From:	Prom, Christopher John <prom@illinois.edu>
Sent:	Thursday, December 6, 2018 3:36 PM
To:	University of Illinois Library News <LIBNEWS-L@LISTSERV. ILLINOIS. EDU>
Subject:	Library Catalog Transition
Attachments:	ILS-Coordination-Team-Description-and-Charge-FINAL.docx; ALMA_PRIMO Fact Sheet.pdf

Hi everyone,

This message provides information regarding a new cataloging system that the Library will be migrating to over the next 18-20 months. The new service will be a cloud-hosted Integrated Library Management System (ILS), accessed through a web interface instead of a desktop application.

I am very pleased to note that the CARLI I-Share Consortium selected the Alma/Primo system for the new consortia-wide ILS. Michael Norman, Discovery Services Librarian and ILS Coordinator, contributed to this decision as an integral member of the team that developed the request for proposals (RFP). I'd like to thank him for his service, as well as anyone else who helped out. Our past work with CARLI's RFP process positions us well for the implementation of this new catalog.

Alma is a web-based platform that we and other CARLI libraries will use to manage many aspects of Library operations. It is not an upgrade to Voyager. However, it provides all of Voyager's features plus many others. It is a multi-tenant system. This means all customers here in Illinois and elsewhere will always be on the same software version. Updates will occur monthly. Ahead of each update, new features and fixes can be tested out in a sandbox/test instance of the system.

Primo is the public access catalog or discovery system that is built to function with Alma. It will be used throughout the I-Share libraries, including here at Illinois. In addition to functioning as an online public access catalog for books, serials, and other items that have traditionally been served from our catalog, Primo has the ability to integrate with a wide range of library and academic systems. For example, it can be configured to offer access to other resources (such as archival finding aids, digital library resources, and others). You can read more about Alma and Primo at the following websites:

https://www.exlibrisgroup.com/products/alma-library-services-platform/
https://www.exlibrisgroup.com/products/primo-library-discovery/

The attached resource sheet provides many more details about the Alma and Primo systems, including lists of libraries and consortia currently using them. The fact sheet also links to some demo versions.

We are taking very proactive steps to smooth the transition to these systems, both for Library staff and for Library users. To this end, we recently established an ILS implementation team, which will be chaired by Michael Norman. Michael and the entire group will begin meeting soon, and they are excited to begin this project. For your reference, I have attached the group's charge and membership.

The team includes representatives from throughout the Library. As the project gathers steam, its members will be working with many of you on specific issues that may affect your domain. And I will be meeting with the group regularly to help set strategic directions and to pitch in.

Throughout the implementation process, we will build on our strong relationships with CARLI. Given our past testing experience with Primo, we plan to help CARLI implement the new systems and to work with its staff members to ensure that Alma and Primo are configured optimally for our needs, as well as those of other consortial members facing similar issues. Senior Director Anne Craig and all of the CARLI staff are looking forward to collaborating with us, and we plan to establish a structure for those partnerships early in the New Year, once the contract for Alma/Primo has been finalized through the state procurement process.

I understand that a large migration project such as this will affect each and every one of you—to say nothing of the students, faculty, and other Library users whom you serve. I and the entire team are determined to make this transition as minimally stressful as possible. We have an excellent team and leadership structure in place. I am confident that the Library will be well served. By fall 2020, we will have in place a system and set of processes that not only improve access, but that will make our internal workflows efficient and flexible, enhancing all of our contributions to our shared service goals.

You'll hear much more about this project in the coming months. In the meantime, Michael will be joining me for my office hours on Thursday, December 13th, from 3-4 pm, in room 246G. Please stop by to chat if you have any immediate questions. If you cannot make it by at that time, please reach out to one or both of us via email.

Thank you,

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