SPECIAL REPORT

Report on LSRD-SIS’ Fall 2023 Batch Please Webinar Series

Faye Bates, University of Connecticut

Introduction

In early December 2023, over the course of two weeks, LRSD-SIS hosted a series of webinars following up on the program, "Batch Please: Leveraging Batch Record Loading for Integrated Library System Improvements and Enhancing Resource Discovery," presented during AALL 2023 in Boston by Susanna French, Rachel Decker, John Beatty, and Rebecca Bearden. The program was a general overview of batch loading in both library systems and institutional repositories, and the webinar series followed up by demonstrating batch loading processes in specific systems. The Batch Please webinar series was organized by the LSRD-SIS Education Committee, and each session began with a short introduction by Rebecca Bearden, from Boston University, as current chair of the Education Committee and SIS and primary program coordinator of the Batch Please series. Then, the remainder of each program was led by a moderator and presenter.

Alma

- Moderated by Angela Jones, Southern Methodist University
- Presented by Susanna French, University of Connecticut

In this webinar, Susanna French explained how her institution set up batch loading in ExLibris’ Alma ILS and showed examples of both manual and automated FTP uploading. They have set up import profiles in Alma for each vendor. These profiles include settings for the batch loading process. The first are normalization rules, which include automated instructions to make batch modifications to MARC records when certain conditions apply. Next, it includes match profiles which are automated instructions for what Alma should do if it identifies something that appears to be a duplicate; UConn Law uses the 035 serial match method. Then management tags, which include information about record suppression and OCLC synchronization. Lastly, the import profile includes inventory information for how Alma should create electronic inventory (portfolios) and what attributes should be applied. Susanna noted that you rarely need to create norm rules from scratch since there are many example normalization rules for different situations available to Alma users in the Metadata Editor under Rules > Community.

(Cont on p. 3)
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SPECIAL REPORT

(Cont from p. 1)

When a batch loading import profile job finishes, Susanna reviews the job report, which includes how many records processed, total records imported, matches found count, names of records imported, and other information. She then goes into each report and tests the URLs of a few titles to make sure they work as expected. MarcEdit can be used to double check the number of records expected to load, spot check individual record information prior to loading, and, when necessary, make edits prior to loading that normalization rules cannot accomplish. FileZilla is also used sometimes to troubleshoot FTP issues. The Scheduled Jobs Status widget on Alma homepage will show a warning if an automatic job fails or contains errors.

After the presentation, Susanna, Angela, and other participants provided answers to questions, discussed varying ways that Alma users have set up their workflows, and answered some questions for existing and future Alma users.

Folio

- Moderated by Jackie Magagnosc, Cornell University
- Presented by Jim Kalwara, University of Colorado

In this webinar, Jim Kalwara described how his institution has set up batch loading in Folio. He explained that in Folio, the Data Import app is where loading takes place, and the Settings app is where to create and edit profiles. There are a couple of ways to set up job profiles for batch loading – you can set up job profiles that map specific MARC fields into Folio Holdings and Item record information or you can create more general job profiles where you conduct preparation work in MarcEdit. After an upload has been completed, they go through a series of quality control checks to make sure everything is processed correctly.

The webinar concluded with some general tips. Be careful about white space in matching fields – Folio is very particular about it. It’s good to consider establishing local practices (i.e. adding unique collection prefixes for 001/035s) for internal tracking, searching, and statistics. Additionally, it’s equally helpful to consult with discovery colleagues when looking to set up local fields for public searching and indexing. When moving to an updated version of Folio, test everything first because unexpected things can break. Finally, document any job profiles that work well because it can sometimes get wiped in the test version.

Institutional Repositories

- Moderated by Joe Cera, UC Berkeley
- Presented by Sean Chen, Duke University
- Presented by Cindy Tian & Yan Yu, Notre Dame Law School

Sean Chen started the webinar by describing the journal batch loading process for his institution’s institutional repository. They use Digital Commons, which provides permanent and persistent locations for the content, PDF and article links, and volume and issue organization. Each student journal organization maintains their own WordPress website and collaborates with the law school’s web services team to get data from Digital Commons. The process to get articles onto Digital Commons is spreadsheet driven. The spreadsheets need to be put on a (web) public endpoint for DC harvester to pick them up, and the template is provided through batch upload service in DC.

Yan Yu continued the webinar, detailing her institution’s migration from 2021-2023. Their repository includes annual e-pubs only available in PDF format. Previously, they were able to host the PDFs directly, but their new system doesn’t allow for it. Although they considered Google Drive, they settled on using an institutional repository site: their repository had no size limit, they checked for copyright issues by confirming with the publisher that it was okay to upload the articles to the repository site, and because the OAI-PMH harvesting was already set up for ingesting journal articles in the repository into the new library catalog, no MARC records were needed (which had been necessary in the previous system).

Cindy Tian explained the detailed process. They asked Digital Commons to build a new container structure, and they update it by adding a new structure for each year. Metadata customization – took template from DC, customized – Title, Authors, etc., Batch uploads, PDF files into IR using bepress’ Batch Upload File Manager. In the end, Cindy and Yan reflected on how repositories might fill in the gap when the library system couldn’t.

Other Systems

- Moderated by Sam Thorne, North Carolina Central University

The final webinar was a wide-ranging discussion on perspectives on batch loading from different institutions. Many different topics were covered, including the editing of records in preparation for uploading, the visibility of batch loading work to other areas of the library, and technical services work in general.

One discussion started with the question, “How much editing do you do?” Paid vendor records should require minimal editing whereas records from other sources, like free vendor records, OCLC WorldShare records, or the Alma Community Zone, may require much more. The discussion then moved to editing tools. Many people use MarcEdit, whether for editing individual records, getting a count of how many records are in a file, or converting the file type. Some Alma users use its normalization rules instead to apply edits during the upload process; it is often easier, however, to use MarcEdit with some other systems. Other types of data like patron records can be edited with tools like Notepad++ and Excel. Some institutional repositories use a combination of PHP and Python scripts, OpenRefine, and spreadsheets. A general interest in learning more about the applications of OpenRefine to batch editing was discussed.
Greetings TS-SIS members,

The groundhog appears to be correct this year, and we are seeing some spring-like weather extra early! TS-SIS committees continue to offer programs for our members. We hope you join us and find them educational.

The Resource Management Standing Committee is holding a webinar on how OCLC services help law libraries. Our Professional Development Committee held a webinar on the SACO Law Funnel, describing what it is and how law libraries can use it to develop and submit subject heading proposals to the Library of Congress.

TS-SIS program ideas have been accepted for the Annual Conference to be held in Chicago in July. We are working in conjunction with LSRD-SIS to try to minimize program overlap as many of our members are interested in programs from both. The online registration is now open on the AALL website. Check there for more information regarding the programs being offered.

Thank you to all of you who filled out our Biennial Membership Survey. We are reviewing the suggestions offered by our members.

It was great to see a wide range of law library experience in the responses as we try to have topics for both longtime and newer members.

Watch for an email about our election for next year’s officers of TS-SIS as well as for our Volunteer Survey where you can sign up to serve on a committee. Our members are what continue to make us successful.

Thank you all!

There was also a conversation around the work ramifications of batch loading in technical services. There were some concerns that because batch loading is something you do quietly (like a lot of technical services work), other people don’t necessarily notice or understand the level of skill and time that goes into it. And although we could improve batch loading with more staff, the very efficiency of batch loading that we work towards could be used as a counterargument to add more staff. Batch loading indicates we can do more with less – how do we explain the level of work involved?

Conclusion

These programs were well attended, primarily by people who are currently batch loading in these systems, migrating to these systems soon, or curious about what other libraries are doing. Processes for batch loading range widely; even multiple institutions using the same ILS can have very different procedures depending on their needs and preferences. The LSRD-SIS Education Committee hopes that users enjoyed this programming, and they encourage members to email the committee if they have ideas or requests for future programming.

Library Systems & Resource Discovery Special Interest Section

Becky Bearden, Boston University

Greetings!

The LSRD-SIS board and committees have been hard at work throughout the winter months, and now that Spring is approaching, some exciting things are coming up.

The Executive Board, Education Committee, and many others have been busy planning details for the 2024 Annual Meeting in Chicago this Summer, including programming, scheduling, and marketing materials. We have also continued to discuss website updates and strategic planning for the SIS. The Education Committee also hopes to plan at least one more webinar before the virtual LSRD-SIS annual meeting in early Summer. Stay tuned for more details.

Our Local Systems Committee hosted a series of meetings in February 2024 to discuss Alma, Folio, and institutional repositories; there was also a live demo of Aspen Discovery. A huge thank you to the Local Systems Committee and the speakers for putting on these programs.

Thank you all!
Checklist for Preparing for Windows 10 End of Life at a Library

by Wilhelmina Randtke, Georgia Southern University

Introduction

On October 14, 2025, Microsoft will end support for the Windows 10 operating system (1). After this time, connecting to the internet with a Windows 10 computer is risky, because without the regular security updates and Windows Defender activity, the chance of accumulating viruses or spyware increases. In an institutional environment, such as the universities and government branches many of us operate in, it is almost certain that the information technology (IT) department will prevent anyone operating a Windows 10 computer at work. For a law firm, connecting to the internet with an unsupported computer has an increased risk of data breaches and could be an ethics issue. The Georgia Southern University Libraries (Libraries) are finalizing preparation for Windows 10 end of life. This article gives a checklist for preparation and planning at your library.

Can I upgrade any computer to Windows 11?

Microsoft maintains a list of hardware requirements for being able to run each version of Windows. Essentially, a computer will or won’t be able to run Windows 11, and there isn’t any upgrade to the actual chip that will change this. If you have a computer with a chip that can’t run Windows 11, then that computer likely can’t be run in an enterprise environment after October 14, 2025. So, what you have in the building right now determines what you have to replace before October 2025. Windows 11 was first released in October 2021 (2), and generally, leading up to and after that date, computers are more likely to have been designed in such a way that they are compatible with Windows 11. Meanwhile, computers released 2019 and earlier are less likely to be Windows 11 compatible. That’s not hard and fast, and you can still find new computers for sale which are not Windows 11 compatible. Many bargain computers in 2023 were in this category. And, as of Spring 2024, Windows 10 has a 67.23% 


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THE INTERNET

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share of the operating system marketplace, with Windows 11 at only 28.18% (3). So, Windows 10 is still the dominant operating system, less than a year and a half before end of life. Nevertheless, if you are in an organization which replaces computers on a 5-year cycle, Windows 10 end of life will probably have a minimal impact on your library, while if you are in an organization which keeps computers in use longer and upgrades older machines, Windows 10 end of life will probably have a bigger impact on your library.

Checklist for addressing Windows 10 end of life.

1. Employee and student use computers

In order to assess employee and student use computers, the Libraries worked off an inventory which included the serial number and make and model for each computer in use at the Libraries. Each major manufacturer has an information page about Windows 11 compatibility, which allows looking up the model number to know whether that specific computer supports Windows 11. Dell’s page is here https://www.dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-us/000187485/dell-computers-tested-for-upgrade-to-windows-11, Hewlett Packard’s page is here https://support.hp.com/in-en/document/ish 4890350-4890415-16, Lenovo’s page is here https://support.lenovo.com/us/en/solutions/ht512623-lenovo-devices-supported-for-windows-11, and Windows has PC Heathcheck App available at https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-specifications, which you can run from a computer to check whether that computer can run Windows 11 or not. Once you have an accurate inventory of computers with the make and model of each, it’s straightforward to make a spreadsheet and note whether each is Windows 11 compatible or not. After the Libraries comprehensively noted whether each computer was or was not able to run Windows 11, the Libraries investigated potential computers to eliminate. For example, a bank of four computers used by student workers might really only be used by three student workers, and some employees had multiple computers in their office because they had accumulated rather than replaced older machines. In 2024, this inventory likely should be for planning purposes only.

I recommend not moving computers around in Spring/Summer 2024 (ie, don’t deploy all the Windows 11 compatible machines to your full time employees), but rather pull some Windows 11 compatible computers out of use and into wherever “spares” are stored. This is in order to have Windows 11 compatible computers on hand in order to be able to work through upgrading Windows systems running software drivers for expensive specialized peripherals. I also don’t recommend discarding computers and downsizing yet. As the Libraries have replaced Windows 10 machines with software drivers for specialized equipment, we are keeping the older computer with drivers intact in storage for several months, in case any problems are reported. We will plan to discard these machines on or before October 2025, but there’s no rush, and meanwhile, the software drivers are available for reference.

With the assessment of impact, having it ahead of time allows for advocating for finances to replace, planning ahead to reduce, and communicating with stakeholders; this even allows for planning a new direction in infrastructure. For example, at the Libraries, we are advocating to move employees from desktop workstations to laptops and docking stations in order to allow for taking a device to meetings on campus or to conferences. We are also advocating to move the student labs from being focused on in-building computers to being focused on checkout laptops, because checkout laptops are popular and continually in use. While asking doesn’t mean getting, planning ahead allows a targeted, strategic ask. Internally, the Libraries have posted and shared a planning document with employees which summarizes what equipment will need to be discarded and the financial costs of different paths moving forward. Internally, people can know what is coming and plan accordingly and can be psychologically ready for any necessary reductions depending on finances.

2. Software drivers for specialty equipment

Libraries have a variety of specialty equipment including digitization equipment, self checkout machines, and inventory equipment. Often, specialty equipment has a high upfront cost. Knowing ahead of time if any software drivers for specialty equipment will no longer be available after Windows 10 end of life means that it’s possible to make a list of high-cost equipment in need of replacement or to know that a service to patrons will have to be ended after October 2025. To assess Windows 10 end of life, the Libraries made a list of specialty equipment which requires drivers running on Windows and began the process of upgrading computers connected to these machines.

For this step, I strongly recommend having someone who uses the machine regularly pair with someone from IT in order to do testing. Specialty machines used in Libraries are off the beaten path for IT, and having someone who knows how the machine works is helpful in allowing IT professionals to be able to move forward or test out the equipment after an upgrade / driver install attempt.

Microfilm machines: Microfilm is simultaneously an archaic format and also regularly used for filling interlibrary loan requests. Losing the ability to convert microfilm to a computer image would interrupt mission critical functions in the form of interlibrary loan, and the

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Because the installation of Adobe Acrobat Professional today.

Subscriptions, and has also taken down the authentication servers several years ago, now only offering monthly Creative Cloud for desktop software—meaning that it's not possible to do a fresh install of the desktop version of Adobe Acrobat Professional. Adobe phased out desktop installs of scanning to PDF, the older machines use a desktop install of Adobe Acrobat Professional. This was a time consuming process of a bit more than a day per microfilm machine. The process involved identifying what driver functionality had been purchased with each machine (i.e. ability to automatically advance and scan a whole roll at once) is a premium feature with an additional cost for the software driver, and we wanted to keep that and any other extras purchased with the machines), locating driver install files which included going through a binder of install CDs in a filing cabinet, and if a driver were not available, contacting the company. Because these microfilm scanners tend to have a driver which matches the serial number of that specific machine, we also had to locate serial numbers and have that information on hand in order to activate and locate drivers or to request drivers from the manufacturers. While each microfilm scanner took about a day and a half to address, the good news is that all three major brands in use at the Libraries (a ST Viewscan II, a ScanPro 3000, and an SL1000) were compatible with Windows 11 and fully functional in the Windows 11 environment. At your library, if you have a microfilm machine, it is almost certain that you will be able to perform an upgrade to Windows 11. Also, all three manufacturers are still in business, and drivers seem to be still available for their legacy models if you are persistent with support and have your model number and serial number ready.

Book scanners: The Libraries use KIC overhead book scanners. KIC overhead book scanners are about $17,000 each for the larger size units, which can scan an oversized book (i.e. Life Magazine sized pages). Most of the cost is for the software interface, which is intuitive and easy to use for walk up patrons and saves staff time assisting patrons. While the KIC scanner looks like a specialty walk up tablet kiosk, each KIC scanner actually has a Windows computer inside the casing. For the KIC scanners, upgrading was either very easy or nigh impossible. For KIC scanners with internal computers which were Windows 11 compatible, we were able to upgrade in place and keep the drivers intact. For KIC scanners with internal computers which are not Windows 11 compatible, complications are many. The Libraries have taken significant staff time and were not yet able to successfully upgrade these. The kinds of issues that came up include embedded software functionality. For example, in scanning to PDF, the older machines use a desktop install of Adobe Acrobat Professional. Adobe phased out desktop installs several years ago, now only offering monthly Creative Cloud subscriptions, and has also taken down the authentication servers for desktop software—meaning that it’s not possible to do a fresh install of the desktop version of Adobe Acrobat Professional today. Because of the decades long move of software from desktop installs to desktop installs with an online authentication to cloud hosted software, some of the proprietary integrations which used to be turnkey are now potentially impossible to recreate.

Large format scanner: The Libraries have a Verascan 3650 large format scanner which can scan maps, posters, and other documents up to 36 inches by 50 inches. It’s a newer machine, and its upgrade went smoothly. Nevertheless, it is also a $75,000 piece of equipment, and had there been any snags in the upgrade, knowing well ahead of time would have been important because of how high profile the machine is and because there just isn't the budget to replace it. This also puts into perspective the stakes of the driver upgrades for specialized equipment, because the very few pricy devices in use at the Libraries add up to more than the entire Windows computer fleet in terms of replacement cost if they were lost.

Robot cranes: While almost no law libraries and just a handful of libraries have them, the Libraries have an Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (ASRS) involving robot cranes, which store and retrieve books and which hold about half the Libraries’ collections. Software support for these is available from the company at an hourly rate for a software engineer’s time. While all pricing is confidential, pricing is significant, and if a site visit were needed would be exponentially so due to travel time. For these, the Libraries did two things. First, for computers used by technicians to retrieve requests, we located and reinstalled the software. This let us know that we didn’t have to allocate funds to hiring an outside software engineer at an hourly rate.

Essentially, your checklist will be different. It likely would include similar specialty library-oriented devices, and seeing these examples can give you some idea of what kinds of devices to check up on and investigate for Windows 11 upgrade. Significantly, the KIC scanners also had internal computers, which don’t feel like a Windows computer to most users. You may have hidden internal computers in stand-alone devices at your library.

**Conclusion.**

I hope this helps you to work through planning for Windows 10 end of life at your library. Knowing the impact can help you plan for October 2025 and begin advocating for any necessary purchases early in the budget year.
Deletion files for Bloomberg Law's WorldShare Collection

Bloomberg Law began offering MARC records through OCLC WorldShare Collection Manager last spring, in addition to records available on the Bloomberg website. New records have been distributed through Collection Manager as expected, but through the first few cycles, there have been no files of deleted records to correspond with dropped titles listed on the Bloomberg website. Rebecca Bearden has been working with Amy Liss to fine tune the workflow, and deletion files should be appearing in Collection Manager by March. Libraries may continue to delete records manually from the Bloomberg lists if desired, and records should not reappear in later WCM updates.

OCLC's Linked Data developments

- In December 2023, OCLC announced the addition of WorldCat Entities URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers) for Persons, Places, and Events to WorldCat records as $1 links in 100, 600, 647, 651, and 700 MARC fields.
- OCLC has begun adding WorldCat Entities URIs for Works to 758 fields in WorldCat bibliographic records. The 758 field may refer to the resource described in the record or a related resource.
- As announced at the PCC Participants Meeting on February 15, OCLC is in the process of developing a Linked Data editor.
- More information is available at oc.lc/linkeddata

WorldCat Validation Release Notes, February 2024

On February 8, 2024, OCLC expects to install changes to WorldCat Validation, including the following new features and enhancements:

- MARC 21 Bibliographic Update No. 37 (Announced December 2023).
- MARC 21 Authority Update No. 37 (Announced December 2023) to the Validation Rule Set that Includes All Valid Elements of MARC 21 Authority Format. These changes apply only to the OCLC-MARC Authority validation rule set that includes all valid elements of MARC 21 Authority Format. Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) participants cannot use these authority format changes in the LC/NACO Authority File at this time. The Library of Congress and OCLC will announce the implementation of these elements for use in name and subject authority records in the LC/NACO Authority File at a future date.
- MARC 21 Holdings Update No. 37 (Announced December 2023).
- Edit Change to Encoding Level (Elvl) 8 Bibliographic Records.

The following bug fixes will also be included:

- Correction to drop-down for Subfield $2 in Holdings Field 506.
- Correction of MARC relator code dcg to dgc.

Updated Serials Resources and Trends in 2024

by Paula Seeger, Fox Rothschild LLP

A new resource, “Determining Copyright Status of Serial Issues,” is now available online at https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/decisions.html. It has a handy flow of steps and includes a glossary and appendices for a variety of formats. As of early March, the last update to this document was January 2024. Of related interest is the serials help page from the Copyright Office site, available at https://www.copyright.gov/eco/help-serial.html.

One of the serials-focused organizations that highly recommended for networking, troubleshooting, and training resources is the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG), https://nasig.org/. This is a very practical organization that is based on actual serials work. After a hiatus, their newsletter is back and has just been updated. The focus is on the upcoming conference, and of special note are the training opportunities, including serials cataloging basics and drafting policies for retention. The newsletter is at https://nasig.org/Newsletter and the blog is at https://nasig.wordpress.com/. NASIG has a listserv and other useful resources on their website as well.

If you haven’t checked out the Cataloger’s Reference Shelf, there is a specific Module for cataloging legal serials at https://www.itsmarc.com/crs/mergedprojects/conser/conser/module_34_legal_serials.htm and provides a variety of format and material type definitions.

Here are some of the questions that will be reviewed this year. If you have any opinions or interest in sharing your answer(s), please let me know.

- How many, and in what way, are serials being affected by large electronic resource contract deals by the major vendors?
- From a workflow point of view, are “new issue” alerts best handled by operational/technical service staff since they may be checked in or routed, or as a type of monitoring alert by legal research/reference staff?

(Cont. on p. 9)
How is Artificial Intelligence or automation affecting serials, either through content, delivery/routing, archiving, or searching/discovery?

What is the future of serials library work? What other tasks are merging into the job description of someone assigned to the serials area?


### SUBJECT HEADINGS

**by Patrick Lavey, UCLA**

**Subject Headings March 2024**

Let us begin with new headings and possible new headings for a couple of international hot spots. For Ukraine, several headings with open chronological subdivisions have been closed and new ones opened. As a pattern, “Ukraine—Politics and government-1991-“ has been changed to “Ukraine—Politics and government-1991-2014,” and we now have “Ukraine—Politics and government-2014-.” This holds true for “Ukraine—Intellectual life” and “Ukraine—Social conditions.” The former heading “Ukraine Conflict, 2014-” has been changed to “Russo-Ukrainian War, 2014-.” The heading “Ukrainian question,” which deals with the history of Russia’s relations with Ukraine now and in the past, has been added. As for the situation between Gaza and Israel, I found no headings yet, although “Gaza War, 2023-” might do for a start as we already have a pattern in the established headings “Gaza War, 2008-2009” and “Gaza War, 2014.” We await headings for the October 7, 2023 Hamas incursion into Israel. Incidentally, the Library of Congress name heading for Hamas is “Harakat al-Muqāwamah al-Islāmīyah.” The heading for its military wing is established as “Katā‘ib ʻIzz al-Dīn al-Qassām.”

A few headings with legal aspects appeared. “Adoptees—Identity” may be useful in domestic relations. “Espionage, Swedish” is a useful term, as is “Evidence-based policy.” A similar new heading is “Political planning—Decision making,” which could lead to “Public health campaigns.” “Indian environmentalists” was established for Native American, and not South Asian, activists. A term to describe hostility towards trans women is “Transmisogyny.” “Gender-nonconforming prostitutes” is a new heading, as is “Counterspeech,” which is defined as “any direct response to hateful speech which seeks to counter it.” This will be useful for social media and free speech discussions. “Photography of electric line poles and towers” was added, as was “Siblings of suicide victims.” We may now use “Migrant labor in mass media” and “Objectification (Social psychology) in motion pictures.” The terms “Digital business” and “Digital commerce” have been added to “Electronic commerce” as Used For terms. “Video games—Economic aspects” will be useful.

Other interesting headings include “Ritual language (Linguistics)” and “Code copying (Linguistics).” The heading “Tibet, Plateau of” has been changed to “Tibetan Plateau.” The term “Libraries—Special collections—Mormons” is now “Libraries—Special collections—Latter Day Saints.” We may now use “Immersive art experiences.” The terms “Aceh (Indonesia)—History—Autonomy and independence movements” and “Indonesia—History—Aceh Conflict, 1976-2005” are available for use on these subjects.
A lot of work is going on in the areas of Genre/Form and Demographic terms, enough for a separate column. There are many terms being revised as well as new ones created. For Genre/Form terms, we have “Broadsides” and “Public health surveillance reports.” For demographic group terms, useful in name authority record creation but appearing in bibliographic records as well, we have terms such as “Agricultural engineers,” “Politicians’ partners,” “Cameroonian Americans,” several headings for foreign language speakers, “Extension agents,” “Zoologists,” and many added terms for residents of cities and countries. Whether you are doing authority work or creating bibliographic records, new genre and demographic terms are appearing monthly, and it is worthwhile to check the lists.

Non-Library Technology Solutions to Library Problems

by Travis Spence, University of Arizona

When looking for technology to address a library problem, I was recently reminded of the tendency to look for answers in old, familiar places. However, that doesn’t always lead to a good solution to the problem at hand. Sometimes, the best answer to a library problem can be found in a different area entirely.

While reviewing safety practices following a few significant security incidents on campus, access services staff identified a need for a way to call other staff for assistance. In situations where it would be unwise to step away from the service desk to get someone from their office to assist, there was no good way to summon that help. These situations would include demanding patrons, suspicious behavior, or other activity that wouldn’t warrant calling campus police but should not be left for one person to deal with on their own.

In trying to find a way to address this need, existing library technology infrastructure was the obvious place to look first. The landline phones were considered but dismissed because they are not discreet to use, and it’s not always readily known who is in their office and available to go to the desk. The service desk is also equipped with a “panic button,” but that was ruled out quickly as well since it is connected directly to campus police. Its intended use is for more urgent, more serious situations.

The first step in expanding our thinking to find a solution was, pretty obviously, to look at devices specifically designed for security. However, those devices also proved to be a sledgehammer instead of the scalpel we were looking for. They were also prohibitively expensive.

Much like conducting a reference interview, we had to get past the question being asked and determine what the real need was. In this case, it was simply a way to alert others that assistance was needed. With that in focus, our head of access services identified a solution that works for us: a medical call button.

Technically designed as a way for people with mobility problems to call for assistance and avoid risking a fall, this device also answered our need. The small call button is mounted under the service counter and can be reached easily and discreetly. When pressed, it activates a quiet yet still noticeable chime in the office suite area behind the public service desk. It chimes until someone responds and resets it.

This device perfectly met our needs. Access services staff now have a way to call for assistance if necessary and the peace of mind knowing that help is easy to summon. As an added benefit, this medical device was significantly more affordable than alarms designed and marketed as security devices.

Sometimes, a library problem can best be addressed by technology that wasn’t specifically designed for libraries. This situation was a good reminder to look beyond the familiar for solutions.

Local Systems Committee Winter Meeting

2023-2024 LSRD-SIS Local Systems Committee Members

- Bee Bornheimer, University of San Diego
- Nariné Bournoutian, Columbia University
- Heather Buckwalter, Creighton University
- Keiko Okuhara, University of Hawaii (Chair)

The LSRD-SIS Local Systems Committee hosted their winter meeting in February over the course of four sessions. The sessions for Institutional Repositories and Alma covered statistical reports. A general system overview was given for Aspen Discovery and Folio.
The discussion on the Institutional Repositories was presented by Benjamin Carlson, Associate Director for Scholarly Data and Innovation from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and moderated by Nariné Bournoutian, Systems and Electronic Resources Librarian from the Arthur W. Diamond Law Library, Columbia University. Nariné reported that Ben went over some of the common statistics that can be pulled from Digital Commons and best practices for doing so. The session also touched on ways to showcase these statistics to promote library services and faculty scholarship.

The presenter of the Alma session was Heather Buckwalter, Senior Librarian from the Creighton University School of Law Library, and the moderator was Jennifer Garafolo, Head of Acquisitions and E-Resources Management from the Hugh Hazel Darling Law Library at UCLA. Jennifer reported that Heather shared examples of how she uses Alma Analytics to generate reports, and she demonstrated features of the new user interface that was introduced in 2023. Following her presentation, participants discussed issues they had been having with Alma Analytics and shared ideas on common reporting needs such as how best to capture new title lists.

The Aspen Discovery system overview session was presented by Felicia Beaudry, Business Development Manager from Equinox Open Library Initiative, who gave a detailed overview of the Aspen Discovery platform, including batch loadings, current examples of use in law libraries, and supported integrations. The session was moderated and reported by Bee Bornheimer, Digital Resources and Cataloging Librarian from the University of San Diego School of Law.

The other system overview session covered Folio and was presented by Lauren Seney, Associate Director and Head of Resource Access & Discover, from the University of Colorado Law School. She gave a detailed overview of the front-end and back-end of Folio and introduced the FOLIO community. This session was moderated by James Kalwara, Metadata Librarian from the University of Colorado Law School.

This year’s multiple sessions that were topic driven and system specific were the first time this format was taken for the Local Systems Committee. The Local Systems Committee is seeking feedback from the membership on the format or topics of the meeting. For your comments, please email the Local Systems Committee Chair, Keiko Okuhara, at keikooku@hawaii.edu. Last, but certainly not least, we appreciate the presenters, moderators, and reporters for their assistance and participation to make the LSRD-SIS Winter Local Systems meeting possible and fun!
**TSLL EDITORIAL POLICY**

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