

NASIG Newsletter

Vol. 26, no. 2

May 2011

eISSN 1542-3417

Serials & E-Resources News

The Three S's of

Electronic Resource Management: Systems, Standards and Subscriptions NISO Webinar, January 12, 2011

Reported by Valerie Ryder, Director of Information Strategy, Wolper Subscription Services

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) presented a webinar on January 12, 2011 which covered the basic building blocks of Electronic Resource Management (ERM) – standards, systems and subscriptions. Three panelists from the industry standards, system vendor, and subscription agent communities discussed the benefits and challenges of these “three S’s” for ERM practices and services that impact library staff and patrons.

The First S: Standards for Organizing and Distributing Information

Todd Carpenter, Managing Director, NISO, gave an overview of current standards relevant to ERM and implementation challenges for stakeholders. Participants in all three communities need to rethink industry standards that apply to the library and its supply chain as they move to electronic formats. NISO working groups are addressing these challenges and developing standards and recommended practices. Some of the current major activities are SUSHI, SERU, ONIX-PL, KBART, and DAISY. NISO is conducting a gap analysis of ERM workflow to see where new standards are needed. Updates on the working groups’ efforts and results are covered on the NISO website and throughout the year through webinars and free

teleconferences as well as sessions at the major library conferences. Todd Carpenter encouraged librarians to tell ERM vendors and subscription agents why these standards are important to them and what the impact is on their time and the costs of managing electronic resources.

The Second S: Systems for Electronic Resource Management

Bob McQuillan, Senior Product Manager, Innovative Interfaces, reviewed ERM systems and their benefits for both library staff and patrons. He briefly retraced the evolution of managing electronic resources from spreadsheets, database software, and file folders through the stage of integrated library systems (ILS) that were not designed to accommodate electronic resource data and workflow, to today’s world of ERM systems, ILS systems with e-resource capability, and web-scale discovery platforms. Libraries are faced with the financial reality of shrinking budgets, pressure to maximize the value of their collections, evolving staff duties, and the workflow challenges of spending more time and energy on print resources while spending a smaller portion of their content budget on that format. Bob McQuillan encouraged libraries, subscription agents, and systems vendors to work together to define the next generation of ERM systems.

The Third S: Subscriptions to Electronic Resources

Oliver Pesch, Chief Strategist, E-Resources, EBSCO Information Services, discussed the evolving role of electronic resource subscription services and the

benefits to customers. Subscription agents can assist libraries in simplifying and eliminating work processes associated with electronic resources, such as capturing information needed for the migration from print to electronic, informing libraries about changes in format or transfer of journals between publishers, handling packages of electronic journals, and measuring usage and value of electronic content.

Conclusion

This webinar provides a high-level overview that would be useful for libraries that might be considering ERM solutions and is an informative update on current developments for libraries with existing ERM systems. Slides (free) and a recorded version of the webinar (fee) are available from NISO at <http://www.niso.org/news/events/2011/nisowebinars/erm/>

About the Author

Valerie Ryder is Director of Information Strategy for Wolper Subscription Services. She has over 30 years of experience in managing business and research libraries in the corporate sector, has spearheaded the migration from print to electronic information resources at a Fortune 300 company and has been a solo librarian. She has an MLS degree from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master's degree in International Business Management from Point Park University and a Bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Rochester.