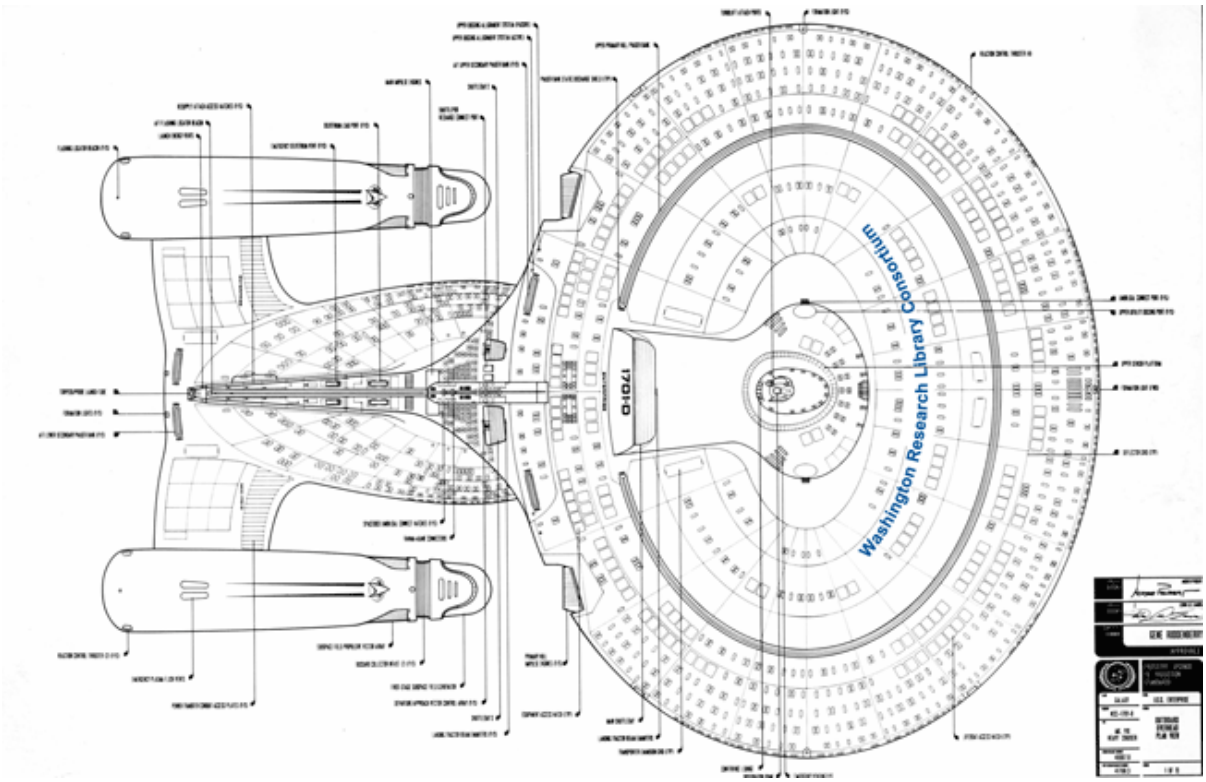
Washington Research Library Consortium
Newsletter

November 19, 2014

LDC Decides WRLC Should Implement Next Generation System in Summer 2018



The Library Directors Council decided that the WRLC should implement a next generation system to replace the current Voyager ILS in Summer 2018. They anticipate that the selection of a next gen system should take place in September 2016.

The decision of the LDC was informed by the exploration and analysis of current next generation systems conducted by the Next Gen Task Force over the past 18 months. The Task Force found that the systems under consideration are relatively new and that significant and aggressive development is still ongoing. The systems offer distinctly different architectures and delaying implementation will permit the WRLC libraries more time to evaluate future development of these products.

The LDC and the Task Force agree that there is significant value in having a shared platform, as with the current Voyager system, and that moving together to a shared next generation system would be preferable, if it can be done on a timetable that meets the needs of all member libraries. This seems to be both the most cost effective approach and also offers the best environment for collaboratively managing our shared collections.

- Mark Jacobs
WRLC Executive Director

Updating Voyager Records for Retention Commitments

WRLC staff are updating Voyager location codes for those items selected for long term retention. Currently we are setting retention codes for two million items within the WRLC collection to ensure that we retain two copies of any given monographic title (unless of course only one copy is held with WRLC). We will also be marking duplicate items in the next phase of the project; these are items for which there are already two copies in the Shared Collections Facility, and the intent is to prevent adding the duplicates that are still in the library stacks (there are only about 80,000 items in this group).

A final step will be to mark those items intended for long term retention as cultural heritage commitments (c. 250,000 items). The SCS Task Force defines these as items for which there are 10 or fewer US holdings in Worldcat. It was agreed that libraries would have a year to review these lists to ensure that the records truly represent relatively rare items, and are not the result of data anomalies. As each institution completes its review, WRLC will change the location codes appropriately and will update the bibliographic records with a 583 note to reflect the retention commitment (this only applies to these cultural heritage items). WRLC will also work with libraries to update these records in OCLC so that the broader community is aware of our commitment to retain these volumes.

This represents an important step forward in implementing the shared WRLC collection envisioned in the report of the Shared Collections Vision Task Force. If you have any questions regarding the process or how to handle items with the new locations, please contact Bruce Hulse (hulse@wrlc.org).

- Bruce Hulse
Director, Information Services

Islandora Migration Nears Completion

The migration of digital collections to the Islandora platform is nearing completion. DSpace collections from American, Catholic, Gallaudet, Marymount and UDC have been migrated to the new environment and processes have been run against them to create derivatives (display JPEG's, OCR full text indexing where applicable, etc.). DiscoveryGarden is working on various cleanup tasks at this time. The final phase will be the migration to Islandora of a small number of collections for which metadata was not held in the DSpace environment. Theming (branding and design) work is ongoing and is projected to be completed this week. We are somewhat behind schedule, in part due to changes in DiscoveryGarden's staffing. We do hope to be able to move the Islandora collections from the development environment to the production server next week.

Two training sessions are being conducted this week by our consultant Liza Coburn. One will be at American University on November 19th, the other at Catholic University on November 20th. This will give staff an overview of the software and a basic idea of how to start working with collections in the Islandora environment. More in depth training may be offered in the future as experience with the software provides a better sense of what may be needed.

- Bruce Hulse
Director, Information Services

We're Here to Help!

I was recently asked "What are the areas of expertise of the WRLC staff and when is it appropriate for library staff to reach out for assistance?" The simple answer: Anytime! The WRLC staff are here to help you ensure the success of learning and scholarship.

Use the HelpDesk to contact us about a problem with a WRLC provided service. It's available 24/7 at http://helpdesk.wrlc.org or 301.390.2050.

Send an email to ideas@wrlc.org if you want to request a new service, recommend an enhancement to a current service or are simply curious about something. Both Jim Austin and Bruce Hulse will receive the email and will determine who has the expertise needed to help you. (We plan to replace this email address with an online service enhancement tool, such as Jira, ServiceNow and Samanage, soon.)

We welcome and will consider any request, idea or question that you may have. Do you need an estimate of how many monographs can be accommodated in your space in the Shared Collections Facility? Do you have a great idea for a software application that you think would be useful to just your library or possibly all nine? Are you wondering about a charge on an invoice? We can address all these questions, and a whole lot more.

- Mark Jacobs
WRLC Executive Director

What's Cookin': Makers, Making Open Hardware, and New Ways of Doing Things

"Have you ever been inspired by a presentation you heard at a conference, an article you read or a discussion you had with colleagues? With this issue of the WRLC newsletter we are kicking off a new feature intended to share new, unusual, innovative and perhaps just plain weird ideas that are worth thinking about. What fascinating ideas have you come across lately? Let us know or write a brief article that we can include in the WRLC Newsletter."

- Mark Jacobs

A couple of weeks ago, I attended the LITA conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The first keynote was presented by AnnMarie Thomas, Professor of Engineering and founder/Director of the Maker Education Initiative with a mission to "...create more opportunities for all young people to develop confidence, creativity, and interest in science, technology, engineering, math, art, and learning as a whole through making." (http://makered.org/.) The topic of 'making' and 'makers' was fascinating and I encourage you to explore it further.

About the same time, I was sent a link to *4 Technology Trends Every Librarian Need to Know* and immediately recognized that the fourth trend (Open Hardware) was exactly in-line with what Dr. Thomas was talking about in her LITA keynote address.

Discussing Open Hardware, the writer suggests using a device to count traffic through a space. I started thinking about ways this could be accomplished and it occurred to me that I already had all I needed to create such a device using my Raspberry Pi. The Raspberry Pi is a credit card sized computer with a variety of different modules and extensions. Further, I realized that it would be easy to add a camera that was motion triggered to send an email with a picture to provide security in a location. And all that for about $80. The possibilities seem endless when coupling this device to the concept of Makers and Making. Would you like to try a device like this in your library? How else might these tools be useful? If you have some thoughts, please share!

- Jim Austin
Director, Information Technology

Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research

Geneva Henry, University Librarian and Vice Provost for Libraries at the George Washington University, provided an introduction to the U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy's Open Access Policy to the WRLC Board of Directors, which is comprised of the nine Provosts and three CFO's from the partner universities. The Open Access Policy is designed to increase access to the results of federally funded scientific research. Researchers receiving federally funded research grants are now required to develop a plan to preserve, organize and provide access to the data resulting from the grant. The policy reflects substantial inputs from scientists and scientific organizations, publishers, members of Congress, and other members of the public.

Creating an effective environment to gather, organize, make accessible and preserve the results of research conducted on our campuses requires collaboration among researchers, librarians, information technology professionals and administrators. The university libraries, the university information technology support departments and the Office of Sponsored Research will all need to collaborate to provide the necessary multi-pronged approach to making the results of their research available. She recommended consideration of SHARE (Shared Access Research Ecosystem), a federated compliance infrastructure based on existing repository infrastructures being promoted by the Association of Research Libraries, the Association of American University and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. A description of SHARE can be found at http://www.arl.org/focus-areas/shared-access-research-ecosystem-share.

- Mark Jacobs
WRLC Executive Director

Disaster Training Survey

What can I do when there is a water leak in the stacks?

Effective disaster response and recovery procedures empower library staff members and provide us with the best opportunity to salvage more materials in a collections-based emergency. To that end, the WRLC Preservation Advisory Committee has advocated for and led training activities in disaster response and recovery since 2011.

As the committee evaluates our training program for continuous improvement, we need your help! Please

take a few minutes to give us your feedback. We're interested in hearing from staff at all levels, whether or not you have attended WRLC disaster training before.

Take the Survey

Thank you for your time!

WRLC Preservation Advisory Committee

Event: Code Collaboration with Git

Thursday, November 20 from 10:00 am – 11:00 am
WRLC World Headquarters and GoToMeeting

Kurt Nordstrom, Applications Support Engineer at WRLC

The WRLC has long been a proponent of Open Source software and collaborative development. To that end, the WRLC is setting up a private Git repository to share code between WRLC and member libraries. Kurt Nordstrom, Applications Support Engineer at WRLC, will give an overview and demonstration of typical interactions with a central Git repository. Both maintainer and contributor perspectives will be presented. A Go To Webinar is available for those unable to attend in person. If you would like to attend in person or have any other questions, please contact Jim Austin at austin@wrlc.org.

Register for Webinar

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