Avoiding Alma-geddon: Strategies for Access Services

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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!
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.
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
Questions?