
Press Releases

OCLC, Ex Libris to expose WorldCat content via Ex Libris

Dublin, Ohio and Jerusalem, Israel, September 12, 2011: OCLC and Ex Libris Group have signed an agreement that will enable Ex Libris to incorporate the WorldCat Search API into several Ex Libris discovery and delivery services, providing OCLC member libraries access to WorldCat through the Ex Libris Primo[®] and MetaLib[®] solutions.

Ex Libris will integrate the WorldCat Search API, which provides machine-to-machine access to WorldCat bibliographic records and holdings data, into its applications to make the collections of OCLC libraries discoverable. Libraries will be able to activate this functionality by registering their key to the WorldCat Search API within their Ex Libris system.

“This cooperative agreement makes it easier for Ex Libris users and OCLC members to take full advantage of the rich discovery experience that the WorldCat API can provide,” said Jay Jordan, OCLC President and CEO. “Both organizations are adopting an open approach that will improve services for the libraries that we mutually serve, as well as foster collective innovation. We will continue to work with library service providers to create partnerships that add value for members of the OCLC cooperative.”

Matti Shem-Tov, President and CEO of Ex Libris Group, commented: “As we implement our strategy of transforming both resource discovery and library management, extending access to shared services such as WorldCat is an important step. The integration of the Search API into Ex Libris unified discovery and delivery services demonstrates our commitment to providing a content-neutral solution that ensures the broadest possible coverage of the resources which are most important to libraries. We are pleased to be able to expose the rich bibliographic information in WorldCat to our mutual customers and to offer end users yet another option for expanding the scope of their search beyond the resources of their local institution.”

Contribute your Scottish words to new online dictionary

21 June 2011: Do you like a smoodge or a swallie, and do you stagger after a Mick Jagger? Wherever you are in Scotland your weather is bound to be oorrie, chilpy or dreich. Scots Words and Place-names wants to hear about how people are using Scots words - this is all about your contribution to a totally new, interactive way of collecting the language you speak.

The JISC-funded Scots Words and Place-names (SWAP) project, launching today and based at the University of Glasgow, is trying to find out more

about the language that people speak in their everyday lives in different parts of Scotland.

SWAP will use social media to encourage the public to talk about the Scots words they use, helping create the next Scots dictionaries. There is a Face-book page and Twitter feed (@Scotswap) alongside the SWAP website <http://swap.nesc.gla.ac.uk/>.

Alastair Dunning, programme manager at JISC, said "Websites that ask for public contributions, like the BBC's NatureWatch, work best when their goal really resonates with their audiences. In the Scots Words and Place-names project, University of Glasgow researchers have found a fantastic way of using technology to open up and share the everyday words of the Scots population."

Scots is largely a spoken language, yet research into the way people speak it relies mainly on books and other written sources. The SWAP project is the public's chance to get involved with academic research. They want contributions from anyone who uses Scots words and the resources available on the website will grow as the public add their own knowledge.

The results will add to the word collections of Scottish Language Dictionaries, helping form new Scots dictionaries, and contribute to knowledge of Scots place-names, enhancing the work of the Scottish Place-Name Society. Information gathered will be added into a Scots place-name glossary to supplement the dictionary-based research which was used to create it.

The project is also running a competition throughout June on Glow, the Scottish schools intranet, with judges including the novelist Louise

Welsh. This aims to get children and teachers using Scots in schools. The entries have been enlightening so far, including discussions of Scots words from 'dumfoonerin' to 'bahookie'.

Professor Carole Hough of the University of Glasgow, principal investigator of the project, said, "Research into the Scots language, and Scottish place-names, has really taken off in recent years. This project is a great opportunity to share it with the public, and to get more insights from local knowledge."

Tilburg University first European library to start with OCLC Web-scale Management Services

LEIDEN, Netherlands, 7 June 2011 - The Tilburg University Library, in Holland, has opted for OCLC's Web-scale Management Services (WMS) and WorldCat Local as its new library management solution and integrated discovery service. The Tilburg University Library will become the first in Europe to become operational with WMS, with a planned launch date of 1st June 2012.

An Important factor in the decision to go with OCLC's Web-scale Management Services was that Tilburg University feels comfortable in a "WorldCat future", with the specific Dutch environment on one side and world class players like Google Scholar & Books on the other. "Further it was important to us that with WMS, OCLC has shown us a working product with a good interface, excellent possibilities and a lot of potential. That completed the picture," said Marc

van den Berg, Director Library and IT Services of Tilburg University. The library took its decision after an extensive exploration of the current market situation and of new developments, such as cloud computing and content integration - important elements to its staff and users.

“The Tilburg University Library has experience in developing systems and search engines and therefore we look forward to this new cooperation,” Eric van Lubeek, OCLC EMEA Managing Director responds. “We see it as an acknowledgement of our strategic choices that Tilburg has opted for WMS and WorldCat Local. We think that working in the cloud and sharing data is the way forward for many university and higher education libraries to achieve efficiencies, lower operating costs and free up staff for unique local services and innovation.”

Earlier, the Norwegian consortium BIBSYS signed an agreement for delivery of a solution based on Web-scale Management Services, that will be used from January 2013 by more than 100 of the university libraries, libraries of schools for higher education, research libraries and the national library that are consortium members.

Ingram Content Group announces EPUB 3 support for VitalSource

NASHVILLE, TN, May 23, 2011 - Vital Source Technologies, Inc., Ingram Content Group’s e-textbook solution for publishers, academic institutions, and students today announced its full

support of the International Digital Publishing Forum’s (IDPF) EPUB 3 standard for digital publications and documents.

“With 1.6 million users and a presence on 6000 campuses in 180 countries, VitalSource is the largest e-textbook distribution company in use today. As the leader, we are continually enhancing our platform to give publishers, institutions and students the tools they need to connect innovative content with courses, devices and peers,” said Kent Freeman, President, VitalSource Technologies, Inc. “Our adoption of EPUB 3 is a win for everyone involved as publishers grow their interactive content, academic institutions continue to introduce digital curriculums, and mobile devices continue to proliferate.”

Mr. Freeman continued, “We are pleased that the IDPF has continued to develop the EPUB standard. EPUB 3 will allow publishers to further take advantage of the rich media capabilities that have long been a part of our VitalSource e-textbook platform.”

“A primary goal of EPUB 3 is support for richer, interactive content experiences,” said Bill McCoy, Executive Director, IDPF. “Ingram’s VitalSource has been a pioneering innovator in this area with rich digital learning materials, so I am particularly delighted to welcome their contributions, and early commitment, to support the latest revision to the universal open standard digital publication format.”

EPUB, developed by the IDPF in a cooperative effort between publishers, vendors, software developers, and standards experts, is a comprehensive format that provides content developers

and creators with a consistent specification for digital content. EPUB 3, the next major revision of the standard, builds on IDPF's current EPUB version and introduces new features that are meaningful and beneficial to the e-textbook supply chain, the most notable being enhanced language support, greater accessibility features, and increased multimedia support.