What Would Be the Future of the Integrated Library Systems

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Developmental History of ILS

• 3rd Century BC: Acquisition & Cataloging
• 1780s – 1930s: Card Cataloging
• 1960s: Advent of MARC
• 1970s: Inception of Automation Systems
• 1990s: OPAC
• Early 21st Century: Globalization of Automation Business
• More Features with OPACs
Current Status Quo & Impacts on ILSs

- Advancement of Web Technology & Web 2.0
- Booming of Digital Contents
- Publishers publish more in digital formats
- Growth of library digital collections
- Library collections no longer print-dominant
- More collection budget toward electronic resources
Current Status Quo & Impacts on ILSs (cont.)

• Stagnation of ILSs
  – Primarily designed for managing print collections
  – Lack of capability of offering more than titles
  – Inadequate compensation of 856 MARC field
  – Unable to manage e-resource subscriptions and licenses
Current Status Quo & Impacts on ILSs (cont.)

• Development of non-ILS related software
  – Electronic Resource Management (ERM)
  – Federated Search
  – Link Resolver
  – Stack of miscellaneous apps
Current Status Quo & Impacts on ILSs (cont.)

• Challenges of lacking Integration
  – To libraries
  – To users

• More Obstacles facing ILSs
  – Social
  – Technological
  – Economical
Current Status Quo & Impacts on ILSs (cont.)

• Library 2.0: user-centered service
  – LibraryThing
  – Google

• Advancement of web technology
  – Drupal (CMS)

• Economic slow-down
  – Budget cut
  – Losing staff position
  – Open Source
Literature Reviews

• Researches and discussions around ILS issues
  – Marshall Breeding
  – Andrew Pace
  – Roy Tennant
  – Kristin Antelman
  – Stephen Abram

• Reactions from ILS vendors
  – Understand the situation
  – Positive attitude toward the challenges
New Developments of ILSs

• Features of “Next-generation” ILS
  – Integration & Interoperability
    • Web-based system
    • Metadata Sharing – API
  – Open Architectures & Scalability
    • Data globalization
    • Open Source vs. Open Architecture
    • Service-Oriented Architecture
    • Flexibility
New Developments of ILSs
(cont.)

• User-Centered Design
  – Simplicity: Google-like interface design
  – Powerful functionalities:
    • Suggestions
    • Relevancy ranking
    • Facet filtering

• Cloud computing
  – Alleviate the demand of technological savvy personnel
  – Avoid upfront cost
  – Allow libraries to enjoy the benefit of technology without being limited by short of skillful staff
Summary

• Time to impel ILS vendor to reposition their businesses

• Limitations of current next-gen ILSs
  – Unable to provide seamless interface across all the offered resources
  – Need to have comprehensive resource at one entry point
  – A CMS-like system would give users the leverage to control their data and presentation
Summary (cont.)

• Promising future of ILSs
• Vendors’ responsibilities
  – Forward thinking
  – Push the envelop
  – Think out of the box
“If we continue with the status quo, it (ILS) has no future.”

- Nelson