

Practical Guide: Library Management Systems and the UK Core Specification

This practical guide contains information useful for someone wanting to select and implement a new library management system in their workplace.

Finding Library System Suppliers

The CILIP Buyers' Guide www.buyersguideonline.co.uk contains library management system suppliers. Please note that it doesn't offer comprehensive listings, that products and companies are subject to change, and that inclusion doesn't imply endorsement from CILIP.

Meeting Suppliers and Previewing Systems

Those wishing to update library systems are advised to visit one of the following events:

- CILIP's Library Management Systems Suppliers Showcases allow visitors to meet up with several suppliers in one day and benefit from in-depth demonstrations of systems, details can be found here: www.cilip.org.uk/events
- Online Information offers the opportunity to meet suppliers of library management solutions, content management, search solutions and web 2.0 technologies amongst other things: www.online-information.co.uk

Finding Professional Guidance and Consultants

Professional guidance on selecting and implementing a system can be obtained by employing a consultant. Try contacting the following library consultancy services (bear in mind that they may charge a finder's fee for this service):

- TFPL www.tfpl.com
- Aslib www.aslib.co.uk
- Ken Chad Consulting Ltd. www.kenchadconsulting.com

The United Kingdom Core Specification (UKCS)

The UKCS was originally developed in 2005 by library systems consultant Juliet Leeves in order to reduce the difficulty of specifying basic functionality available on all library management systems (LMSs). Following consultation with various LMS vendors, it was agreed that the UKCS would be a checklist of basic functions which could be expected on any LMS that could be used to form part of an operational requirement during formal tender procedures, or as a simple checklist of features. Through its use, those implementing a new LMS can focus their attention on newer aspects of functionality relying on the UKCS to ensure that the core LMS functionality is covered.

Ken Chad Consulting Ltd, in association with Juliet Leeves now hosts the UKCS using a Wikispaces platform which is open to all who wish to edit and contribute to discussions. Through this it is hoped that the UKCS will be kept updated. In order to find out more about the UKCS and download Version 3 (2007) for free under a Creative Commons licence visit the following web page:

- <http://libtechrfp.wikispaces.com/>

Further Reading

Adamson, V. et al., (2008). *JISC & SCONUL Library Management Systems Study*, [online] Available at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/resourcediscovery/lmsstudy.pdf> [Accessed 3 May 2011].

Chad, K. (2008). *Library Management Systems: Investing Wisely in a Period of Disruptive Change*. *JISC Briefing Paper*. [online] Available at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/publications/bplibmanv1.pdf> [Accessed 3 May 2011].

Chad, K. and Leeves, J. (2010). Making it easier to specify systems. *Library and Information Gazette* [online] Available at: <http://bit.ly/ewVAr6> [Accessed 3 May 2011].

Further Resources

(Sconul) Higher Education Library Technology (HELibTech) website
<http://helibtech.com/>

Local Government Library Technology (LGLibTech) website
<http://lglibtech.wikispaces.com/>

The above two websites link to a number of further resources including a comprehensive listing of all UK library authorities and HE libraries with the various systems they use (including LMS), vendor profiles etc.

Last updated: May 2011