VuFind at the University of Illinois

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Presenters

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Topics

VuFind Overview
Vufind in the CARLI Environment
Why VuFind at University of Illinois?
VuFind @ Illinois: Usability
VuFind Overview

open source discovery tool that layers on top of an ILS & replaces the public catalog interface

developed at Villanova University by Andrew Nagy (software developer) and Chris Barr (interface designer)
focus is on “discovery” and narrowing down search results with facets
developed by and for Villanova -- a Voyager site -- but designed to be ILS independent

drivers exist for other ILSs too: Aleph (Ex Libris); Millennium (III); Sirsi/Dynix; Virtua (VTLS)
user interface is completely customizable

single searchbox can be integrated into local library website
intended to serve as a comprehensive interface for all local content:

- OPAC
- institutional repositories
- local digitized collections
- online journal information
in production or in beta at several large libraries and at least one large consortium:

**CARLI**
http://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu/

**London School of Economics**
https://beta.catalogue.lse.ac.uk/

**Stanford University**
http://searchworks.stanford.edu/

**Yale University**
http://yufind.library.yale.edu/yufind/
libraries with ILS+:

National Library of Australia

Colorado State University
http://discovery.library.colostate.edu/

University of Michigan
http://www.lib.umich.edu/

Georgia Tech University
http://finder.library.gatech.edu/
VuFind: Under the Hood

uses open source tools:
Java
PHP
Lucene (http://lucene.apache.org/)
Solr (http://lucene.apache.org/solr/)
Solr/MARC
cron jobs keep bib data current:

daily (or other frequency) export of bib data from ILS to VuFind

daily (or other frequency) removal of deleted and suppressed records from VuFind database
AJAX queries dynamically pull current holdings info and individual item status from the ILS database as needed

http://www.w3schools.com/Ajax/ajax_intro.asp
can link to an institution’s LDAP server for patron verification
VuFind Functionality

simple, single-box search interface; advanced search option available; default display is relevancy-ranked; facets help to narrow results; cover images from Syndetics;
place holds/requests in ILS;
social networking functions;
export to RefWorks, EndNote;
persistent, bookmarkable URLs;
search multiple, local databases
several libraries have implemented VuFind -- either as their primary catalog interface or as an optional alternative

it does require local programming resources
source code available free from Source Forge through the GNU General License Program

http://sourceforge.net/projects/vufind/

local programmers download the software, extend it, fix bugs, and ideally contribute their work back to the rest of the VuFind community
as more libraries adopt VuFind the community of developers grows and the product grows:

2 libraries in Virginia improved MARC loading process to increase speed of loads

National Library of Australia contributed RefWorks & EndNote export
CARLI enabled VuFind to work in a complex consortium environment

University of Michigan contributed spellchecker and refined RefWorks export
still needed: roadmap for coordinated future development and continuing growth of the VuFind developer community

not clear at present what role Villanova University intends to play in leading the community
Two Articles

Implementing VuFind as an alternative to Voyager's WebVoyage interface: One library's experience
Ho, Birong; Kelley, Keith; Garrison, Scott
Library High Tech, v. 27, no.1, pp.82-92

The VuFind Implementation at Villanova
Houser, John
Library High Tech, v. 27, no. 1, pp.93-105