

# COMPARING Competing Library Technology Products 

Your guide to vendor product facts

# Helping You Buy: Integrated Library Systems 

BY RICHARD WAYNE

This is the second year that I have compiled this special section. Once again, I have found no lack of opinions, ideas, and information about the integrated library systems market and where it is going. It makes writing this article both a challenging and fun project.

My own library (UT Southwestern Medical Library in Texas) has been directly impacted by some of the changes in the industry. The product that we have used for so many years, Unicorn, has come to the end of its life cycle and will be replaced by a new product, SirsiDynix Symphony. As with so many other librarians, we will be having many conversations about where we go from here.

As we began this year's project, the editor and I tried to revise the survey so that questions and answers were subject to as little interpretation as possible. However, as always, you should do independent research on systems and features that are of particular interest to you.

## The Evolving Marketplace

I invited 36 vendors to participate in the Web-based survey that forms the
core of this article and its accompanying charts. That number is up from 33 last year.

Several of last year's vendors have new names. Extensity became Infor Library and Information Solutions. Sagebrush was purchased by Follett Software Co. CASPR Library Systems has become LibraryWorld. Products are shifting too. Horizon and Unicorn merged into Rhome, which became Symphony. Endeavor's products have been merged into Ex Libris' products. There are now popular open source systems on the market. And one vendor chose to respond with data on future releases of products as opposed to existing ones.

Many vendors had different contact persons for me this year, which also reflects the scope of changes going on in the industry. Marshall Breeding visually demonstrates these significant changes in a chart available at www.librarytech nology.org/automationhistory.pl.

## Learning Live and Online

As an industry observer and participant, just going to the ALA Annual Conference is a treasure trove of experiences, learning, and observations. This year's conference in Washington, D.C., was no exception.

The Library \& Information Technology Association (LITA) has a new interest group and a new listserv. The interest group had its inaugural meeting at the conference. Both the interest group and the listserv are based on the idea of the next-generation catalog. Unfortunately, I was not able to make the inaugural meeting personally, but I read the posting about the meeting on the LITA blog. ${ }^{1}$ There were presentations by people from the Westerville Public Library, the University of Washington, and Vanderbilt University on several interesting resource discovery and integration tools. One topic of recent interest on the listserv has been the University of Rochester's eXtensible Catalog (XC) project. ${ }^{2}$

When I passed by the LibLime booth on the exhibit floor at the ALA Annual Conference, it was so crowded I could not get near it. Perhaps they were giving away T-shirts or bouncing rubber balls that flash or such, but I'll bet that attendees were interested in the open source ILS solutions that the company supports-Koha ZOOM and Evergreen.

Although the Georgia Public Library Service's Evergreen is not a commercial product, the developers have been speaking to sold-out audiences throughout Libraryland. As a result, we have asked

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adfl Information Systems Adlib Library | 1978 | A, S, C | W, M, U, L, N, T | W | U, S | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | YR, YBC |
| Anto-Graphics, Inc. AGent VERSO | 2001 | A, P, S | W | H | I, L, U, T | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Biblionix Apollo | 2006 | P | W, M, U, L, N, T | H | I, C | Y | Y | N | N | $N$ | Y | NR, YBC |
| Book Systems, Inc. Atriuum | 2004 | P, S | W, L | H | L, T | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Civica Pty., Ltd. Spydus | 2007 | A, P, S, C | W, T | H, W | I, C | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| COMPanion Corp. Alexandria | 1987 | S | W, M | H, W, M | L | $Y$ | Y | N | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Curadra Associates, Inc. STAR Knowledge Center for Libraries | 2008 | C | W, U, L, T | H, J | U | $Y$ | Y | N | Y | $N$ | N | NR, YBC |
| Cuadra Associates, Inc. STAR/Libraries | 1997 | C | W, U, L | W | U | $Y$ | Y | $N$ | Y | $N$ | N | NR, YBC |
| CyberTools, Inc. CyberTools for Libraries | 2000 | A, C | W, M, U, L, T | H, J | U | Y | Y | $Y$ | Y | $Y$ | N | YR, YBC |
| EOS International EOS.Web | 2003 | C | W | H | L, U, S, T | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Equinox Software Evergreen | 2006 | A, P, S, C | L | 0 | I, L, U, C, T | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Ex LIbris ALEPH 19 | 2007 Q4 | A | W, M, U, L | W | I, U | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | NR, YBC |
| Ex Libris Voyager 7 | 2008 Q1 | A | W, M, U, L | W | I, U | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Follett Software Co. Destiny Library Manager | 2003 | S | W | H | S | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | NR, NBC |
| Infor Library and Information Solutions Vubis Smart | 2002 | A, P, S, C | W, U, L, T | W | U | $N$ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Infovision Software, Inc. Amlib Library Management System | 1995 | P, S, C | W, U, L, N, T | H, W | U, T | $N$ | N | Y | Y | N | N | YR, YBC |
| Inmagic, Inc. Inmagic Genie | 2004 | C | W | H | S | Y | Y | $\gamma$ | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Innovative Interfaces, Inc. Millennium | 1993 | A, P, S, C | U, L, T | H, J, W, M, O | no response | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Kelowna Software, Ltd. Library 4 Universal (L4U) | 1986 | A, P, S, C | W, M | H, W, M | L | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Keystone Systems, Inc. KLAS | 1983 | A, C | W, U, L | H, W | L, U | Y | Y | Y | Y | $Y$ | Y | YR, YBC |
| Liblime <br> Evergreen | 2007 | P | L | 0 | I, L, U | Y | Y | Y | Y | $Y$ | N | YR, YBC |


|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Supports metasearch } \\ & \text { as client? As server? } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P, R | Y | $Y$ | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | R, U, C, F, I, Fa, V, Du | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | $Y$ | E, T, P, R | Y | $Y$ | E, H | $Y$ | $Y$ | O, R, U, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| $N$ | YC, YS | $N$ | E, T, P | Y | Y | E, H | $Y$ | $Y$ | U, S | T, E, W | YL, NO |
| N | NC, YS | Y | E, T, P | Y | Y | E, P, D | Y | Y | F, V, S, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, NO |
| Y | YC, YS | $Y$ | E, T, P, R | Y | $Y$ | E, P, D, H | Y | $Y$ | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| N | NC, NS | Y | E, P | Y | Y | P, H | Y | $Y$ | O, F, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, C, S | YL, NO |
| Y | NC, YS | Y | E, T, P, R | Y | $Y$ | E, D, H | Y | $Y$ | O, R, U, C, I, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | NC, YS | $Y$ | E, P | $Y$ | $Y$ | E, D | $Y$ | Y | R, Re, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P | $Y$ | Y | E, P, D, H | N | N | O, R, U, C, D, I, Fa, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| N | YC, YS | $N$ | E, P | $Y$ | $Y$ | E, H | $Y$ | Y | O, R, F, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, NO |
| $Y$ | YC, YS | Y | E, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | $Y$ | Y | O, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| $Y$ | YC, YS | Y | E, P, R | Y | $Y$ | E, P, D, H | $Y$ | $Y$ | O, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, F, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P | Y | Y | E, D, H | Y | Y | - O, U, D, F, Fa, Re, S, Du | T, E, W | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P | Y | $Y$ | E, P, D | Y | Y | O, R, C, F, I, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, NO |
| N | YC, YS | Y | E, R | Y | Y | E, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, D, F, I, Fa, Re | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| N | NC, NS | Y | E, P | Y | Y | H | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, NS | Y | E, P | Y | $Y$ | E, H | Y | Y | O, U, C, F, I, Re, V, S | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| $N$ | YC, NS | N | E, T, P | Y | Y | E | Y | Y | O, D, Fa, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, C, S | YL, NO |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Liblime } \\ & \text { Koha ZOOM } \end{aligned}$ | 2005 | S, C | W, M, U, L | H | I, L | Y | r | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hibrary Concepts CONCEPTI | 2007 | P, S, C | W, N | w | U, S | N | Y | N | r | Y | N | NR, YBC |
| Hibrary Concepts PC Card Catalog | 1998 | P, S, C | W, N | w | u | N | Y | N | N | N | N | NR, YBC |
| LibraryWortd, inc. LibraryWorld.com | 2005 | A, S, C | W, M, U, L, N, T | H | 1 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | NR, YBC |
| Mandarin Library Automation Mandarin Oasis | 2005 | A, P, S, C | w, T | H | L, S | Y | r | Y | r | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Medialab Solutions AquaBrowser Library | 2003 | A, P, S, C | w | H | I, S, C, T | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y | NR, NBC |
| MINISIS, Inc. M2L-MINISIS Management for Libraries | 1990 | A, S, C | w, T | H, W, O | U | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| New Generation Technologies, inc. LiBRARYSOFT | 1992 | A, P, S, C | w, u | H, W, M | 5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { OCIC PICA } \\ \text { OLIB } \end{gathered}$ | 1992 | c | W, U, L, T | H, W | U | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| OCIC PICA <br> SISIS-SunRise | 1997 | A, P | U, L | w, ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | U, S | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Open Text Corp. <br> Livelink ECM-Library Management | 1984 | c | W, U, L | H | U, S | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | NR, YBC |
| Polaris Library Systems Polaris Integrated Library System | 1998 | P | W, N, T | w | I, L, U, S, C | Y | Y | r | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Sirsidyinx SirsiDynix Symphony Integrated Library and Consortium Management Solution | 2007 | A, P, S, C | W, U, L | H, J, W, M | 1 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Sofitink Liberty | 2001 | A, P, C | W, M | H, J | u | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Softilink Oliver | 2005 | s | W, M | H | u | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N | YR, YBC |
| Surpass Software Surpass Centriva | 2002 | P, S, C | W, M, L, T | H, W | L | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| Sydneypus international SydneyPLUS Library Management System | 2003 | c | W, U, N, T | H, W, M, O | L, U, S | Y | Y | $\gamma$ | Y | Y | r | YR, YBC |
| The IIbrary Corp.-TLC CARL.X | 2005 | P | U, L | H, W | 5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | r | YR, YBC |
| The Ithrary Corp.-TLC Library-Solution | 1997 | A, P, S, C | W, U, L, T | H, W | I, L, U, S, C, T | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |
| VILS, Inc. Virtua | 1995 | A, P, C | U, L, T | H | U, S | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | YR, YBC |


|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N | NC, NS | N | E, T, P, R | Y | N | $\mathrm{E}_{1} \mathrm{P}, \mathrm{D}, \mathrm{H}$ | Y | Y | U, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, S | YL, YO |
| $N$ | NC, NS | Y | E, P | Y | $Y$ | E, D | $N$ | $Y$ | V, S, Du | T, E, W | NL, NO |
| N | NC, NS | N | E, P | N | Y | E, D | N | N | V, S, Du | T, E, W | NL, NO |
| N | NC, NS | Y | E, P | N | Y | H | N | Y | O, C, Re, V | T, E, W | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P | Y | Y | P | Y | Y | O, R, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, R | N | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, U, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | $E, ~ P, ~ R$ | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | N | Y | O, R, C, F, I, Fa, V, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P | Y | Y | E, P, D | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| N | YC, YS | Y | E, P | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | R, U, C, F, Fa, Re, V, S | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, F, I, Fa, Re, S, Du | T, E, W, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P | Y | N | E, D, H | Y | Y | R, U, D, F, I, Fa, Re, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| N | YC, YS | N | E, T, P | Y | Y | E | Y | Y | O, U, F, Fa, Re, S, Du | T, E, W, C, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, D, F, I, Re, S, Du | T, E, W | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | N | E, P, R | $Y$ | Y | E, P, D, H | N | Y | O, R, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | N | Y | O, D, F, I, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| N | YC, NS | $Y$ | E, P | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | N | Y | F, V, S | T, E, W, C | YL, NO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P, R | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | Y | Y | O, U, C, D, F, Fa, Re, V, S | T, E, W, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P | Y | Y | E, P, D, H | $Y$ | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, S, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |
| Y | YC, YS | Y | E, T, P, R | Y | Y | E, D, H | Y | Y | O, R, U, C, D, F, I, Fa, Re, V, Du | T, E, W, C, 2, S | YL, YO |

## TO CONTACT THE CO

Adlib Information Systems
Adlib Library
P.O. Box 1436

3600 BK Maarssen
NETHERLANDS
011-31-30-2411885
www.adlibsoft.com
info@adlibsoft.com
Auto-Graphics, Inc.
AGent VERSO
3201 Temple Ave.
Pomona, CA 91768
(800) 776-6939
www.auto-graphics.com
info@auto-graphics.com

## Biblionix

Apollo
3300 Bee Cave Road
Suite 650-1261
Austin, TX 78746
(877) 800-5625
www.biblionix.com
sales@biblionix.com
Book Systems, Inc.
Atriuum
4901 University Square, Suite 3
Huntsville, AL 35816
(800) 219-6571
www.booksys.com
sales@booksys.com
Civica Pty., Ltd.
Spydus
Level 5
565 Bourke St.
Melbourne, Victoria
AUSTRALIA 3000
011-6139411 3300
www.civicaplc.com/AUS
robradoric@civica.com.au

## COMPanion Corp.

Alexandria
1831 Fort Union Blvd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
(800) 347-6439
www.companioncorp.com
info@companioncorp.com

## Cuadra Associates, Inc.

STAR Knowledge Center for Libraries, STAR/Libraries II 835 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 855
Los Angeles, CA 90064
(800) 366-1390
www.cuadra.com sales@cuadra.com

## CyberTools, Inc.

CyberTools for Libraries
Blanchard House
249 Ayer Road, Suite 302
Harvard, MA 01451
(978) 772-9200 or (800) 894-9206
www.CyberToolsForLibraries.com
Info@CyberToolsForLibraries.com

## EOS International

EOS.Web
2292 Faraday Ave.
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7208
(800) 876-5484
www.eosintl.com
sprovenza@eosintl.com

## Equinox Software

Evergreen
P.O. Box 491418

Lawrenceville, GA 30049
(877) 673-6457
http://esilibrary.com
info@esilibrary.com

## Ex Libris

ALEPH 19, Voyager 7
Bldg. 8-9
Malcha Technology Park
Jerusalem 91481
ISRAEL
$011-97226499100$
www.exlibrisgroup.com
exlibris@exlibris.co.il

## Follett Software Co.

Destiny Library Manager
1391 Corporate Dr.
McHenry, IL 60050-704I
www.fsc.follett.com
marketing@fsc.follett.com
Infor Library and Information Solutions
(formerly Extensity Library Solutions)
Vubis Smart
550 Cochituate Road
Framingham, MA 01701
(800) 825-2574 or (508) 598-414।
www.vubis-smart.com
librarysales@infor.com
Infovision Software, Inc.
Amlib Library Management System
8842 Goldeneye Lane

Blaine, WA 98230
(800) 849-1655
www.infovisionsoftware.com
info@infovisionsoftware.com
Inmagic, Inc.
Inmagic Genie
200 Unicorn Park Dr., Fourth Floor
Woburn, MA 01801
(800) 229-8398
www.inmagic.com
sales@inmagic.com
Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
Millennium
5850 Shellmound Way
Emeryville, CA 94608
(5IO) 655-6200
www.iii.com
info@iii.com
Kelowna Software, Ltd.
Library 4 Universal (L4U)
\#202-1980 Cooper Road
Kelowna, BCVIY 8K5
CANADA
(800) 667-3634
www.|4u.com
sales@L4U.com
Keystone Systems, Inc.
KLAS
8016 Glenwood Ave., Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 782-1143 or (800) 222-971।
www.klas.com
sales@klas.com
LibLime
Koha ZOOM, Evergreen
P.O. Box 892

Athens, OH 45701
(888)-KOHA-ILS (564-2457)
www.liblime.com
info@liblime.com
Library Concepts
PC Card Catalog, CONCEPT I
3801 Glenmont Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(8I7) 346-0928
www.LibraryConcepts.com
info@LibraryConcepts.com
LibraryWorld, Inc.
LibraryWorld.com
55 S. Market St., Suite 1616

## MPANIES

San Jose, CA 95113
(800) 852-2777
www.libraryworld.com
sales@libraryworld.com
Mandarin Library Automation
Mandarin Oasis
1100 Holland Dr.
Boca Raton, FL 33487
(800) 426-7477, ext. 751
www.mlasolutions.com
automation@mlasolutions.com

## Medialab Solutions

AquaBrowser Library
Modemstraat 2B
1033 RW Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS
01131206353190
www.aquabrowser.com
sales@aquabrowser.com
MINISIS, Inc.
M2L - MINISIS Mgt. for Libraries 210 West Broadway, 5th Floor
Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2
CANADA
(604) 255-4366 or (877) 255-4399
www.minisisinc.com
christopher@minisisinc.com
New Generation Technologies, Inc. LiBRARYSOFT
Dept. 844, P.O. Box 34069
Seattle,WA 98124
(800) 661-7112
www.librarysoft.com
support@librarysoft.com
OCLC PICA
OLIB, SISIS-SunRise
7400 West I 32nd St., Suite 240
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 239-1200
www.odlcpica.org
info@oclcpica.org

## Open Text Corp.

Livelink ECM-Library Management
(formerly Techlib)
3671 Ridge Mill Dr.
Hilliard, OH 43026
(800) 328-2648
www.opentext.com
sales@opentext.com

## Polaris Library Systems

Polaris Integrated Library System
P.O. Box 4903

Syracuse, NY 1322।-4903
(800) 272-3414
www.polarislibrary.com
info@polarislibrary.com

## SirsiDynix

SirsiDynix Symphony Integrated Library and Consortium Management Solution
101 Washington St. SE
Huntsville, AL 35801-4827
(800) 917-4774
www.sirsidynix.com
sales@sirsidynix.com
Softlink
Liberty, Oliver
5482 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1540
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(877) 454-2725
www.softlinkint.com

## Surpass Software

Surpass Centriva
517 Oothcalooga St., Suite C
Calhoun, GA 30701
(877) 625-2657 or (706) 625-5399
www.SurpassSoftware.com
sales@SurpassSoftware.com
SydneyPLUS International
SydneyPLUS Library Management System
5138-13562 Maycrest Way
Richmond, BC, V6V 2]7
CANADA
(604) 278-6717
www.sydneyplus.com
sales@sydneyplus.com
The Library Corp.-TLC
CARL.X, Library-Solution
Research Park
Inwood, WV 25428-9733
(800) 325-7759
www.ticdelivers.com
info@tlcdelivers.com

## VTLS, Inc.

Virtua
1701 Kraft Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 557-1200
www.vtls.com
info@vtls.com
their commercial partner, Equinox Software, to participate in this year's survey.

There are always opportunities to learn online as well. A recent report of great interest is the one Karen Calhoun prepared for the Library of Congress titled "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools." ${ }^{3}$ If you have not read that report, I would highly recommend that you do so. Along with other content, the report addresses a vision for change and a blueprint for action for the library catalog. Another report along similar lines is "Rethinking How We Provide Bibliographic Services for the University of California" by the U.C. Bibliographic Services Task Force. ${ }^{4}$ That report, although focused on the University of California, has some practical recommendations for other libraries as well. A couple of examples are to "deliver bibliographic services where the users are" and "support searching across the entire bibliographic information space."

An enterprising library student at Indiana University, Jason Ronallo, created a Web-based "ILS Chooser" from the data in my article last year as well as from some other sources. You can find the ILS Chooser at http://mypage .iu.edu/~jronallo.

## Survey Questions \& Answers

As much as I tried to come up with a totally different survey, this year's survey is very similar to last year's. Some terminology has changed. For example, whereas the term Application Service Provider or ASP was big last year, it has now been replaced by SaaS or Software as a Service. A number of library vendors are marketing their SaaS options more aggressively than their locally hosted systems. Along with a number of other considerations, SaaS allows a vendor to provide a more consistent experience for its various customers. Most of the ILS vendors surveyed this year offer an SaaS option.

There are some more substantive changes to the survey. I've added a new option-"other Web 2.0 services"-as one of several answers about what types of customer support are available. I've also added questions about faceted brow-
sing, relevancy ranking, visual navigation, spell checking, and managing duplicate search hits.

A few of the vendors had interesting suggestions for questions for next year's survey. For example, one mentioned


# COMPARING Competing Library Technology Products 

Your guide to vendor product facts

Stay tuned for more of the Helping You Buy series in 2008!
You can learn more product facts and features in future installments:

February 2008

## Self-Check Systems

Self-Check Systems have gotten more mature and some now have extra features. So it's time to check back on these all-important systems that you've come to rely on to save staff time and to satisfy computer-savvy customers.

## May 2008

Electronic Resource Management (ERM) Systems Vendors began to build Electronic Resource Management (ERM) systems just a few years ago to help you keep track of your many digital resources. Now that more libraries are ready to adopt them, we'll question all vendors that have created ERM tools.

## October 2008

## Integrated Library Systems (ILS)

The library automation market is moving toward a whole new generation of ILS as you continue to speak out about your changing needs. You need to have more-robust systems with more-user-friendly search features. This section will update you on the morphing marketplace.

## Tell the editor in chief what you think

 about the Helping You Buy series.Is it useful? What products would you like to us to compare in the future? Write email with the Subject line "HYB Comments" and send it to kdempsey@infotoday.com.
that the type of ownership for an ILS vendor should be a question. That is, whether an ILS vendor is owned by a private equity firm, a public corporation, a partnership, or some other entity. Another vendor suggested that we should ask whether the underlying software code is proprietary or open source.

We hope that this snapshot of the ILS marketplace is helpful to you. Let us know. The ILS landscape has been changing even more rapidly than in previous years, and the changes will undoubtedly keep coming. Contact me if there's something that you would like to see added for next year's ILS Helping You Buy section.

Richard Wayne has managed the systems group at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Library in Dallas since 1992. Prior to joining UT Southwestern, he was in the information technology field for more than 10 years in a number of technical and managerial capacities. Wayne is also the principal of Strategic Information Management Services (www.librarytechnology .com), a library technology and strategic planning consulting firm. He has worked with a wide range of library technologies in public, academic, and special libraries. His email address is richard.wayne@utsouthwestern.edu.

## Endnotes

1. Jenny Maurer, LITA Next Generation Catalogs IG, LITA Blog, June 28, 2007. http://litablog.org/2007/06/28/ lita-next-generation-catalogs-ig
2. About XC, eXtensible Catalog. www.extensiblecatalog.info/ ?page_id=2
3. Karen Calhoun, "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools," Library of Congress, March 17, 2006. www.loc.gov/catdir/ calhoun-report-final.pdf
4. Bibliographic Services Task Force, "Rethinking How We Provide Bibliographic Services for the University of California," The University of California Libraries, December 2005. http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/sopag/BSTF/Final.pdf
