

NAAUG 2004, Topical Discussions – Large Research Libraries

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1. A set of issues discussed at prior meetings of this group remain unresolved - the need for:
 - Documentation about production database for ad hoc reporting
 - Entity-relationship diagrams
 - Data dictionary
 - Development of (widely promised) APIs
 - API documentation (CD has been sent to some customers)
 - API Customer training (University of Maryland was provided API training)
2. Ex Libris is using Winrunner™ and Loadrunner™ as testing software.
 - Those interested in scale testing and autoregression testing should contact Dale Flecker.
3. Software escrow-
 - Is a requirement of many contracts
 - Jim Corey (FCLA), Larry Woods (University of Iowa), and Peter Brantley (CDL) are working with Ex Libris to document current software escrow protocols.
 - Source code and documentation should be deposited with a neutral third party so that customers will have access to the escrow deposits should something happen to Ex Libris.
 - What is deposited?
 - With what frequency?
 - Is adequate documentation included?
 - Are any elements discarded or superceded?
 - Testing is needed to determine how accurate the deposits are. Ex Libris will supply technical support to assist a volunteer site willing to test a system rebuild.
 - Documentation must specify the version of compiler required. The test wouldn't have to be 100% - could we get ten programs to run without something going wrong?
 - The third party agreement should name those with contracted escrow agreements as beneficiaries. Look at Site Search™ as a model case. We need to know that the escrow source code deposit is complete with build documentation. Encryption keys are also needed.
 - Are all versions and releases in escrow?
 - Is the list of installations with contractual escrow clauses private?
4. Large Developments-

NAAUG and ICAU have recommended that a process be implemented for large-scale functional developments and system tweaks. Dale Flecker asked which topics should be included in a meeting with Ex Libris management scheduled for the following day. Examples discussed include:

Relevance ranking in OPAC

FRBR

Dynamic indexing across catalogs

A "system management dashboard" to support ILS management

OPAC accessibility for the disabled.