

APPENDIX E - The UC Davis experience

Date: Mon, 3 Nov 2003 23:06:06 -0800 (PST)
From: "Gail A. Yokote" <gyokote@ucdavis.edu>
To: Aija Kanbergs <akanberg@library.berkeley.edu>
cc: savella@ucdavis.edu
Subject: Re: Melvyl, Harvest, and your experiences with/without a local catalog

Hi!

Some history first before going into implementing our ALEPH online catalog: Before we selected ALEPH as our integrated system, we did not have an integrated library system. We used DRA for circulation, reserves, and cataloging plus loading into MELVYL, III for serials and acquisitions, and a number of home-grown programs to move data between the two when possible plus home-grown programs to do circ and reserves functions which were not handled well in DRA. Thus, we had no way to easily implement a local OPAC, so MELVYL came closest to having the correct data for library users.

When we decided to look for an integrated library system to replace the aging home-grown programs plus limited functionalities for DRA and III, we wanted a local OPAC which could reflect more functionality and choices for our library users. Things like showing on order or inprocess titles, performing call number searches, tailoring displays, implementing features that might not be feasible in all UC+ environment were attractive to us. Using an OPAC which must take into account the good of all vs. the desires/needs of an individual campus can become discouraging at times.

We still expect to use MELVYL and are promoting both, esp for faculty and graduate students. Because of UC elinks and our Harvest Portal (MetaLib) we are able to offer federated searching via Harvest Portal to both the local OPAC and Melvyl. UC elinks provides a way to move seamlessly between both catalogs. We feel having both a local OPAC and MELVYL represents the best of worlds and expect to enhance our local OPAC more frequently while waiting for enhancements to MELVYL.

Am off to meetings in DC until Nov 14, so can answer other questions when I return.

Gail

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