A tale of two systems: FE & HE discovery at the University of Derby.

James Kay
E-Resources Librarian
Introduction & Context
James Kay
E-Resources Librarian

• I’ve been at Derby for nearly 4 years, and in my current post since March of this year

• I manage the E-Resources, Online Reading Lists, Inter Library Loans, and Copyright Clearance Unit Teams

• Previously LSDD (Library Subscriptions & Document Delivery) Librarian, responsible for financial and systems management (periodicals and databases)
Today, I’ll be...

• Presenting recent development work on discovery systems at the University of Derby and Buxton & Leek College

• Describing the separate systems we have in place for HE and FE students

• Reflecting on the implementation and launch of our FE discovery platform

• Looking at our ongoing improvement programme in our HE discovery platform and integration with our new holdings tool
Creating Discover

Summer & Autumn 2015
A brief overview…

• Library administers two separate discovery systems across multi-site campuses

• Library Plus is used by our HE students

  Launched Autumn 2013

• Discover is the platform for FE students at Buxton & Leek College

  Implemented Summer 2015
  Launched in Autumn 2015
• Senior library staff from Derby, Buxton & Leek campuses attended a webinar w/t EBSCO

• The webinar covered examples of discovery at other FE institutions

• Approval for a new discovery platform had to be confirmed at senior management level

• Following testing, our aim was to have Discover ready by August 2015, in preparation for inductions in September
• Project Group co-ordinated set-up and implementation of Discover

  *James Kay*
  *Graham Martindale*
  *Jon White*

• Liaised with International Support and Software As A Service teams

• Project Team worked with EBSCO to construct a ‘test’ profile

  *Agreed searchable databases list*

  *Excel log file for tracking queries*
• Discover launched in September induction period
  
  *Demonstrations for academic and teaching staff*

  *Training for library staff*

• We asked EBSCO to suspend updates and tweaks to ensure consistency during inductions
• We identified a few issues when testing Discover

  **Appearance & terminology needed simplifying**

  **Linking and integration issues between our discovery platform and library catalogue**

  **Databases & content lists didn’t always mirror what our existing subscriptions were**

  **Varied range of icons and displays**
• Open to experimentation and trying new ideas in Discover
  
  * Customised Limiters
  * Customised Terminology
  * Customised Widgets & Feeds

• Willingness to look at other institutions and best practice

• Implementation anticipated further developments in Library Plus and the addition of E-Journals Finder
Improving Library Plus
Summer 2016 to the present
• Focus at Derby is on our Access to HE student cohort

• Emphasis on teaching discovery systems rather than the catalogue

• Discover taught in Autumn term to establish basic skills

• Library Plus taught in Spring term, builds on basics, develops advanced discovery skills

• Prepares them for University towards the end of their Access studies
1. **Your teacher training companion: essential skills and knowledge for very busy trainees** / Jim McGrath, Anthony Coles.
   
   By: McGrath, Jim (University lecturer). London: Routledge, 2015. 296 pages; illustrations (black and white); 25 cm Language: English. Database: University of Derby Catalogue
   
   Subjects: Teachers -- Training of; Education

2. **School-based teacher training: a handbook** / Jarvis.
   
   
   Subjects: Teachers -- Training of; Education

3. **Navigating initial teacher training: becoming a qualified teacher** / Tracey.
   
   
   Subjects: Teachers -- Training of; Education

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**Custom Icons In Practice (2)**
• E-Journals Finder - an updated holdings platform - was launched alongside our discovery improvement programme

• The new platform enabled us to integrate our discovery and full text searching

• Previously, we had distinctly separate platforms for discovery and holdings systems
• Some challenges post-migration and implementation

  *Icons duplicating or are incorrectly linking*

  *Customised widgets for selected resources unavailable through discovery*

  *Consideration of a ‘third icon’ for results that are abstract only*
The impact of ‘Two Systems’

Autumn 2017 onwards
FE students and Discover – what’s the impact?

• Databases and collections are accessible and visible from the beginning

• Information & digital literacy is imbedded successfully into students’ studies

  So, not ‘what and how, but why’
  Avoids ‘mechanical teaching!’

• Recognises Discover isn’t appropriate for every programme

  Specific FE courses are text-book or practical-based
**Access to HE and Library Plus – what’s the impact?**

- Students have immediate access to HE resources as part of their programme.
- They’re taught to understand the differences between FE and HE resources and develop advanced searching skills.
- They often feel more focused and able to handle the transition better towards HE studies.
What is the long-term impact?

- Two systems can work independently of one-another
- Shared understanding of systems administration helped to manage colleagues’ expectations
- Improvements in one system inevitably feed back into the work of the other
- Improvements enable us to make our resources more accessible and visible for our students

Not what we’ve learnt
But what we’re learning!
With thanks to present and former colleagues at Derby

**Jon White**  
Subject Librarian for Business, Hospitality, Tourism, Sport and Access/Foundation

**Graham Martindale**  
Assistant Subject Librarian for FE  
(now at Regent’s University London)

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Thank You for Listening!