

# From Voyager to ALMA!

2013-2015

April 2, 2019

# Context

- 22,000 students
- 8200 FTE Undergraduates
- 9000 FTE Graduate students
- 4500 part time
- 1400 Full time faculty
- Carnegie classification of R1, Research University
- Evanston, Chicago, Doha (Qatar)

# Context

Large user community including many advanced searchers who had grown accustomed to the OPAC referred to as NUcat

# Context

Multiple libraries and collections

- Northwestern University Libraries
- Galter Health Sciences Library
- Pritzker Legal Research Center
- Styberg Library of the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

# Planning for change

## 2013

- **March** : Northwestern announces selection of ALMA
- **April-August**: Implementation structure developed
- **September**: Implementation timeline announced
- **November**: Project Manager hired

# Planning for change 2014

- **March:** Decisions made about multiple owning libraries in Voyager
- **May:** Primo renamed 'NUsearch'
- **September:** Announced July 1, 2015 as the date NUCat would no longer be available
- **September:** Communications task force formed

# Planning for change

## **March 2015:**

- Transition task force meets with library departments
- Advisory group formed
- Primo view for stand-alone OPACS introduced

# Planning for change

## **April 2015:**

- Formal announcement sent to faculty
- Library liaisons follow up with departments offering to do special Primo sessions



# Planning for change

## **May 2015:**

- Launched a series of LibGuides detailing basic functions of Primo interface

# Planning for change

## **June 2015:**

- Series of “Tip Sheets” produced with assistance of Marketing and Communication department
- Drop-in sessions for Primo instruction offered to faculty and staff

# Change

## July 2015:

- **July 1:** NUcat is unlinked from library website
- **July 6 – July 20:** Final migration work and testing
- **July 21:** ALMA officially 'live'

# Feedback

- Title searching is easier
- Author searching is more difficult in basic search
- Like handling of misspelling in searches
- Cannot always find search term in result
- Issues with FRBR and Deduplication

# Feedback

- Continually changing search results
- Lots of extra citations, not just records from catalog
- Records do not immediately update
- Primo Central records can take a week to process

# Instruction/Reference

- Use of facets and post search limiting
- Google like interface is comfortable to some but not all
- Less specificity required in searching
- Sometimes more difficult to explain results ranking
- Explanation of what is being searched is needed

# Lessons Learned

- Give people a chance to be frustrated
- Involve staff from all areas in preparations for change
- Repeat the message, not everyone will hear it the first time
- Make yourself available well in advance of the actual change

# Thank You

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