ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE:

Help or Hindrance?

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What is EDI?

- **Electronic Data Interchange**
  - "The transfer of structured data, by agreed message standards, from one computer application to another by electronic means with a minimum of human intervention."
  - "the direct communication of trading messages between computer systems, using national and international telecommunications networks."
  - "paperless trade"

EDI technical requirements:

- Standards
  - .X12
  - EDIFACT
- "Match" Points
  - Standard number
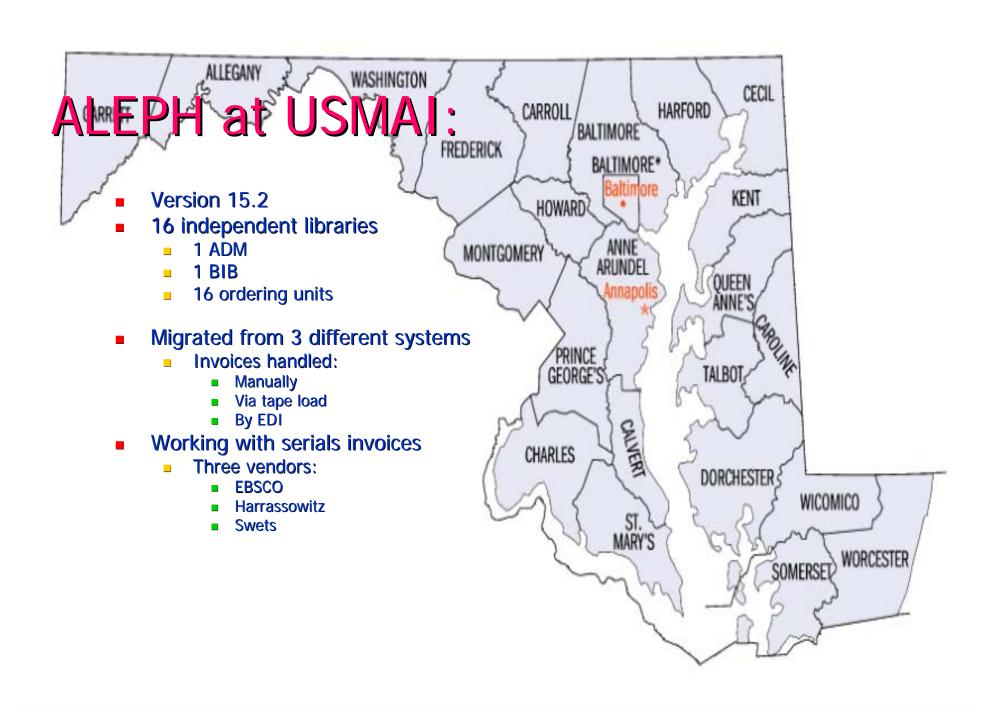 - Order number
  - Vendor reference number

- "Trading Partners"
  - Library
  - Supplier
- Software
  - Loader
- Data Transmission
  - Internet

Uses of EDI:

- Processing invoices (debits and credits)
- Processing orders and order acknowledgement
- Processing claims and claims responses
- Journal dispatch data
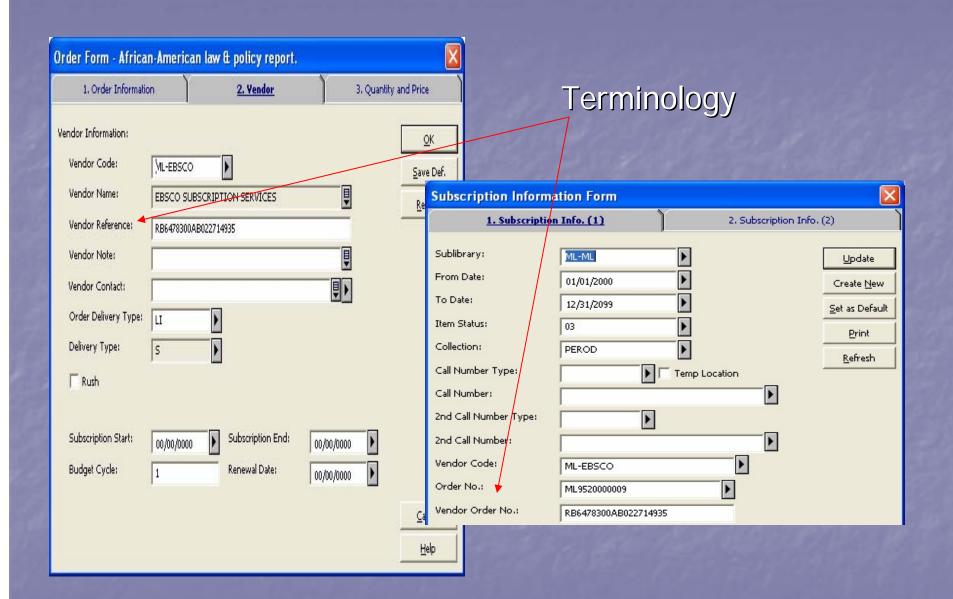- Pricing and bibliographic data

Benefits of EDI:

- Improves Efficiency
- Reduces Errors
- Reduces repetitive tasks
- Increases speed and accuracy of communications
- Enables data sharing
- Modifies Workflow
- Reduces delivery times
- Improves service

ALEPH at USMAI:

- **Version 15.2**
- **16 independent libraries**
  - 1 ADM
  - 1 BIB
  - 16 ordering units

- **Migrated from 3 different systems**
  - Invoices handled:
    - Manually
    - Via tape load
    - By EDI
- **Working with serials invoices**
  - Three vendors:
    - EBSCO
    - Harrassowitz
    - Swets

Getting ready:

- Establish working relationships with vendors
- Start process well in advance
- Understand terminology
    - Order number; Title number
- Update records
    - Order number & subscription ID
    - Budgets and encumbrances

Terminology

Budgets & Encumbrances

Encumbrances for Order ML9520000009

Budget number	Enc/Active Amount
ML-EBSCO-2004	1.00 (0.00)

Add Budget
Encumber
Delete Budget
Balance

Budget Code to Add:

Encumbrance: 0.00

Encumbrance Percent: 0

Estimated Cost of Order: 1.00

Local Cost of Order: 1.00

Currency of Order: USD

Total Encumbrance:

Close

Help

Mismatches

ML9204200003

Vendor Ref RB6478300AB443323670

ISSN 0953-8186

Title INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF REFUGEE LAW /IJRL/ /ALL EXCEPT UK

Amount   300.44

Budget

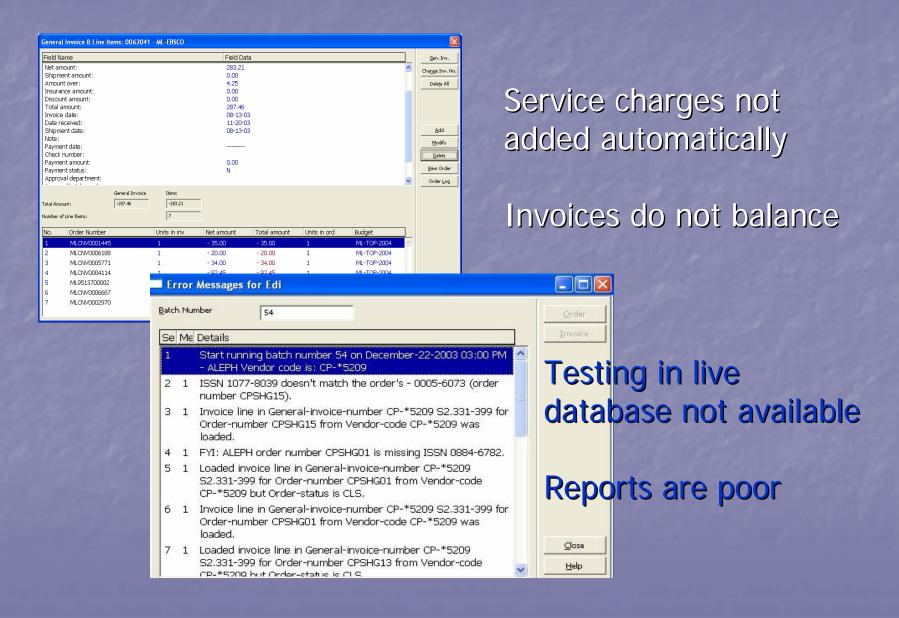**Note   Coverage period: Jan 01, 2001 - Dec 31, 2001**

ERROR   ERROR: Unable to determine matching order: (order number) ML9204200003 (vendor ref) RB6478300AB443323670

Vender Reference Number in Aleph was RB6478300AB443323753

Updating information:

Title	ISSN	Type of Publication	Frequency	Customer Code	Library Order No.
Archiv des Öffentlichen Rechts	0003-8911	print journal	quarterly	BALTI-LAW	MLA227600003
Archiv für die Civilistische Praxis	0003-8997	print journal	every 2 months	BALTI-LAW	MLCNV0007257
Asia Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law	1388-1906	print journal	semi-annual	BALTI-LAW	MLCNV0000311
Auckland University Law Review	0067-0510	print journal	annual	BALTI-LAW	MLCNV0006416
Australian Law Journal	0004-9611	print journal	monthly	BALTI-LAW	MLCNV0007231

Ex Libris Loader:

Service charges not added automatically

Invoices do not balance

Testing in live database not available

Reports are poor

USMAI Loader:

- Line item added for service charge
- Invoices balance
- Testing in a "live" environment
- Preload reports

USMAI Reports

HOME edi mai50

ML-EBSCO (report-mode)

1 invoice(s) processed
0 invoice(s) loaded
15 line item(s) processed
0 line item(s) loaded
0 transactions(s) loaded
0 error(s)

Invoices

0035294   20040313   D   1406.23   15 line items

Invoice Details

Invoice Number	0035294
Invoice Date	20040313
Credit/Debit	D
Net Amount	1385.45
Shipment Amount	0
Overhead Amount	20.78
Discount Amount	0
Total Amount	1406.23
Number of lines	15
1	Order Number ML9520000009
	Vendor Ref RB6478300AB022714935
	ISSN 1086-6620

Testing:

- **Initially**
  - Check data elements
  - Modify incoming data file
- **Ongoing**
  - Load in report mode
  - Verify Aleph data

Notification:

From: EBSCO ILS-EDI Services <ILSEDIServices@EXCHANGE.EBSCO.COM>
To: Yalan Qi - Univ of Maryland Thurgood Marshall Law Lib
<edinv@itd.umd.edu>
Sent: Mon, 10 May 2004 12:06:32 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: EBSCO Invoice File
The EBSCO Subscription Services invoice information that you requested in ALEPH 500 EDIFACT format is now available for pickup via the INTERNET. In order to do an FTP file transfer via the INTERNET, you will need our Node Name, your USERID, and a password as follows:

NODE NAME: FTP.EBSCO.COM
USERID: ALE0005
PASSWORD: EBSCOINT
FILENAME: R051004.T105658.INV

TRANSFER TYPE IS ASCII
NOTE: PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOUR FILES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP
FOR 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS EMAIL ONLY.
A file summary is included below for your reference:

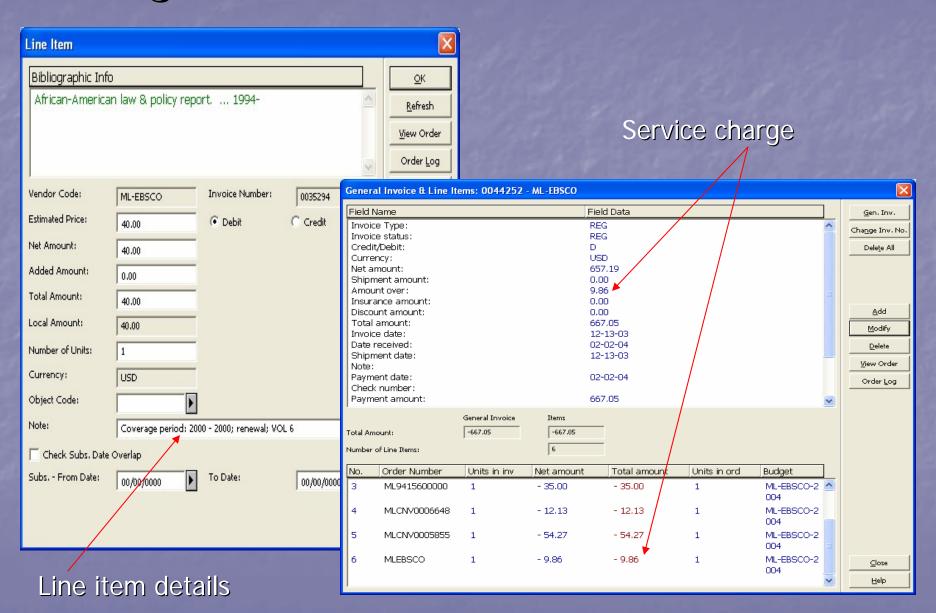| Trans Date	Account #	Invoice #	Invoice Date	# Line Items	Total Amt
20040510	RB6478300	7568898	04292004	2	757.22

Total Number of Line Items and Total Amount =   2   757.22

Going live:

Line item details

Service charge

Help or Hindrance?

Cons:

- Requires significant development effort
- Time consuming preparations
- Effort is front loaded
- Not all processes can be handled by EDI
- Ongoing maintenance required

Pros:

- Speeds up processing
- Streamlines workflow
- Reduces likelihood of errors
- Avoids rekeying data
- Frees staff to attend to more complex tasks and resolve problems
- Improves communication between trading partners

What's next:

- EDI invoicing with more vendors
- Additional types of EDI transactions
- Ever larger percentage of transactions will be handled by EDI
- Libraries have to continue to lobby for EDI with their trading partners

Very Selected References:

- Bluh, Pamela, editor. "Why EDI? What Managers Need to Know about Electronic Data Interchange." Eight papers on the uses and benefits of EDI. *Library Administration & Management*, v. 10, no. 3, summer 1996, p. 138-174.

- Boissy, Robert W. "Elements of Style for Next Generation Serials Electronic Data Interchange." *Serials Librarian*, v. 38, no. ½, 2000, p. 69+

- Simser, Charlene, et. al. "The Impact of EDI on Serials Management: Don't Let the Ship Sail Without You!" *Serials Librarian*, v. 40, no. ¾, 2001, p. 331+

- *Serials Librarian*, v. 30, no. ¾, 1997. Series of articles on EDI.

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- EDItEUR – www.editeur.org

- ICEDIS (International Committee on EDI for Serials) – www.icedis.org