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James T. Shaw

University of Nebraska at Omaha, jshaw@unomaha.edu

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Does a NextGen Catalog Imply a NextGen Library?

James T. Shaw

Government Documents Librarian
& Collections Coordinator

Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library
University of Nebraska at Omaha




What is a NextGen Catalog?

- A single database offering seamless access to all library resources.
- Algorithms of increasing sophistication improve relevance of search results as they “learn” more over time.
- Extensive facilities to help researchers sort and parse search results.
- Cost effective, in that researchers more easily search the resources the library purchases.
- Workflow efficiencies that enable the library to redeploy labor to other needful things.



Example of NextGen Catalog Cost and Workflow

In the WMS *Collections Manager* (or, *Knowledge Base*):

Ebook Central Academic Complete Collection ID: pqebk.acadcomplete	Knowledge base collection • Customizable	ProQuest Ebook Central	10/22/2017 02:24 PM	 Selected by my library Titles: 150,945/150,945 Deselect
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- A single click selects this file of records for almost 151,000 ebooks.
- Records populate in search results. The library does not purchase or load records.
- File updated by OCLC and ProQuest. Only rarely should the library need to make a local change.



The Knowledge Base is slick, but someone still needs to pay attention...

A local file for *Cambridge Histories Online*, because we do not have a standing order for new volumes as they are added:

Cambridge Histories Collection ID: customer.74264.118	Knowledge base collection • Customizable • Locally Created	05/31/2017 09:46 AM	 Selected by my library Titles: 374/374 Delete
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- The local file populates search results with records for only those ebooks accessible via our account.



Your library could be a Federal depository without actually being one! But wait, there's more...

U.S. Government Documents - Electronic Collection ID: govdocs.govdocse	Knowledge base collection • Customizable	The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)	10/04/2017 07:29 PM	Selected by my library Titles: 134,367/134,367 Deselect
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- The file is customizable, but how much time and effort available to tailor it for your particular library? No profile tool available (yet).
- Search results in a catalog for a small library could be swamped if all these records were loosed within it.



Big picture considerations for a NextGen library

- Tension between *Good Enough* and *Local Customization*.
- Once you launch a NextGen catalog, there is almost certainly no going back, but...what about continued management of tangible collections?
- Will NextGen catalog algorithms be *Good Enough* that researchers discover a more favorable signal-to-noise ratio in search results?
- How about...the NextGen catalog is different, not necessarily better, but it opens space in the organization for other needful things? Is that *Good Enough*?



There's still no escape.



Choose Two

Questions? Follow-up?

James T. Shaw
Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library
jshaw@unomaha.edu
402-554-2225

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

