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Next Generation Catalogs (NGCs) : Meeting User Needs with Metadata and Search Technology

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Defining “NGCs”

1 Characteristics
   • Proprietary
   • Faceted searching & browsing
   • Social networking features
   • One stop ‘solutions’

2 Examples:
   • Encore, AquaBrowser, Primo, Endeca
Standard Features

- Tagging
- Exporting citations
- Filtering/Refining, faceted browsing
- TOC, reviews & ratings
- Google Book Preview
- List making and list sharing
- Permalinks
- Recently added items links
- Related searches
- Saved searches
- Spell checking
Stand Out Features

• Library Address Maps
• Yahoo Images
• Cloud bursts
• Shareable items lists
• Watch lists
Metadata Features

ENCORE

• OAI-OMH + search engine is the backbone of Encore
• Native metadata is mapped to Dublin Core
• Encore pulls metadata from all materials owned and accessible
Metadata Challenges

- Data are lost when using DC instead of MARC & TEI
- Faceting searching exposes database flaws
- We changed policies to leverage Encore
- We retrospectively converted old records
- We retrospectively de-duped records
Searching Challenges

- Algorithms are not always known; they can be proprietary
- Relevance ranking is not always known
- Understand what metadata elements are indexed; you may want these to vary among collections
- Endeca seems to be one of the best search engines
- Adding items to your universe for searching may incur additional costs
Myths

• Catalogers don’t understand users
• Catalogers won’t abandon standards to improve access
• NGCs will hide database imperfections
• NGCs reduce resources for cataloging
Recommendations

• Become a beta partner with vendor
• Test load collections before going live
• Update cataloging codes to benefit your community
• Don’t expect to drastically change cataloging practices