



Heading for a Library Portal

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Catalyst

- Increasing dissatisfaction with the web OPAC of Aleph (Ex Libris) – used by 34 Max Planck institutes - and the prospect that there won't be any significant development anymore
- Intention to offer our scientists the advantages resulting from the current improvements for library catalogs
- Very important: to find a solution which can be used by all institutes – independently from what kind of library system they apply



Meetings

- Participants: Aleph-Team (librarians), MPDL, GWDG
- Collecting information: Which new functions exist? How did others improve their catalogs?
- Discussions: What do we want? What do we need? What is important for the MPS?



Identifying

Requirements

Out of a list of 66 points, 14 criteria were identified as definitely necessary, e.g.

- Integrating additional resources, e.g. eBook catalog, institutional repositories, PubMan, ...
- Possibility of individual configurations for each institute

All criteria can be found under
http://alephwiki.gwdg.de/index.php/WebOPAC_der_Zukunft



Products

What does the market offer?

- Commercial
- Open Source
- Inhouse-Development



Closer Look

Small groups were visiting vendors and/or customers to learn more about selected products with regard to the defined criteria. Included products:



Decision for a more detailed test with

VuFind (Open Source)

The aim was to find answers to the questions:

- How easy is it to fulfill the requirements?
- Is VuFind suitable for the consortial structure of the MPS?
- How can we operate an Open Source product?

→ Detailed documentation of tests and results at
http://alephwiki.gwdg.de/index.php/WebOPAC_der_Zukunft_VuFind



Project Proposal

- Promising results
- Intention to pursue a solution with VuFind
- Making new experiences with Open Source for the first time
- Attempt to finance two temporary positions via a project proposal



The screenshots show the VuFind search interface. The top screenshot displays search results for 'The Oxford handbook of rationality' by Mele, Alfred R. The bottom screenshot shows a detailed record view for the same book, including metadata such as title, author, publisher, and format.

[VuFind test results: <http://gwda185.gwdg.de/vufind/>]