Squeezing RSS From Aleph:

One Library’s Tale

ELUNA  2010 Fort Worth, TX
Tom McNulty
Virginia Commonwealth University

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Background

Virginia Commonwealth University
– Located in Downtown Richmond
– 32,436 students
– 2 campuses
– One of the top 100 research universities in the country

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Origins

- Requests from advisory groups
- Logical bases for other items
  - Compact storage
  - Journals
  - Medical Library

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New Titles Logical Base

- Inspired by paper “What Has the Library Bought for You Lately?” by Jane Aitkens, McGill University
- Added new field to bib records of items identified as updated the previous month
- Not originally intended for RSS feeds

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What makes a book a new book?

• When it’s ordered?

• When it’s received?

• When it’s cataloged?

• When it’s put on the shelf?

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New Books

Items that are available to be checked out

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New Books Rollout

• Testing in August 2005
• In production November 2005
• Updated monthly

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RSS Feeds Origins

- Next Gen OPAC envy
- Started April 2009
- In production January 2010

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Aleph Setup

• X-services configuration
  – www_x user
  – Server_allow
  – Field display – tag files
    • alephe/www_x_eng

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• **Find**
  
  http://catalog.library.vcu.edu/X?op=find  
  &base=vcu01new&request=wtp=DV+or+LD+or+FR+or+VC+or+IV  

• **Sort**
  
  http://catalog.library.vcu.edu/X?op=sort-set  
  &base=vcu01new&set_number=0045  
  &sort_code_1=08&sort_order_1=D&sort_code_2=03&sort_order_2=A  

• **Present**
  
  http://catalog.library.vcu.edu/X?op=present  
  &base=vcu01new&set_number=0045&set_entry=001-100  

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PHP Script

• Choice of PHP
• Run by cron
• Available on the EL Commons CodeShare

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Divide and Conquer

• How to divide the information?
  • Call number range based on subject

• All vs. Many vs. Some

• LIS took the first pass
  • Given to collection management for input
  • Some didn’t make the cut

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FeedBurner

- Stat Tracking
  - Subscribers
  - Click-through
- Subscribe by email
- Add feed to Twitter

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Next Steps

- University Portal Integration
- LibGuides Integration

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Questions?

tmcnulty@vcu.edu

www.library.vcu.edu