ECRL, PALS & Evergreen

Andrew Nordin, ECRL
Jennifer Turner, PALS
Library Technology Conference 2011

Introduction

• Evergreen and PALS (JT)
  o Brief history of open source at PALS
  o What PALS hoped to gain from the alliance

• Evergreen and ECRL (AN)
Adventurous spirits (JT)
• Open Source is semi-undocumented. This is improving, but there will be discoveries (as with all ILS, vended or OS)
• Remember that it is ‘fun’ to explore and make discoveries
• With time, Evergreen has become a bit less adventurous...there is more generalized documentation now than a year ago. (Documentation Interest Group)
• Bigger user base = fewer unknowns
Motivation (AN)
• Institutional Inertia
• Coping mechanisms
• OSS in general
• Encouraging and maintaining staff enthusiasm ("buy-in")
• Reality check by IT staff (task complexity, limited procedures due to system, etc)
Communication (JT)
- Pre-migration meetings and conference calls
- Other channels of communication - tickets, email, chat
- Ongoing – post migration visits, calls, etc.
- Training
  - Documentation for go-live date
  - Staff capabilities/comfort level
Teamwork (AN and/or JT)

- Give and take
- Learning from each other, EG community, and the experience
Advice for New Players (AN)

• Keep a log of complaints about the legacy system (useful for squelching idealizations of the past)
• Be prepared for the unexpected
7. Growth Process (JT)

Updates to the conversion worksheets/conversion process; learning how the system works “for real;” maturity of Evergreen ILS (now has serials and acq; also more flexibility/settings)
Andy Nordin
http://ecrl.lib.mn.us/
anordin@ecrlib.org

~

Jennifer Turner
www.mnpals.org
jennifer.turner@mnsu.edu