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## Yale Library IT News, 31 March 2015

Yale Library IT Staff

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# Yale Library IT Newsletter

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## Data cleanup in Orbis and Morris for discovery and migration

As the [Quicksearch beta](#) project moves towards becoming a production-level service, there's been a good deal of activity in Orbis and Morris related to data cleanup.

As found with the Yufind project, the exposure of metadata in discovery systems is a double-edged sword: more metadata can be made visible, accessible and usable- but this also means that typos, outdated cataloging standards, and changing policies will surface.

Much of the cleanup work in Orbis has been done in the Catalog Management team, and led by Arcadia Falcone ([arcadia.falcone@yale.edu](mailto:arcadia.falcone@yale.edu)), Discovery Metadata Librarian.

Here's a [post on format mapping in Quicksearch](#) by Arcadia, and most of this [presentation to Tech Services](#) discusses the additional cleanup work done by CMT.

This work is doubly important, since it not only optimizes and tidies the metadata presented in Quicksearch beta but also prepares our catalog metadata in Orbis for a future migration to a new ILS.

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## LibGuides2 check-in

The **LibGuides 2 implementation project** has moved out of the planning phase. The LibGuides 2 implementation group has approved documentation for the upcoming LibGuides 2 upgrade, including:

- A LibGuides best practices document that has gone to CRSC for vetting;
- A communications plan;
- LibGuide review instructions;
- Technical documentation; and
- A LibGuides style guide that will also go to CRSC for vetting.

The LibGuides 2 implementation group is now meeting with YUL departments to inform LibGuide authors about the project and the work that LibGuide authors will need to do for the project to be successful. The LibGuides 2 Road Show, as it's called internally, will run until April 15.

Many thanks and burnt offerings to Sarah Tudesco who has put together a Google Analytics statistics dashboard for LibGuide authors to use when they review their guides. The use of the dashboard is explained in the LibGuide review instructions and requires no knowledge of Google Analytics.

The LibGuide review instructions will be released to LibGuide authors in April. For an extremely brief overview of the roadmap for the LibGuides 2 upgrade, check out <http://www.library.yale.edu/skw33/libguides-2-timeline.jpg>.

Stay tuned for more updates in the coming weeks!

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## DrupalCamp report

Several Library IT staff members attended the **YaleSites DrupalCamp** on Thursday, March 19. User experience staff attended presentations on determining the goals for a website, website design, information architecture, using YaleSites pre-built features, CSS injectors, creating views for content types, Google Analytics, search, using filters and compare. The topics discussed touched on nearly every aspect of running a Drupal website. Of particular interest to YUL was the presentation on information architecture, as it included in its slide deck a screenshot of our **Quicksearch Beta!**

An information sharing-event such as YaleSites Drupal Camp is one of the benefits of the library's participation in the centrally supported web content management system. Library staff are always welcome to attend YaleSites events, and we saw quite a few library staff at the day-long conference. If you are interested in learning more please check out [YaleSites Training](#) or look at slides from [YaleSites presentations](#).

## Conference report: LDCX 2015

Approximately 70 people convened at Lathrop Library on the Stanford University campus to collaborate on the converging goals of the library, archive, and museum community at the 6th annual Idcx 2015 conference. While the schedule was ad-hoc, composed of lightning talks, plenary sessions, topic groups, and informal breakouts, the issues were well rooted in the themes of linked data models, discovery applications, and digital asset management.

One of the long standing goals of the community has been bringing together individual and institutional efforts and this was very much manifest at the conference. There was a fruitful balance of sharing past achievement, making ongoing progress and planning for challenges to come. The Hydra stack has made its presence felt in almost every arena. Development is at a stage where best practices and design abstractions are emerging.

Implementation of the **Linked Data Platform (LDP)**, and the **Portland Commons Data Model (PCDM)** holds much promise as foundations of the future. Surprisingly there was very little coverage of Digital Preservation, but perhaps this a potential vacuum to be filled later. While is difficult to give adequate attention to everything covered, for more please [click here](#).

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## Orbis and Quicksearch beta: planning for production

As we've noted often in posts and talks around the library, LIT is working on a new interface, **Quicksearch beta**, for searching records from two library catalogs: Orbis and Morris. We are currently soliciting input on prioritization of functionality development. While we do this work it is worth noting that **there are no plans to retire the Orbis and Morris interfaces**.

The Solr-based Quicksearch beta is a very good simplified keyword search of catalog records. It offers superior relevancy ranking of search results. The faceted results it provides are useful for giving more visibility to the metadata in catalog records. However, it does not offer advanced searching at this time, and for some collections and staff advanced search is a necessity. Therefore, **Orbis will remain a fully-supported production service**, even as Quicksearch beta develops and becomes a more full-featured service. We will work toward a shift by the spring semester 2016, where Quicksearch will drop its beta status and become the featured search on the library's home page, but Orbis and Morris will still have important roles to play and will still be available and linked from the library's home page.

## Back Issues of the LIT Newsletter now available in EliScholar!

Library IT recently archived all issues of the LIT newsletter for this academic year (Fall 2014 - Spring 2015) in Eli Scholar, Yale's scholarly publishing platform.

Issues from the 2013-2014 academic year will be archived shortly. All future issues of the LIT Newsletter will be published in Eli Scholar going forward.

Visit our Eli Scholar page:

[elischolar.library.yale.edu/yul\\_litnews](http://elischolar.library.yale.edu/yul_litnews)

and check out some of the other publications available in Eli Scholar:

[Nota Bene](#)

[YUL Annual Report](#) (merged with Nota Bene in 2014)

[Yale Day of Data](#)

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## Emerging Tech Talk: the Future of Library Resource Discovery

This **Tuesday April 14th**, come to the Bass Library instruction room L01 to join colleagues from the library and around campus to discuss Marshall Breeding's excellent white paper, [The Future of Library Resource Discovery](#).

We will discuss the paper's findings as well as the current and future discovery environments at Yale University.

Hope to see you at **3:30pm in Bass on 4/14** for what will be an interesting discussion!

## Conference reports: Security and Sharing

Over the past month Steelsen Smith from the Enterprise Systems and Services group had the opportunity to attend two events related to work we do in Library IT a NERCOMP sponsored [security conference](#) and the [ILLiad international resource sharing conference](#).

The first was Boston College's annual "[Security Camp](#)" - a free one day event for IT professionals. The 2015 agenda included lots of timely material, including presentations on identity and access management, [docker](#) (a software packaging and containing system), security scanning, DDOS attacks and more. The full agenda is [here](#).

For anyone who manages the deployment of information systems, it has been impossible to avoid docker. In a nutshell, this technology allows users to bundle all of the interrelated parts of an application into a "container" that can then be run on a physical or virtual server. The advantage is that many code packages can share the same server without the overhead of a full virtual machine per application. The platform has proven to be robust, and the presenter (from MIT) made a great case for docker having applications in the classroom or enterprise. The greatest strength of the solution is that applications dependencies, e.g., Java version, can be updated individually without affecting their co-hosted peers. The software can also run on a hardened read-only OS ([CoreOS](#) as an example). Docker should not be trusted as fully secure for hosting potentially hostile containers, however. The main vulnerability of the platform comes from its strength - allowing direct hardware sharing. This means that if an application is carefully written to monitor hardware activity it can learn something about the containers it resides with. Also, if an application is able to successfully compromise the kernel it will have access to all other containers on the machine whereas in a dedicated VM it would require a few extra steps.

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Another interesting talk focused on handling distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS) effectively. A DDoS is a very basic attack - it drowns out legitimate website requests by triggering an overwhelming number of invalid requests (like shouting in a room where people are speaking) and has become surprisingly easy - there are sites that will let you control their "botnets" of slave machines for a small fee. These attacks are also effective because they rely on the internal operation of fundamental internet protocols (e.g., SNMP or exploiting the TCP handshake) making them hard to protect against. In fact, the two best defenses (note that firewalls are not at all helpful in a DDoS attack) involve using outside providers to manipulate the internet to deflect traffic away from you. For web requests a CDN (content distribution network) can host your website and split it among datacenters around the world which are collectively able to withstand an attack. For attacks based on amplification (requesting a long answer with a short question) a provider like [Incapsula](#) or [NeuStar](#) can actually intercept internet traffic for you and scrub it - for a sizable fee. While universities generally do not need to worry as much as banks, if the blogosphere takes issue with something done by your institution then a DDoS attack becomes a real possibility.

A few weeks later came the [ILLiad International conference](#) in Virginia Beach, VA. Mostly attended by librarians with presentations focused on resource sharing there were a number of interesting talks that applied directly to work in IT both with our support for interlibrary loan software and discovery.

Linked data was one of the unexpected highlights of the conference with the vendor [Zepheira](#) giving talks on how relationships between assets as exposed by linked data can drive use. The theory is that discovery necessarily leads to increased use - therefore the easier it is for search engines and link aggregators to discover your content the easier it will be for users to discover it. The natural extension is that, once discovered, your resources should also be easy to request. Consolidated requesting - having your users register once and search and request through a single interface - is one of the ideal outcomes of a library's analysis and enhancement of its web presence.

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Another useful presentation topic addressed how medical libraries handle requests from independent medical researchers and physicians. A service, [loansome doc](#), allows physicians to affiliate themselves with a library to request medical articles. The library then procures those materials on their behalf. There are more differences than similarities, however, when it comes to how these materials are filled. Some libraries have a nearly automated process while others still provide highly individualized service. Some libraries allow electronic delivery to be automatic while others require approval and payment. While it was fascinating to learn about what different medical libraries are doing it was also interesting to think about how article requesting might work as a general service to the public - allowing the "visitor privilege" to be extended to folks elsewhere on the internet. There are no doubt serious legal considerations, but how this could be safely done is a topic of considerable interest.

In both securing information and sharing information IT systems can help the university and the library within it meet institutional goals (or even just comply with regulations). These two events provided great insight into what our peers are doing (or not doing) and the results in their institutions. Although there was far too much covered for a single blog post, please feel free to email me if you're interested in notes or to talk about any of the agenda topics.

## Conference report: HydraCamp at Yale

Earlier last month, members of Yale Library IT as well as colleagues from around campus and from other institutions attended Hydra Camp at Yale.

The group Data Curation Experts held the [week long training](#) in the Bass Library Instruction room L01. The training wrapped up on Friday March 13th with an Advanced Blacklight Workshop. Some members of Yale Library IT who attended share their reflections below:

- **What Hydra-related projects are you currently working on?**

**Eric James**

I'm working on Findit, Kissinger, and the future Sufia/Spotlight instances

**Kalee Sprague**

I work on two Hydra/Blacklight related projects: the Blacklight-based Quicksearch unified search project and the Findit Hydra/Blacklight project.

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**Lakeisha Robinson**

Here are the things I liked most about HydraCamp:

Recommendations for easier upgrades.

Suggestions for tools to aid in efficient workflow practices.

Clarity on certain pieces of code.

**Tracy MacMath**

HydraCamp helped me better understand the Hydra stack and how each component interacts with the others.

It was also good to learn a little about databases in Hydra/Fedora, especially how they differ from the relational databases I've worked with in the past.

Finally, it was nice to see Hydra/Blacklight/Sufia implementations from other institutions and learn about the Hydra/Blacklight communities. These are great resources, especially since we'll be upgrading soon.

**Jenn Nolte**

I did not attend the whole HydraCamp, just the Blacklight session on Friday. To go through the motions of setting up a virtual machine and getting a Blacklight project up and running was really helpful (and fun!). It isn't the type of thing I get to work on often and it puts a larger context around the work I do to collaborate with my colleagues in LIT.

- **Any other comments on HydraCamp?**

**Lakeisha Robinson**

In general, I did like the HydraCamp this year and I think it helped a lot.

**Tracy MacMath**

I found HydraCamp to be particularly valuable because I am new to Hydra (and digital repository development in general).

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