CUNY’s Road Toward a New Library Services Platform

This is where we are now heading and work has begun.
CUNY’s Aleph contract expires in Spring of 2020.
Projected CUNY Migration Timeline
We do not yet know which software it will be. And the RFP winner is........

Until the RFP is complete, no final decision exists for what replacement CUNY will have.
Unified Services eliminates silos and streamlines workflows
Library Services Platform [LSP] provide unified services

- More comprehensive than a traditional ILS (like Aleph)
- Scope will include
  - Access Services (ILL, Circulation, and Reserves)
  - Cataloguing / Metadata management
  - Electronic Resource management (all aspects including link resolution)
  - Acquisitions (budgeting, ordering, invoicing & license management)
- Cross format and integrated management of print and electronic resources
- Reporting & Analytics enhanced to include better data visualization
- Continual update / enhancement (e.g., less lag for standards changes such as with RDA or Library of Congress)
Unified Services: Back Office (staff) interface and a separate Discovery layer (OneSearch)

- Public Interface: OneSearch
- Back Office Catalog: Library Service Platform

Ongoing Data Load

User Actions:
- Library Staff
- Patrons

Ongoing Staff activity
Some things we already know.

• Existing functionality will be preserved, although it will appear differently

• OneSearch (Primo) will remain, growing stronger, and provides continuity for the search experience

• Aleph’s public-facing web interface (aka CUNY+, Aleph OPAC) retires

• Maintaining our library Catalog and Holdings in OCLC remains important

• Illiad / Tipasa will continue to facilitate ILL
Types of work other libraries have done to successfully prepare

- Many incremental steps spread out over months gradually leading up to a successful migration
- Many Reports for:
  - data clean up, review / revise existing workflows, and to preserve our gains!
- Correcting Enumeration/Chronology for better discovery / searching
- Duplicate barcodes/Duplicate OCLC numbers
- Bibs with mixed print/electronic holdings
- Missing item & holdings records
- Inventory / missing items themselves
- Correcting inconsistent cataloging (in general) and clean up of Reserves
- Thoroughly examining acquisitions and e-resource staff workflows to ensure that the new LSP can be best implemented to fit their needs
Work other libraries regret not preparing in advance

• Acquisitions data incomplete and unresolved from prior years
  (Purchase Orders & Budget Tracking cleanup)
• Preserving Sufficient Circulation statistics
• We didn’t ask enough questions
• Involving staff in training on the new software
• Training staff sufficiently on day to day tasks prior to roll out
• Setting realistic expectations requires active staff involvement aimed at learning how the software actually works
• Expect some learning curve for the new system gradually leading to benefits
Write a list of the top three things you hate about Aleph

Take it out when things do not go smoothly with the new system.

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

- John F. Kennedy
How does a Library Services Platform benefit CUNY?

• Unified metadata & resources management for print and electronic resources

• Exception-based workflows use greater automation to consolidate and simplify Back Office management by library staff

• Tighter integration with other systems:
  Reduced burden on staff (e.g., batch loading),
  Improves Discovery Services
  Link resolution is built into the steps involving activation or resources can be automated

• Native analytics to inform collection development, utilization, and benchmarking at the campus and CUNY-wide level
Power to Librarians

- Data-driven, shared collections management results in better informed decision making and improved resource access for patrons

- A bit about the change/transfer of skills and responsibility
  Cloud based / browser interface results in a big reduction in the traditional systems librarian role for basic system management activity (frees System Librarian for other work)

- LSP configuration is simplified, for greater self reliance by campus librarians – this is important

- Task reminders (built into the system) for staff based on library defined workflow
WHAT'S NEW @ OLS57

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LEAVE A COMMENT

In an earlier blog post, we discussed...

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WHAT MARC FIELDS ARE USED IN ONSearch
Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today...