ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
OFFICE OF DIGITAL STRATEGIES
246G Main Library
1408 W. Gregory Drive, MC-522
Urbana, IL 61801

Alma/Primo Resource Sheet
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Basics

Both our 'backend' cataloging system (Voyager) and the our end/user catalog (VuFind) will be replaced by Fall of 2020.

Alma will replace Voyager for all 91 I-Share libraries, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Alma is also replacing the SFX OpenURL link server with its own internal service. Once all I-Share libraries are in production with Alma, CARLI will decommission Voyager and SFX. This will not happen until later in 2020, and after complete migration testing and data verification.

At the same time that Alma goes live(2020), Primo will replace vuFind as our public access catalog. CARLI will discontinue support of VuFind at that time. CARLI will continue to support both versions of the VuFind catalog through 2020 including VuFind version 0.6, which we are currently using as our default online catalog, and the updated VuFind version 4.1, which we will continue to make available to users as the "New Catalog Preview." The Classic Voyager OPAC will be discontinued when the consortia goes live with Alma/Primo in 2020.

Alma Facts

Alma supports consortial resource sharing for both onsite borrowing and remote requesting. There will be an I-Share union catalog powered by the Alma Network Zone. The Network Zone will also allow consortial sharing of bib records, e-resource packages, and consortial policy settings. It also allows for consorital and local customizations and views. You can read more about ALMA here: https://www.exlibrisgroup.com/products/alma-library-services-platform/

Primo Facts

With Alma, Ex Libris has included the new version of their Discovery service, Primo VE (this is a different version that what the Library piloted 4-5 years ago), and the Primo Central Index. The I-Share Next RFP asked for staff functionality only and did not require a public interface or discovery layer. Ex Libris included Primo in their bid at the same price as the staff functioning

back-end system. With the successful bid, it was announced at the CARLI 2018 Annual Meeting that the consortia will now move to Primo VE when Alma is implemented. CARLI will discontinue VuFind at that time in 2020.

To see Alma/Primo in action, go to these several sites to see what possibilities are available (with many other configurations as well):

Northwestern University Library:
https://search.library.northwestern.edu/primo-explore/search?vid=NULVNEW&lang=en_US&sortby=rank

Oregon State University Library:
https://search.library.oregonstate.edu/primo-explore/search?vid=OSU&search_scope=everything&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,Charles%20Dickens%20Dombey%20Son&displayField=all

The Library will be working to see how best to utilize Alma/Primo systems into our existing Easy Search Bento environment. There are many options for us to configure and integrate into our existing Discovery environment and pull in more of our local collections to provide better access for users.

Other Demos and Consortia

If you would like to see short demos of Alma and Primo, see videos at Ex Libris site (see the Alma Highlights, Alma for Consortia, and Linked Data and BIBFRAME in Alma videos):
https://www.exlibrisgroup.com/products/demo-center/

Several large consortia also use the Alma system including GALILEO (Georgia system), Orbis Cascade (Washington/Oregon/Idaho), the University of Wisconsin system, California State University system, Washington (DC), the SUNY System (New York) and many other major individual research libraries and consortia.

<u>**Implementation Timeline**</u>

The timeline for implementing Alma and Primo is still being determined by CARLI and Ex Libris as part of the contract negotiations. We should know more about this soon. The Library is working to be part of the vanguard group that goes forward with the implementation of the Alma/Primo and hope to aid the consortia in working through migration of data, configuration of Alma, testing the discovery options in Primo, and training everyone to use the new system, and CARLI has agreed for us to be included in this group and to have a testing environment that includes a 'sandbox' of our own catalog data.

ILS Coordination Team

The Library is creating a new working group, the ILS Coordination Team, to coordinate the implementation of the Alma and Primo system. The ILS Coordination Team will oversee the implementation of the systems to be ready for the Go-Live date of summer 2020.

For more information about the ILS Coordination Team and its charge and all the work they will be doing during this implementation, see the charge document for that group.

The Team will keep the Library informed on all stages of implementation of the new system, set up internal information sessions about Alma and Primo. We will inform the Library's user communities of all forthcoming changes, enhancements, and impacts on their research needs. As questions arise, they should be brought to the attention of the group's chair, Michael Norman, or to another member of the committee.

We will be sending out many communications to keep everyone informed about the process and progress of the implementation of the new systems, as well as to solicit feedback.

ver 1.0 12/6/2016
Authors/contacts: Michael Norman, Chris Prom