w/r/t Sirsi): --Keyword in heading: will this be incorporated? --Shelf-listing: separation of prefix/suffix information: will the ability to view the prefix/suffix on the list be incorporated?
	7	Vendor development style	Vendor development style and vendor communication style may tip the balance, if the other categories don't yield a clear front-runner. LR: The iterative style under "Ex-Libris" sounds very much like what we experienced with DRA. Having to debug software for the vendor has not worked very well. RS: Part of the problem is that DRA sent packages without documentation or guidance
	8	Vendor communication style	Since Sirsi has inherited DRA staff, shouldn't they inherit the DRA comment as well?
Crucial	9	Logically appropriate bib-holdings-items recs	General agreement that this is critical. Comment: Is the ExLibris Bib-Hldgs-Item record relationship inadequate to CDL/Melvyl?

Crucial	10	Indexing efficiency	We are working within a large organization; indexing efficiency is critical in order for other units to work together effectively. Indexing efficiency is also critical to authority work
Crucial	11	Response time	Some of the response-time comments may be attributable to local configuration of the ILS. But one question is, for each system, can you predict the best configuration & avoid problems, or must you go by trial & error? Comment: What is the MIT & UCSB experience with ExLibris response time?
Important	12	Implementation at ARL libraries	
Crucial	12	Unicode	This is crucial. We must be able to load the 880 fields from records with vernacular.
Nice to have	13	Implementation at UC libraries	Ex-Libris has been chosen by UCSB, UCD, and Melvyl-T.
Cataloging			
Crucial	22	Batch loading of records	One flexible feature of Endeavor is the ability to give weight consideration to different factors when matching records.
Crucial	22	Authority control	RS: Reports are critical for authority control. Concerned about comment in report re Endeavor's inability to create a report for series authority control. Is this due to local configuration or is this a limitation of the system? This needs clarification. JR: At Georgia, an 8XX name-title index was created that proved useful for series work Also would like clarification: What does it mean that MIT is using LTI? Is this due to a problem with Ex-Libris authority reports? JLoP: Penn State's comment does not bode well for authority control in Sirsi.
Crucial	23	Call no. search	Re Ex-Libris: Since Ex-Libris has a listserv, if a solution is developed at one of the libraries, perhaps this could be more easily shared with all of the other libraries?
Crucial	23	Transfer of items	This function should be of importance to SRLF as well as to Cataloging. (it is cross-listed on p. 59)
Crucial	23	Record export	Is there an "export all" function for migrating to a subsequent system?
Important	24	Multiple record display	This is crucial for people working with batches of records. Can you control what you get to see? JLoP: The comments for this characteristic may reflect familiarity more than functionality. Since people are used to DRA, a display that looks more like DRA would be clearer to someone new to the system.

Records:Nice to have; Barcodes: Crucial	24	Record & barcode validation	JRashedi: Record validation should be considered separately from barcode validation. Barcode validation is crucial. LM: If the system does not validate barcodes for batch-loaded records, can a report be generated at least?
Important	24	CJK editing	Several people cited the importance of being able to edit CJK records.
Important	24	Navigating	
Crucial	25	Editing	Comment: Didn't see any mention of Voyager ability to pull 856 \$u from an open browser.
Nice to have	25	Permissions	RS: We have had record-level permissions for DRA and have set permissions by policy. This has worked adequately.
Important	26	Keyboard equivalentents	LR: Keyboard equivalentents are essential for macros to work; this is very important

Announcements

Next meeting June 6, 2:30-3:30

Probable topics: CONSER report from Valerie; Continued discussion of OTNG report.