Open Source Stand-Alone OPACs
VALE/NJ-ACRL/NJLA-CUS Conference,
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Overview

• Introduction
• Next generation catalog
• Open source OPACs and demos
• A comparison with Voyager, a commercial OPAC
• Summary tables and ranking of the OPACs
• Conclusion
Introduction-OLE Project

• OLE Project Update – Afternoon Breakout Session 1 (see VALE Conference website for copy of presentation)
• VALE-OLE envisions establishment of a shared bibliographic system for the organization, management and discovery of library materials by participating New Jersey’s academic libraries
• VALE-OLE envisions an enterprise-level environment with seamless integration with institutional personnel and financial systems
• An OPAC will need to be selected and configured to accompany the VALE-OLE system.
Next Generation Catalog - Ten Features

1. Single point of entry for all library information (federated searching)
2. State-of-the-art Web interface
3. Enriched content
4. Faceted navigation
5. A simple box of keyword search on every page
6. Relevancy
7. Did you mean...?
8. Recommendations
9. User contributions
10. RSS feed (Breeding, 2007)
11. More...
Open Source OPACs

- VuFind
- XC (eXtensible Catalog)
- Blacklight
- Scriblio (WPopac)
- Fac-Back-OPAC (Kochief)
- LibraryFind
- SOPAC (Social OPAC)
- Rapi
VuFind

• Web site- http://vufind.org/
• Project beginning date-December, 2005
• Host- Villanova University
• Current release-2
• Demo (out of box)
• Demo (CARLI, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois)
• Installation status
• System requirement
  – Windows, Linux, and Solaris
  – Apache HTTP Server 2.2 or later (2.2.12 or later recommended)
  – PHP 5.2.x
  – MySQL 4.1 or later
  – Java J2SE JDK 1.4 or later
  – GNU Aspell Library – Optional
• Support-VuFind Support Team (VuFind developers)
XC-the eXtensible Catalog

- Web site: [http://www.extensiblecatalog.org](http://www.extensiblecatalog.org)
- Project beginning date: 2007
- Host: the University of Rochester and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Scholarly Communications Program
- Still under development
- Two of the five toolkits are delivered (OAI, NCIP, Metadata Services, Drupal, LMS)
- Built-in metadata management
- System Requirement: no documentation available
- Application status: not clear
- Demos: not available
Blacklight

- Web site: [http://projectblacklight.org](http://projectblacklight.org)
- Project beginning date: ?
- Host: University of Virginia
- Current release: 2.4
- Installation Status
- Demo (out of box)
- Demo (Real life example)
- System requirement
  - Linux, OSX, (Windows?)
  - Ruby 1.8.7 or later
  - Ruby Gem 1.3.1 or later
  - sqlite or MySQL
- Support: none (manual, the mailing list, and IRC)
Scriblio (WPopac)

- Web Site: http://about.scriblio.net/
- Project beginning date: 2006 (original WPopac)
- Host: Plymouth State University and founded in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Targeted users: Small libraries
- System requirement: MySQL 5.x, PHP 5.1x, Apache with Mod rewrite, WordPress 2.7 and up
- Current release: 2.7
- Installation status
- Demo
Fac-Back-OPAC (Kochief)

- A faceted backup OPAC and now Kochief
- Project beginning date: 2007
- Hosts: Three systems librarians (Casey Durfee, Dan Scott, and Mike Beccaria)
- **Demo**
- **Installation status**: Paul Smith’s College and Drexel Libraries Collections
- **System requirement**
  - Subversion client
  - Java JDK 1.5 or higher
  - Solr
  - Python
  - Django
LibraryFind

- Website: http://libraryfind.org/home
- Host: Oregon State University
- Guiding Principles: Universal, Better Discovery, Easy Delivery, Open Source, Extensible
- Features: built-in OpenURL resolver, 2-click find workflow, web-based admin, customizable user interface
- Current development: 0.9.2 (6/09)
- System requirements: Unix OS, MySQL 5.x, Ruby 1.9, Rails 2.0, Yaz/Zoom
- Demo: http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/
Sopac (Social OPAC)

- Website: [http://thesocialopac.net/](http://thesocialopac.net/)
- SOPAC (Social Online Public Access Catalog) is a module for the Drupal CMS that fully integrates Drupal with an existing ILS.
- Features: faceted browsing, tagging/rating/reviewing, customizable via Drupal, saved searches, integrated renewal, holds, fine payment
- System requirements: Linux Debian Etch, Apache, MySQL, PHP, PEAR, Sphinx (open source SQL search engine)
- Current Development: 6.x-2.0
- Demo: Darien Public Library [http://www.darienlibrary.org/catalog](http://www.darienlibrary.org/catalog)
**Rapi**

- **System requirements:** Ruby, Java, Apache Lucene Java library, ruby-marc library, Ruby escape library
- **Features:** spell-check (with suggestion),
- **Current development:** Jan 2009.
- **Application status:** project of the Web Information Retrieval/Natural Language Group (WING) at the National University of Singapore
- **Demo:** [http://linc.comp.nus.edu.sg/](http://linc.comp.nus.edu.sg/)
Voyager OPAC (proprietary)

• For comparison purposes we selected the Voyager “Tomcat” OPAC, which is billed as having “next generation” features and is used by many of VALE’s libraries.
• A commercial OPAC is not going to be considered for use with VALE-OLE, but it is useful to compare its features to the open-source applications being studied.
• Features: search filters (similar to facets), cover art, easy to customize with social tools, spell-checking, and other 2.0/next-generation features.
• Application status: in production
• Examples:
  – Tarrant County College http://library.tccd.edu/vwebv/searchBasic
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>VuFind</th>
<th>XC</th>
<th>Blacklight</th>
<th>Scriblio</th>
<th>Fac-Back-OPAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single point of entry for all library information</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-of-the-art Web Interface</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enriched Content</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceted Navigation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword Searching</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevancy</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you mean...?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Contributions</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSS Feed</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More...</td>
<td>Text messaging, Citation, Zotero, RDA</td>
<td>Text messaging, citation, integration with social networking sites, RefWorks, EndNotes</td>
<td>Text messaging, translation, integration with social networking sites, browse on Google</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
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<td>Sopac</td>
<td>Rapi</td>
<td>Voyager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>------------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single point of entry for all library information</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>❌ Unless you implement Primo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-of-the-art Web Interface</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌ Local mod. required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enriched Content</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌ local mod. required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceted Navigation</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌ local mod. required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Keyword Searching</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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</tr>
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<td>❌</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>❌</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSS Feed</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>WorldCat integration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seems to be a Millenium overlay.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ranking

1. VuFind & LibraryFind (9)
2. Scriblio (8)
3. Sopac (6) & Blacklight (6)
4. Fac-Back-OPAC (5)
5. Rapi & Voyager (2)
6. XC (1+?)
Conclusion

This presentation is intended to provide information about the open-source OPAC landscape. We are **NOT** choosing an OPAC at this time. You are encouraged to review this presentation and explore the OPACs discussed here and conduct your own considered evaluation. Which of these would make an effective and inviting discovery layer for a statewide academic library environment?


Tell us how you feel about them here > [http://tinyurl.com/newvaleopac](http://tinyurl.com/newvaleopac)
For More Information


Breeding, M. 2010. Library Technology Guides
http://www.librarytechnology.org/discovery.pl


Peterson, Andrea. Next Generation Catalog (presentation).
http://www.library.wwu.edu/info/ngcat/
Thank you!

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THIS PRESENTATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: