Mannix Library Moves to a New Library Services Platform

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In late 2018, Mannix Library signed an agreement with OCLC and the transition to a new library services platform began in earnest. Implementation of OCLC's WorldShare Management Services (WMS) occurred over the summer break, with a go live date set for February 2019, prior to the commencement of first semester. After more than twenty years using the previous system, and over a year spent investigating various options, the library team is now very happy to have moved to a system that has already provided many benefits for both library staff and library users.

Mannix Library is a member library of the University of Divinity (https://divinity.edu.au/), a collegiate university that was founded in 1910. All students and staff join the University through one of its eleven Colleges. Based in the Australian cities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney, each College is a unique learning community. The Colleges are supported by a wide range of churches and religious orders that together resource the University as a whole. Through scholarship, the University aims to address the issues of the contemporary world

through critical engagement with Christian theological traditions. Mannix Library's primary role is to serve the needs of staff and students of Catholic Theological College. However, it also welcomes staff and students from the wider University of Divinity community and members of the general public. The Library also manages the University's Online Library Hub (http://library.divinity.edu.au/), which provides access to online resources for all members of the University.

Image: Mannix Library, Catholic Theological College, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia

For those who may not be too familiar with OCLC, their website states,

> OCLC, a global library cooperative, supports thousands of libraries in making information more accessible and more useful to people around the world. We provide shared technology services, original research and community programs that help libraries meet the ever-evolving needs of their users, institutions and communities.

OCLC's WMS system is built around OCLC's WorldCat, the world's most comprehensive global network of data about library collections and services. The new system offers many advantages for Mannix Library staff including workflow efficiencies, streamlined cataloguing processes, and additional functionality not available in the old library system. Using a system based on internationally-shared library data allows staff to re-use standard bibliographic, serial, vendor and other data. Mannix Library's WorldCat Discovery interface

(https://mannix.on.worldcat.org/discovery) was familiar to many library users as it has the same look and feel as the University's current combined library catalogue, known as UDCat (https://divinity.on.worldcat.org/discovery). The library has chosen to embed the Discovery interface search bar into its new Mannix Library website (http://www.mannix.org.au/).

The multiple libraries that are associated with the University of Divinity use a variety of different Library Management Systems but they achieve a unified presence because of the integration of their current systems with the OCLC WorldCat Discovery interface that underpins UDCat. The University of Divinity Library Hub (http://library.divinity.edu.au/) also uses another OCLC product (EZproxy) to authenticate users, and provide remote access to online resources. Using the same company for UDCat, authentication, and Mannix Library's new library platform allows for more streamlined integration between the different systems. Enhanced functionality and interoperability between the various systems and products were significant factors in the decision to move to a new library system.

WMS is a cloud-based library services platform that offers all of the usual applications needed to manage a library. The system is very standards compliant which ensures that cataloguing data is of the highest quality. OCLC also integrates fully with Libraries Australia, the resources sharing service managed by the National Library of Australia, which also provides the data that underpins Trove (https://trove.nla.gov.au/). When Mannix Library adds holdings directly to WorldCat, OCLC's nightly automated process for synchronizing WorldCat holdings with Libraries Australia ensures that our Libraries Australia records are always up-to-date, without the need for any extra intervention by cataloguing staff. This frees up staff time to work on other projects such as the development and promotion of our unique resources and special collections. There were several other reasons for the library's decision to move to WorldShare Management Services:

- System upgrades, ongoing support and training on new releases are all included in the annual subscription. There are no additional costs to ensure we have access to the system's latest features and functionality.

- Founded over 50 years ago, OCLC is a globally-recognised company which also has office and support staff conveniently located in Melbourne. The OCLC implementation team worked co-operatively with us on an accelerated implementation plan to ensure our system was operational prior to the start of first semester 2019.

- The American Theological Library Association (now known as Atla) offers a consortium discount for Atla member libraries that wish to use OCLC WMS. This is the only arrangement that Atla currently has with a Library Services Platform vendor.

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- OCLC's WMS system is used by a growing number of libraries around the world including National Libraries (e.g. Canada and New Zealand), as well as many other University, College and Research Libraries.

Mannix Library staff were unanimous in their decision to move to the new library services platform and, despite the challenges of a tight implementation schedule, have been pleased with the enhanced functionality and other benefits that have resulted from their move to OCLC WorldShare Management Services.