

CARLI



Consortium of Academic and
Research Libraries in Illinois

VuFind Status Report

CARLI Resource-Sharing Forum

April 16, 2008

What is VuFind?

- An experimental alternative to WebVoyage
- A “discovery” tool or “next generation” OPAC interface
 - features include faceting and user-added tags
- An accessible user interface
- Open source software from Villanova University, being adapted by CARLI programmers for use in the I-Share environment
- Will be known as “I-Share” (same data, new look)

What is available via VuFind?

- Bibliographic data extracted from all I-Share local databases then reindexed
 - Bibs were extracted in late March; eventually to be updated nightly, just as the Voyager UC is
- Holdings, item status, patron MyAccount data all pulled dynamically from Voyager
- Book reviews, cover art pulled from external resources
- Links from VuFind to GoogleBooks, SFX
- User-added comments

Who will use VuFind, when?

- “Early adopter” library staff will get access very soon. No date set for when they will show VuFind to their users. Early adopters are:
 - BRA, COL, EIU, ERK, IIT, ISU, IWU, MIL, NLU, PRK, SAI, SIE, WHE
- Perhaps by summer 2008, VuFind will be *an option* for any user wanting access to I-Share data.
 - Libraries may decide to promote VuFind to their users, or not, as they see fit.
 - Users who require an accessible interface may prefer VuFind to the current version of WebVoyage.

How does VuFind interact with Voyager?

- VuFind is an alternative to WebVoyage
 - WebVoyage is not going away.
- When users place requests, VuFind interacts with Voyager data and policies just as WebVoyage does.
 - Requests placed in VuFind are visible on the WebVoyage MyAccount page; requests placed in WebVoyage are visible on the VuFind MyResearch page.
- Bib data extracted from Voyager in batch, and reindexed.
- Patron and item status data retrieved dynamically from Voyager.
 - VuFind will eventually allow “better” patron address displays than the current version of WebVoyage.
- All staff functions still performed in Voyager staff clients.

Future plans for VuFind

- Early adopter library testing next week?
 - Performance tuning
 - Development work continues
- Rollout to early adopter libraries' users, June 2008?
 - Performance tuning continues
 - Possible migration to new hardware
 - Interface changes based on early adopters' usability tests
- Expansion beyond early adopter libraries, summer 2008?

VuFind Development To-Do List (for sure)

- Regular updates to bibliographic record extract
- CSS into libraries' hands for local control over look-and-feel
- Links to full text tidied up
- Multi-volume holdings displays tidied up
- Format icons tidied up
- Item availability displays tidied up
- Requesting function expanded
 - Phase 1: "Request this" (done)
 - Phase 2: "Request other"
 - Phase 3: "Request any"

VuFind Development To-Do List (potential)

- Too many good ideas to list!



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VuFind Demo!