Alma OpenURL Migration Strategies
ELUNA, May 1 2013
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One of the nation’s top research universities, VCU enrolls more than 31,000 students on two Richmond campuses—the Monroe Park Campus and MCV Campus. The VCU Medical Center, including the university’s health sciences schools, offers state-of-the-art care in more than 200 specialty areas and serves as the region’s only Level 1 Trauma Center.
VCU Libraries

Almost 2.5 million volumes
2.1 million visitors annually
52 Professional & 88 support staff
Budget $17 million (9.7 collections)
One library on each campus, including support for Qatar campus in Middle East
Alma Early Adopter

Alma migration April - October 2012
Less than 7 months migrated SFX, ARC, Aleph, Metalib, VERDE (test), Primo
January 2013 complete migration to Alma
OpenURL resolver and Alma Course Reserves
In an ideal world

Physical/electronic (P2E) migration perfected
Test platform as soon as 1\textsuperscript{st} data load
Realize Alma OpenURL is not SFX
Gather Data

Top targets and sources
Use this data for testing priorities
Share with Ex Libris
Query 2. SFX Requests by Group April-June 2012

- Primo
- SFXit (primarily e-journal search)
- ENTREZ:PubMed
- Ebsco
- NO SOURCE
- Google
- Isinet
- APA
- Refworks
- Aleph (brief aggregator records)
- Metalib
- CSA (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts)
- Thomson Gale
- Elsevier
- CAS (Chemical Abstracts)
- FirstSearch.oclc
- bx
- ProQ
- OVID
- JSTOR
Gather more data

SFX Display Menu Logic
Custom Services
Migrate, Transition, or Delete
Share with Ex Libris

Alma can’t buy me love
Test ID for Ex Libris

Proxy/off campus access is crucial
University id management barriers
OpenURL Bookmarklet

One click to compare SFX to Alma OpenURL
Share widely with staff for testing

Example
Bookmarklet Code

javascript:location=location.href.replace("sfx.library.vcu.edu/vcu","vcu-alma-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/openurl/VCU/vcu_services_page")
Cutover

Primo @ Alma Launch

How to manage all of those other references
VCU DNS Trickery

Changed sfx.library.vcu.edu to point to our Web server, www.library.vcu.edu

Created directory /vcu and created php forwarding script

SFX image stored on new server also
<?

/* wrap access to openURL server created June, 2012 by Erin White */

// services page URL - Alma
$resolver_url = 'http://vcu-alma-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/openurl/VCU/vcu_services_page?';

// backup resolver URL - VCCS
// $resolver_url = 'http://sfx.vccs.edu/vcu?';

if(isset($_SERVER['QUERY_STRING'])) {
    header('Location: '.$resolver_url.'$_SERVER[QUERY_STRING]);
} else {
    header('Location: '.$resolver_url);
}
DNS pros and cons

Pros: global route of all SFX traffic to Alma
SFX server was being retired

Cons: global route of all SFX traffic to Alma
We are still relying on this

In walked Alma
Look and Feel

CSS customization

Alma (General config → Digital Delivery)

Mashup.css

@import url("http://vcu-alma-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo_library/libweb/customized/css/vcu_uresolver.css");
Before customization

Epidemiology
Xu, Guangxign ; Li, Li - Ping ; Liu, Fengying ; Pei, Desheng ; Sheng, Wang ; Pang, Dong
Rheumatology, 2011, Vol. 50(suppl3), pp.iii59-iii60 [Peer Reviewed Journal]
Full text available

Available Online Resources
Full text available at: Free E- Journals
Available from 1996 volume: 35 issue: 1
Full text available at: Highwire Press Free
Available from 1996 volume: 35 issue: 1
Most recent 1 year(s) not available
Full text available at: Oxford University Press Journals Current
Available from 1996 volume: 35 issue: 1
After customization

**Epidemiology**

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http_referer tools

Track all of the handoffs
Vendor (or Primo) → OpenURL → Target
Alma April release includes more debugging
Live HTTP headers FF plugin

HTTP Headers

GET /stat?link_href=http%3A%2F%2Fsfx.library.vcu.edu%2Fvcu%3Fsid%3DEntrez%3APubMed%26id%3Dpmid%3A235914...
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:20.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/20.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Cookie: ncbi_sid=3969100DD8760601_0049SID; WebCubbyUser=%3Blogged-in%3Dfalse%3Bmy-name%3D%3Epersistent...
Connection: keep-alive

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2013 20:55:20 GMT
Server: Apache
Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store, must-revalidate, max-age=0, proxy-revalidate, no-transform, private

Staff Feedback

Open sessions

Staff reporting system
Conclusion

A major production migration by itself

Plan
Test
Inform
Repeat
Thank you

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