Avoiding Alma-geddon: Strategies for Access Services

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Course Reserves

- Distinguishing feature: Millennium allowed us to add course as holding records and course sections as item records.
Potential Problems with Alma

- Alma would automatically print EVERYTHING about course reserves: receipts, due back dates, etc.
- We weren’t sure if we could properly link resolve to our e-reserve materials.
- We received duplicate course reserve records in Alma during our data test load from Millennium.
Preparing for the worst

- We had to make an overall philosophical shift in how we thought about course reserves.
- We deleted all of our existing course reserves records from Millennium before migrating to Alma.
- We backed up all of our data in an Access database.
Why We Achieved Success

- Our e-reserves server was separate from Alma—all we had to do was provide a link when entering course records.
- By starting over, we were able to work with clean data.
- We were willing to fail!
Bookings Study Rooms with Millennium

- Millennium’s bookings module was confusing and ugly!
Potential Problems with Alma Bookings

- It launched later than expected (July 2013).
- Patrons have to choose a specific room before booking a time.
- We needed an overall improvement on what Millennium offered patrons.
The Solution: OpenRoom

- OpenRoom is an open-source bookings system developed by Ball State University Libraries in 2010.
- Patrons can toggle between “basic” and “expanded” versions.
- “My Reservations” section allows patrons to track their reservations and receive confirmation e-mails.
OpenRoom Basic Version Screenshots

NDSU North Dakota State University

Libraries

Select a room below to make your reservation.

Room 18G
Capacity: 3
Room details: Has whiteboard

Room 18H
Capacity: 3
Room details: Has whiteboard

Room 201B
Capacity: 6
Room details: No whiteboard

Graduate Learning Center
Capacity: 8
Room details: For graduate students only

Your Reservations

Room 18H
Mar 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Duration: 120 minutes
Whiteboard: Has whiteboard

Switch to Expanded View
Questions?