SERIALS SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCES ENHANCEMENT TO KNOWLEDGEWORKS

Serials Solutions (501 North 34 Street, Seattle, WA 98103, 866/737-4257) has developed a new E-Books Metadata Normalization process for its KnowledgeWorks e-resource knowledgebase. As a result of this new process, Serials Solutions says KnowledgeWorks is able to deliver the “best possible access to eBooks” through its 360 services and OPACs.

“The investment incurred in developing this process demonstrates the continuing commitment of Serials Solutions to advancing e-librarianship and maintaining KnowledgeWorks as the most authoritative e-resource knowledgebase,” said Jane Burke, Serials Solutions vice president.

E-book metadata is normalized in the KnowledgeWorks knowledgebase to provide more accurate and consistent eBooks holdings information to improve access and management of eBooks. To enable normalization of eBooks metadata, Serials Solutions metadata librarians have developed innovative and trustworthy algorithms that efficiently aggregate and authoritatively link data from all available sources.

For each eBook in the library’s collection, KnowledgeWorks aggregates holdings data from all subscribed databases and normalizes them into a single record. This makes it easier for patrons to find and access the eBooks in the collection, thereby increasing usage and return on investment in eBooks content.

Serials Solutions staff librarians have harvested and analyzed eBooks metadata from a specialist’s perspective to optimize the eBook discovery experience for patrons and the management experience for librarians. Tim Fujita-Yuhas, senior product manager, stated, “Our normalization processes mean that librarians don’t have to spend time reviewing and troubleshooting eBooks data. We eliminate errors, fill in the blanks, and correct links to provide clean and consistent data. We also have built relationships with providers through our KnowledgeWorks Certification process. This ensures that you are getting the best possible data from those providers and continuously improves our data exchange.”

Serials Solutions acquires eBooks metadata from all available resources without preference or exclusion. EBook records harvested by Serials Solutions populate the Serials Solutions KnowledgeWorks knowledgebase and are distributed to patrons through the patron-facing interfaces of Serials Solutions 360 access services and the library’s OPAC via 360 MARC Updates. Each Serials Solutions 360 service shares the same KnowledgeWorks data and administrative interface to eliminate redundancy and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of each service. The new eBooks normalization process will be implemented and available in Serials Solutions KnowledgeWorks knowledgebase in January.

ALEXANDER STREET MUSIC AND VIDEO CONTENT TO GO MOBILE

Alexander Street Press (3212 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 800/889-5937) will release a free iPhone application early next year that will make their complete line of online streaming music collections— including Classical Music Library, Jazz Music Library, and Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries—fully accessible on iPhone and iPod Touch handheld devices.

With subsequent releases, patrons of subscribing libraries will also be able to access all Alexander Street video collections, such as American History in Video, Theatre in Video, and the forthcoming Ethnographic Video Online.

Patrons of libraries that subscribe to Alexander Street’s Music Online and video collections will also be able to access and edit personal playlists, making it easy to stream music and video content and instantly update playlists on the go. They will also be able to search and navigate full-text resources, including musical scores.

GRAND CANYON U SELECTS VIRTUA

Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ, a private institution offering campus-based and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs for both traditional and nontraditional students, has chosen a hosted Virtua integrated library system, provided by VTLS Inc. (1701 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060, 800/468-8857), to replace its current Polaris system.

Grand Canyon University has purchased OPAC, cataloging, and circulation modules, as well as InfoStation, a flexible, Web-based, user-friendly statistics and reporting tool. The system is licensed for four staff users and an unlimited number of OPAC users. The new system will be live by the end of this year.

University enrollment totals 25,000 students.

VTLS has also announced sales of Virtua to the University of Education, Ghana, and the British University in Dubai. In addition, the African Development Bank in Tunisia, a Virtua user for several years, has signed a hosting agreement with VTLS and Siberian State Industrial University, Russia; Abu Dhabi University in
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