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

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June 28, 2010

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Defining "NGCs"

1 Characteristics

- Proprietary
- Faceted searching & browsing
- Social networking features
- One stop 'solutions'

2 Examples:

- Encore, AquaBrowser, Primo, Endecca



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

