



Next Generation Library Management Systems

Flipped Session on Next Generation Library Management Systems

For much of this century the library management system space (for academic libraries) has been stable with consolidation of vendors the major area of activity. The emergence of web-scale discovery layers refreshed the way in which discovery is conceived and presented to library patrons and implementation has consumed a degree of academic library energy in recent years. Towards the end of the decade a new trend emerged with next generation library systems being developed by a number of vendors, some not traditionally active in this space, including open source developments.

By the end of this second decade of the millennium I expect that most academic libraries will have refreshed their traditional back-end library systems with a next generation library system.

These next generation library management systems have some defining features in common, such as being written from the ground up, combining functionality currently split across different products and being offered in the Software as a Service mode but above all else they promise to fundamentally change how academic libraries manage resources in the age of online information.

The market place is rapidly changing and at the time of the THETA conference in 2013 this will be a topic on the mind of many library and IT attendees, either contemplating their next library system or in the early stages of implementation. I propose to facilitate a free flowing and wide ranging discussion on the state of the emerging next generation library systems, the similarities and differences, the impact of these systems on library and technical staff and the promise of a next generation library system that is a 'digital native'.

The following recommended pre-reading would be good preparation, though many attendees would already be monitoring developments in this area.

Breeding, M. 2012, 'Automation marketplace 2012: Agents of Change', The Digital Shift, March 29, 2012. <http://www.thedigitalshift.com/2012/03/ils/automation-marketplace-2012-agents-of-change/>

Wilson, K. 2012, 'Introducing the next generation of Library Management Systems (Electronic Resource Forum', Serials Review, 38(2): pp. 110-123. Retrieved from Science Direct, 10 August 2012, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.serrev.2012.04.003>.

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