

OPEN SOURCE ILSs

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008

11:00 AM–NOON • MARBELLA ROOM

Discussion Leaders

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Overview

The directors of two libraries currently engaged in the design of open source integrated library systems will provide a briefing on their experience and lead a non-technical discussion on the organizational and strategic issues that might lead a research library to explore this option.

Duke Open Library Management System Project

The Duke University Libraries recently submitted a proposal to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to convene the academic library community in the design of an Open Library Management System built on Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). Our goal is to think beyond the current model of an ILS and to design a new library system that is flexible, customizable and able to meet the changing and complex needs of modern, dynamic academic libraries. We would use the grant to fund a series of planning meetings, with broad participation in some of those meetings and a smaller, core group of schools developing the actual design requirements document. The final design document will be a template to inform open source library system development efforts, to guide future library system implementations, and to influence current Integrated Library System (ILS) vendor products.

Conifer Project

McMaster University Library, the University of Windsor, and Laurentian University are partnering on the Conifer Project, a shared implementation of Evergreen. We have a test environment set up at the University of Guelph, which is providing hosting services for our project. A project blog can be found at <http://conifer.mcmaster.ca>. The group's current emphasis is on working with Equinox to further enhance functionality in acquisitions and serials. Once that work has been completed we anticipate a "go live" date of May 2009 for all modules.

Evergreen Project

Evergreen is an Open Source Integrated Library System, developed by the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS). Evergreen software helps library patrons find library materials, and helps libraries manage, catalog, and circulate those materials, no matter how large or complex the libraries.

Evergreen is used in the integrated Georgia statewide library system known as PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services). Additionally, libraries in British

Columbia have committed to migrating to Evergreen, and Prince Rupert Library and Fort Nelson Public Library have already put Evergreen into production. Also, Kent County Public Library is in line to become the first Evergreen-powered library in Maryland, and the Michigan Library Consortium and Grand Rapids Public Library are working together to develop a shared library system using Evergreen. And now the Indiana State Library and the Hussey Mayfield Memorial Public Library (Zionsville) have announced the Indiana Open Source ILS Initiative, which will use Evergreen. See <http://www.open-ils.org/>.

Questions the group may wish to discuss

- What would trigger a decision at your library to pursue seriously an alternative to the ILS you are currently using?
- What would be your biggest concerns about adopting an open-source library management system as opposed to a commercially built system?
- How can we best engage with you and your library staff as we do our planning project?