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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