Implementing a next generation library system

Peter Green

Read the paper...
Perth is a long way from here but everything else is similar
Google maps screenshot
University has 64,000 students and 3,000 staff
Figures to give a sense of the size of the ‘collection’.

Curtin University Library

- Budget: AUD$ 20 million
- Collection:
  - 719,000 print books+
  - 260,000 ebooks
  - 157,000 Journal Subscriptions
- Loans: 223,000 per year
- Turnstile Count: Over 1.5 million per year
- Virtual visits: Over 4.6 million per year
Environmental scan

- Extensive review of the environment
- Literature
- Vendor visits
- Sharing

The starting point for Curtin Library in 2010.
The two major system trends that emerged at this time!
Emerging in 2009 but now well established but still growing. An area of intense competition/cooperation between vendors. Much more than just the catalogue.
One search box to rule them all
This is the frontline but not what I am going to talk about today
Before Discovery comes Management
ILMS no longer integrated as the box has got bigger
Problem of managing collection never went away but took back seat for a while
The distancing of discovery has opened the door to a more radical rethinking of management
Drivers of change

- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Do a better job, do more with the same or less resources

Not just dissatisfaction with current products but also external drivers for change. The need for savings a big driver but not the only one.
Environmental scan showed some emerging qualities of the next generation of library management systems.
Hearing the same things from different vendors
Open includes open data such as catalogue records but also integrations and extensions using well defined API
Software as a Service (SaaS)

- Not just in the Cloud
- Multi-tenancy
- Subscription
- Agile development
- Economies

Hosted is not SaaS
Needs to provide benefits for the vendor otherwise not sustainable
Network and underlying systems maturity makes possible
Curtin Library

- Strategy to go next generation in 3 years
- Not too early, not too late
- Contract signed end of 2012 for Alma
- 5 months rapid implementation 2013/4
- 3 months 2 weeks since Go Live

Timing is important
What have we learnt

- Change is the new normal
- Common work environment
- Efficiencies take time
- Customer community
- Journey for Staff
- Cloud creates different issues

Early days for our next generation system and still a work in progress
Document Delivery and digital still to happen
Questions and Comments