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Adventures in Librarianship -- Haiku

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Adventures in Librarianship — Haiku

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

We were pleased by the many responses we had to our **Annual**

ATG Haiku Contest. All of the entries were intelligent, many were beautiful, and only a few were obscure, making the job of judging more difficult than you can imagine. This simple format, the haiku, must touch a chord with those of us who labor in knowledge trade, invoking our most sensitive and profound natures.

The award for the Most Metaphysical goes to **Bernadette Babson** from **Cincinnati Public.** Here is her entry, simply titled "Q."

Q is for science,
Not quilt, not quest, nor quag.
Logic obscures Q.

The judges particularly liked **Ms. Babson's** textured imagery and her use of the word "nor."

The Most Practical haiku was submitted by **Fred Warmdover** of **Darkmound University Library.** I think you'll agree that few haiku's reach the level of practicality displayed by **Fred's** "Directions."

Fiction to the back.
Magazines are to your left.
Restrooms are upstairs.

Jackson Froth, the **Pinhead High**

School Librarian, submitted "Rickets" which stands as the Most Sentimental entry.

This old monograph
With torn spine, and rust
Reminds me of me.

One can almost feel the dust in ones hand, the acid paper, the drooping buttocks of age. Thank you, **Mr. Froth**, for reminding us of our mortality.

The award for the Most Indignant goes to **Mert Kackle** from the **Fixette College Library.** You

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Electronic Resource Management Systems From ILS Vendors

by **Ellen Finnie Duranceau** (Digital Resources Acquisitions Librarian, MIT Libraries) <efinnie@mit.edu>

Introduction

For several years libraries, especially larger libraries and research libraries, have been more and more desperately seeking systems and tools to help them manage electronic resources. To date, most libraries seeking support for the full life cycle of **Electronic Resource Management (ERM)** from selection through purchase, access, license management, and renewal or cancellation, have had to build their own systems, and many have done so. A list of such homegrown systems is available at the *Web Hub for Developing Administrative Metadata for Electronic Resource Management* at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/cts/elicensestudy/home.html>, maintained by **Adam Chandler** of **Cornell University** and **Tim Jewell** of the **University of Washington**.

In addition to these homegrown systems, commercial sources have emerged to support **ERM**: there are those from third party serial and/or serial data vendors, such as **EBSCO**, **SerialsSolutions**, and **TDNet**; and those from major vendors of integrated library systems (ILS), such as **Innovative Interfaces Inc. (I3)**, which has an **ERM** system currently on the market, and other ILS vendors who are in varying stages of developing **ERM** functionality.¹ This article is an overview of the latter market. (I plan to follow this article with one summarizing **ERM** functionality is supported by third party serial and/or serial data vendors, such as **SerialsSolutions**, but that market is not summarized here.) Here, **ERM** is defined as it is by the **Digital Library Federation's Electronic Resource Manage-**

ment Initiative (DLF ERMI): "tools for managing the license agreements, related administrative information, and internal processes associated with collections of licensed electronic resources," including ability to present terms of use at the point of access to an eresource. For more information on these guidelines see: <http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm02.htm>. This article does not attempt to include link resolver and metasearch or discovery tools, although they could be considered part of **ERM** under some definitions of the term.



The table to follow (see pg.92-93) collates major aspects of the various **ERM** offerings, and was created based on responses to a common set of questions sent to each ILS vendor. Some common themes emerge from this information:

- All of the ILS vendors included here are offering or planning to offer an **ERM** system of some kind.
- All of the ILS vendors offer systems that are designed to carry eresources through the entire life cycle from trial through renewal/cancellation.
- All of the ILS vendors plan for their systems to be integrated into the rest of their own products; all but one (**Dynix**) also expects the system to ultimately be available as a standalone option.
- All of the ILS vendors are attempting to provide user access to licensing information such as terms of use, as well



YES...
all **APS**
journals are in
LOCKSS



15 Journals of the **American Physiological Society**
www.the-aps.org

as access information, such as the fact that a resource is not working, although they are offering this functionality in very different ways and on different timetables.

- While each ILS vendor expresses adherence to the guidelines in a different way, all of them acknowledge the major contribution of the **DLF ERMI** guidelines to their design and ongoing efforts. **Ed Riding's** comments (from **Dynix**) seem to reflect a common sense of the debt owed to the work of this group: "We not only acknowledge this talented and dedicated group [the **DLF ERMI**], but most heartily thank them for and congratulate them on this monumental effort."

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her talk fascinating and a wonderful introduction to the subject.

The rest of the breakfast dealt with the **Endeavor ERM** product **Meridian** and the steps they are going through at **Endeavor** to develop the product. These guys are serious and the effort seemed systematic and well thought out. It was impressive.

Should each librarian who has tasks like **Ms. Ballard's** design and build her own such database? Vendors are investing in developing these products because they feel there is a market for them, after all, should each librarian in this kind of job also be an expert in databases? Or can the vendors hire the experts to develop products that are easy to use and with useful features?

I went from this breakfast back to the various **OPAC/ILS** vendors and asked: do you have similar projects? All I talked to have things in the pipeline. I had hoped to have a list of who is doing what but I found that the whole area is in flux and concluded that things would change between now and the introduction of products. Indeed, a fair amount of the details I found out at **ALA** have already changed. Most product introductions seemed to be scheduled for early next year. However, there were things in common that I found in talking to the vendors.

I found these similarities between them:

1. They all claim that their products will be compliant with the **Digital Library Federation's "Electronic Resource Management Initiative"** (**ERMI**) (<http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm02.htm>). Let me quote from a paragraph that describes what the initiative attempts to do:

"WHEN LIBRARIES ACQUIRE electronic resources from publishers or vendors, they must understand, record, transmit, and inform others about the many financial, legal, interrelational, and access aspects of these arrangements. The acquisitions and licensing processes are complex, publishers transmit this information to libraries in a variety of paper and electronic formats, and the number of licensed electronic products libraries

are collecting is increasing rapidly. Such situations tend to spawn local, ad hoc fixes; what is needed, by contrast, is an industry-wide, standardized solution. The **Electronic Resources Management Initiative (ERMI)**, an ongoing project of the **Digital Library Federation (DLF)**, is creating such a solution."

It appears that this standard is not yet completely formalized because the "final report" is to be completed this summer and it is not available on the Website as of this writing. As a result, complying with it seems to be a goal the vendors have established but actual compliance necessarily must await publication of the standard.

2. There is wiggle room in what the vendors are actually going to do because research is ongoing. There was a certain bit of everyone is doing everything and everyone is compliant but when there are few actual products to demonstrate, rather there are brochures, I thought that I better wait until the dates products were actually launched. As a result, the more I worked on this article, the shorter it got. I did see some demos, though. The **Endeavor** folks had screenshots and demonstrations of how aspects of the product will work but the **SIRSI** folks had an eye-popping live demo of what they were working on.

3. Will it be necessary to have purchased the **OPAC/ILS** of the vendor for a library to purchase the **ERM** product? Some vendors say their **ERM** product only works with the **OPAC**, some don't and, hence, will be available as a stand alone product. I bet the various **ERM** products to work best if you also own the **OPAC/ILS** from the vendor. However, every one of the **OPAC/ILS** vendors I talked to had an **ERM** product in development so I suspect there will be an option for you from your **OPAC** vendor.

4. The vendors I talked to are experimenting and testing in cooperation with libraries and these libraries are listed in their literature so there are operational prototypes being tested. These cooperating libraries will be a source of information if you are interested in seeing the unfinished products while they are being tested. The **Endeavor** folks are also using focus groups to decide which features to supply, so I am betting others are, too.

5. I believe that all will have a Web-based front end. The back ends seem to be various database engines.

According to information I collected, the following vendors have these products in process:

- **VTLS** — **Verify** (<http://www.vtls.com/Products/verify.shtml>).
- **Dynix** — **Horizon Web Reporter**. A white paper *ERM — What is it & What Solutions Does Dynix Provide* is available off its main page (<http://www.dynix.com/>).
- **SIRSI** — **Director's Station** (<http://www.sirsi.com/Sirsiprodcts/directorsstation.html>).
- **Endeavor Meridian** (<http://www.endinfosys.com/prods/meridian.htm>).
- **Innovative Interfaces** — **Electronic Resources Management** (<http://www.iii.com/mill/digital.shtml#erm>).

I heard nothing about pricing but we will know the answer to that question soon enough. 🐉

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might remember that **Ms. Kackle** won this same category last year with her entry "Funding." Here is this year's Most Indignant, "Lies."

Aggregators say
They have everything you need,
But we know better.

Finally the winner of the \$20 prize for this year's best haiku, "Fortitude" by **Jason Thick**, a cataloger with the **Furtive County Library System**.

MARC format changes.
Delimiters like hot sand.
You are not afraid.

Few poems we know reach this level of bravery and exoticism. **Mr. Thick** intimates cerebral joy while giving one an almost physical sock to the belly. Reader, take heed of **Jason's** words, be brave, and submit your haiku in next year's **Annual ATG Haiku Contest**. 🐉

International Dateline —

by **Anthony Watkinson** (Publishing Consultant, 14, Park St., Bladon, Woodstock, Oxon, UK, OX20 1RW; Phone: +44 1993 811561; Fax: +44 1993 811067) <anthony.watkinson@btopenworld.com>

The whole Charleston enterprise has always, or at least has for many years, been international in approach both in its meetings and its publications. Most people, both outside and inside North America, tend to assume that most advances in the world of information that we all inhabit come from the US or even, more narrowly, from California or even Stanford. This is not an unreasonable assumption. However an international perspective is justified because local circumstances do enable

some advances in the take up of e-resources to be made, which are not so easy to achieve in the complex, disorganized and even chaotic US academic scene. I have written in a previous "Dateline" about the impact of the **JISC** (the **Joint Information Services Committee** of bodies funding much of UK higher and further education) on the provision of digital content to the UK academic enterprise. In this issue, my aim is to give further information about the provision to this sector of eBooks in particular, to

point to some initiatives which may travel across the Atlantic and to offer some lessons for wider consideration.

My own particular interest is in e-monographs.¹ A personal communication from a real expert suggests, "In some respects, e-monographs have been more or less ignored for two to three years, as the more pressing issues relat-



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