Discovery Service Implementation Task Group

Background

The 2012 Library Council strategic planning process identified “Simplifying the Library Discovery Environment for Electronic Resources” to be one of four major library-wide strategic objectives for FY 2013. Subsequently, a “Simplifying the Discovery Environment” strategic initiative team was formed in July 2012 to lead this strategic initiative in FY 2013. A major work item for this initiative, though not the sole focus, is to “provide oversight for the scoped implementation of a vended discovery service.” The MIT Libraries has licensed the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) as a discovery service for this initiative. The implementation of EDS at MIT will require coordination of effort between MIT Libraries staff and the vendor (EBSCO Publishing), primarily around backend data ingest and systems integration. This task group is charged with leading the effort to deploy EDS at MIT in FY 2013.

Assumptions

- EDS at MIT will utilize the native EDS search interface, hosted by EBSCO, minimally customized for MIT branding using the EDS customization tools and custom CSS as needed; MIT will not create a custom standalone search application using the EDS API in FY2013
- EDS at MIT will be deployed in a user-facing production context prior to the end of FY 2013 (i.e., by end of June 2013); it is desirable to have EDS at MIT deployed in “beta” form sometime during the spring semester of 2013 to enable targeted user testing prior to full deployment
- EDS at MIT will integrate with our existing SFX link resolver product
- In addition to the EBSCO managed e-resource content (configured using our existing e-resource knowledgebase), the EDS product is also capable of indexing metadata for local MIT managed collections in the central EDS index; what additional local collections will be included in EDS needs to be evaluated for desirability and feasibility during the course of this initiative; at a minimum this initiative has identified as “in scope” automated indexing of Aleph catalog records in the central index; no scoping decisions made as part of the FY2013 initiative constrain our ability to integrate additional collections at a later date
- EDS at MIT will not eliminate the Barton OPAC
- The Simplifying Discovery Strategic Initiative team will lead user interface evaluations and coordinate end-user testing of the EDS implementation
- The production deployment of EDS at MIT will replace the Vera Multi-Search tool on the MIT Libraries website

Scope of Work

- Function as primary liaison with EBSCO staff to implement and locally configure the EDS product for production deployment at MIT
- Coordinate collaborative work between MIT Libraries staff and EBSCO support to develop, test, and deploy automated processes for populating the required EBSCO knowledgebase (KB) using our existing SFX KB as the primary KB
- Work collaboratively with the Simplifying the Discovery Environment team to investigate
the feasibility and desirability of ingesting additional local MIT–managed content in the MIT implementation of EDS

- Coordinate work required to routinize automated loads of Aleph catalog records as part of the initial implementation; coordinate work for loading of other local collections as needed
- Explore the feasibility of implementing collection specific scoped searches within the hosted EDS tool (e.g., Catalog search box); evaluate the pros and cons of such an implementation prior to deployment
- Coordinate functional testing of the EDS at MIT implementation for both Beta and full production deployments

Team Membership

- Melissa Feiden, IDLA (Project Lead)
- Matthew Bernhardt, SDA
- Jennifer Edwards, E-Resources Team, AMES
- Rich Wenger, Enterprise Systems Team, AMES

Other Key Contributors

Additional AMES staff and other library staff will be called upon to provide consultation and technical contributions for this group on an as-needed basis.

Timeline

November 2012 through May 2013, with the possibility of extension.

Reporting

The Discovery Service Implementation Task Group reports to the Simplifying Discovery Strategic Initiative team, with Tito Sierra as overall initiative sponsor.

Comments