
Library Systems Migration

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Why the move to a new system?

- Changes in the collection - more electronic resources, fewer physical resources
- Add new features to the system - get a knowledge base.
- The director wants to move in a new direction
- Budgetary reasons

Where to begin

- Educate yourself about the information landscape for ILS systems.
- Form a task force or team and delegate tasks
- Invite vendors to speak
- Use a standard form to check for features, ask questions
- Survey library staff
- Watch 10 million videos!

Discussion time...if you've done this what has the beginning stages looked like for you?

We are migrating, now what?

- Meet weekly with internal ILS team
- Meet weekly with ILS vendor
- Process can take 6-8 months - moves briskly
- Involve other departments (ITS, business office, 3rd party vendors)
- Create a simple (or complex) website to store training materials, etc. (we use Google sites)
- Watch 10 million videos!

SMC decided to go with Alma, and will go -live in July 2022. It happens fast!

Pain points

- Migrating data - lots and lots of work. Library systems have proprietary fields and language that doesn't translate over seamlessly
- Communication with users - this has to be done carefully, so that they don't feel like they're losing services
- It's a full time job on top of your full time job
- Tight budgets - unable to pay more for services or get outside help

What's your experience?



Want to learn more about our process?

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