

Email to VuFind Early Adopters List from Paige Weston, CARLI Office, May 6, 2008

Hello, VuFind early adopters,

Today marks one week since we released the vufind-beta URL to you: <http://xxxxxxx> . I thought it was time to send you a brief status report and to remind you that we eagerly await any preliminary feedback you have about VuFind (other than about the parts we know aren't finished yet, as described toward the bottom of the page at <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/I-Share/opac/vufind-early.html>).

During the past week, CARLI staff have:

- Installed server performance-tracking software (which tells us that people have indeed been looking at VuFind, at least a little).
- Begun to automate the nightly update of bibliographic records searchable in VuFind.
- Integrated Syndetics data into VuFind. The Reviews tab of the single-record Details page now contains reviews or summaries from Syndetics instead of from Amazon. Similarly, cover images, where they appear, now come from Syndetics. In consultation with Bowker staff, CARLI is working out a plan for which Syndetics elements will display where. In general, the Syndetics elements that display will correspond to what the owning library has subscribed to. Eventually (but not quite yet), and at least when the user is searching VuFind for all I-Share libraries together, where the owning library has not subscribed to any Syndetics elements, the user will still see the set of five Syndetics elements users currently see in the Universal Catalog, on every record where these are available: cover images, tables of contents, first chapters/excerpts, summaries, and author notes. What the user will see when searching a VuFind "local" catalog for a library that does not subscribe to Syndetics is still under discussion.
- Made progress toward a spec for the display of multi-item holdings. We hope coding for a cleaner, more accurate display of complex holdings data can begin soon.
- Made progress on styling the look-and-feel of VuFind and, probably more interesting to you, on designing a mechanism that will allow you to affect the look of VuFind for your "local" catalog. Our plan, at least initially, is to develop a form similar to the form we use for customizing the look of CONTENTdm. (See <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/contentdm/CDMcustom.php> .) By the end of this week I should be able to tell you when this form will be available.

WHERE TO REPORT PROBLEMS, AND WHAT TO REPORT

Remember: VuFind continues to change. Some parts are not yet done and so we don't yet need for you to report those parts as problems; see the page at <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/I-Share/opac/vufind-early.html> . Other parts are done-for-now, and problem reports about those parts should be sent to support@carli.illinois.edu . We encourage you to use this list as well, vf-early@carli.illinois.edu , for comments, discussion questions, usability test coordination amongst yourselves, etc.