



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

LIBRARY ERESOURCE DISCOVERY AT UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

***UKSG: 'An Introduction to Resource
Discovery 2023' online seminar
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University of Strathclyde - overview

- One of three Universities in the city of Glasgow, Scotland.
- Teaching and Research institution.
- Four Faculties: Science, Engineering, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Strathclyde Business School.
- Total FTE students and Academic Staff = 22,690 (*SCONUL Return 2021/22*).
- Jisc Band 4.



Library eResource Collection

- Library eResource Collection = eBooks, eJournals and electronic databases.
 - eBooks purchased by library: 701,309 (*SCONUL Return 2021/22*)
 - Electronic serials titles purchased: 152,205 (*SCONUL Return 2021/22*)
 - A-Z Databases list: 354 items
- **Library systems and discovery tools:** Alma, 'SUPrimo' library catalogue, Leganto reading lists, RapidILL, 'Find it@Strathclyde' (OpenURL), LibGuides including A-Z Database List, BrowZine. [*'Strathprints' and 'Stax' repositories, Archives and Special Collections catalogue, ('Myplace' Moodle VLE).*]
- **Catalogue records:** Alma Community Zone serials records, MARC records from OCLC and directly from publishers, locally created records, Central Discovery Index (CDI).
- **Authentication:** combination of IP authentication, Shibboleth, EZproxy, occasionally other methods.



Library eResources team

- eResources team are based within Acquisitions & Financial Management (Book Acq, ILL, Serials, eResources, Finance).
- 2 x full time staff members: eResources Librarian and Senior IS Assistant (Access and Technical Support).
- Role of the eResources team is to maintain access to our Library eResource Collection.
- Main tasks: investigating and trialling potential eResources, setting up access to new eResources, managing eResource changes (e.g. platform migrations, EZproxy), removing access to cancelled eResources, handling access problems.

Many different teams in the library are involved in eResource discovery: Cataloguing & Metadata, Serials, eResources, Library Systems, Reading List team...



eResources team (eR) discovery tasks

First: understand the resource and how it fits within the context of our eResource Collection.

Title level discovery and CDI:

- eR discuss record availability and ongoing record/updates management with Cataloguing & Metadata (C&M) and/or Serials team
- eR discuss discovery requirements with Faculty Librarians (FLs)
- eR decide off-campus authentication and linking method
- C&M or Serials team catalogue the resource
- eR investigate and activate CDI records

RapidILL:

- eR/Serials check licence and add tag to Alma collection (lendable_international, lendable_uk, local_only)

A-Z Database record:

- FLs and eR create A-Z record together; eR create copy database record in Alma/SUprimo

OA discovery:

- eR identify any OA content within this resource and discuss with colleagues regarding separate discovery

Find it@Strathclyde (OpenURL): eR set this up and test

BrowZine: auto-updates from Alma holdings - eR test

Testing and feedback:

- eR team test, raise any queries, and provide feedback to eResource provider(s)

The screenshot displays the 'Library eResource Set-up' interface. On the left, a sidebar shows 'All teams' and a list of channels: 'General', 'Library eResource Cancellation Chan...', 'Library eResource Set-up Channel' (selected), 'Library eResource Trials Channel', 'Library Platform Migrations Channel', and 'Notebook'. The main content area is titled 'Sustainable Development Goals Online (' and contains a list of tasks. Each task card includes a status (e.g., 'DISCOVERY', 'LICENCE AND CO...'), a checkmark, a title (e.g., 'RapidILL', 'Cataloguing in Alma and CDI'), a progress indicator (e.g., '3 / 3', '4 / 7', '5 / 7'), and a completion status (e.g., 'Completed by Fiona Tinto on 06/...', 'Completed by Fiona Tinto on 09/...'). A right-hand panel shows a 'Filter' section with options like 'Filter by keyword', 'Due (0)', 'Priority (0)', 'Label (1)', and 'Bucket (1)'. The 'Label (1)' section lists various categories such as 'CONTENT ACTIVATION & AC...', 'DISCOVERY', 'EVALUATION AND STATISTICS', 'AUTHENTICATION', 'ADMIN ACCOUNT', 'RESOURCE TESTING', 'MARKETING/COMMUNICATI...', 'ALUMNI', 'LICENCE AND COMPLIANCE', and 'POLs'.

Understanding the eResource - *examples*

A database *and* a journal

Tourism Cases is a full text Case Study database product from CABI. The resource comprises a single journal publication (title Tourism Cases; eISSN 2788-5607) structured as a searchable electronic database. The content published within the Tourism Cases publication comprises full text case studies and accompanying 'Notes' items (which contain background context, discussion points etc. to support students and instructors in using the case studies). For the purposes of usage statistics and MARC record discovery, CABI treat this resource as a journal. This is a subscription with perpetual access guaranteed to the years we paid for, should we cancel the subscription.

Bespoke collections

Benefits

Bespoke eBook or eJournal collections allow the flexibility of selecting only the specific titles you want to buy.

Considerations

Publisher will not have pre-made discovery and metadata sets – either they or you will need to compile a tailored set.

Content will be present on the site as separate titles, not arranged within a standard collection. This impacts how you can link and signpost users to the content from a database or collection level record.

Record keeping of bespoke entitlements is harder over time. Worth confirming that publisher has a process to keep track of individual title purchases, and keep good records yourself.

Restricted content/pages

e.g. 'Lady's Magazine Index' (Open Access) within 'Eighteenth Century Journals' (subscription only resource).

Even if your institution has access to the full paywalled resource, you may still want to make the OA component separately discoverable as an OA item.

Be wary about overlap between records for the OA and records for the paywalled full text product – link resolvers may return false full text available results.

Check access to pages such as help pages, Terms of Use and site policies. Are these pages OA or behind a login barrier?

Catalogue record decisions - *examples*

Organisation of catalogue records

There are many publishers from whom we have purchased multiple collections of content, and also individual titles. It varies whether we catalogue content into separate collections per purchase or subject collection; or catalogue everything into a single Alma collection.

From database records, it varies whether we link directly out to the eResource, or link to catalogue records in SUPrimo.

Considerations:

- How are catalogue records delivered - can we maintain granular collections or would this be impractical/impossible over time?
- What are the Faculty Librarians' requirements – how do they intend to market and signpost users to this content?
- eResource platform – can we link to specific content/collections; how do users navigate the site in the context of the resource you are describing in that record?

Emerald eCase Collection

New subscription – overlaps with certain years of content from EMCS collection we had purchased outright. Subscription gives us access to cases from all 9 x collections, from all years.

Internal decisions about whether to retain EMCS collection records separately or merge these in with eCases content.

MARC records and CDI records duplicate each other. Opted to use MARC records, not CDI records – greater control, and better linking (to item level, rather than collection level).

Identified MARC set included no records for one small collection. Reported this to publisher who are now working on creating MARC records for this collection. (C&M team will create temporary local records.)

Primary Source content

Some Digital Archive or Primary Source eResources have MARC records or discovery records available for each item/document contained within the resource.

In some of these record sets, the records have originated from an archive catalogue and contain records with titles such as **'Photographs : Photograph.'** or **'US Army, no subject, January 22, 1946, Top Secret, NARA.'**

These records were designed to be viewed as part of an archival finding aid, and often don't make much sense outwith that context.

We tend not to add records like to this to our library catalogue, because we feel they lack the necessary context and are not useful for discovery for our users.

Testing and feedback - *examples*

Title list vs records vs access

In a perfect world, the title list, record sets, and content you can access on the platform would all match perfectly.

We check and compare access/activations:

- title by title where possible for smaller collections
- by spot-checking and comparing numbers for bigger collections

Use platform filters such as All Content vs Content I have Access To, and filtering by subject modules.

We report anomalies e.g.:

- Content not activated for access
- Missing or extra titles in title list
- paywalled/OA anomalies in KBART title list
- general metadata anomalies
- titles not indexed within collection/module
- Search and browse behaviour anomalies

'Find it@Strathclyde' (OpenURL linking)

OpenURL link can appear in different places on different platforms e.g.

- next to result records for content your institution cannot access
- next to references in bibliographies
- the platform might support this against journal content but not against book content, or vice-versa
- might appear in places you hadn't considered e.g. references in essay content in Mass Observation Online

Always worth checking the expected site behaviour with provider.

Test behaviour against different material types and in different places on site (may work for some places/content types but not others).

Central Discovery Index (CDI) records

Discovery records can be difficult to test and review because you have general high-level details about the record set, but don't have any list of the individual records included. Hard to gauge if records are present for all content, or if there are gaps in the record coverage. Hard to know which CDI collection merged records come from.

Ex Libris can provide a URL structure that allows you to return the records from a specific CDI collection in Primo results.

Currency and linking level vary across different publishers and eResource platforms.

Experiment sorting results oldest to newest, spot-check from different date ranges, different material types (if relevant). If you hit problems, consider is there a pattern, such as issues with records from specific title(s) or publishers; does record coverage stop after a certain year; does linking level match your expectations etc?



Summary

- Overview of University of Strathclyde and our Library eResource Collection.
- Remit of the Library eResources team.
- Specific tasks handled by eResources team relating to eResource discovery.

Examples

- Considering and understanding the eResource in the context of our library's collection.
- Discovery decisions.
- Testing and feedback given to eResource providers.
- Summary
- Questions

Any questions or suggestions?



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