

## **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN LIBRARIES**

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### **Abstract:**

With the revolution of digital technology, libraries have begun to incorporate digital collection in their libraries. However the techniques used by librarians to manage physical resources did not transfer well to the electronic medium. The solution for this is ERMS. This paper has focused on four ERMS, life cycle of e resource and institutes that have implemented ERMS.

**Key Words:** Research Monitor, Hermies, VERA, Verde ERM

### **Introduction:**

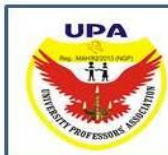
Every academic library is embracing digital collections, though digitization is the demand of time, but some of the libraries adopt it as a fashion. Emergence and obligation of electronic resources in a university and research library is a major issue of discussion among the academic environment. To maintain the link between the cost and optimum use of these resources is a great challenge. E-resources have become standard resources in academic libraries in just the last few years. Latest acquisition of journals, magazines and other secondary material are deeply skewed toward digital. Now a day, published material is very costly and space intensive but digital collections save space, and are relatively easy to maintain.

**Electronic resource management (ERM)** is the practices and techniques used by librarians and library staff to track the selection, acquisition, licensing, access, maintenance, usage, evaluation, retention, and de-selection of a library's electronic information resources. These resources include, but are not limited to, electronic journals, electronic books, streaming media, databases, datasets, CD-ROMs and computer software.

### **Electronic Resource Management Systems (ERMS):**

ERMS are used to keep track of a library's digital titles, subscription and vendor/publisher information. Libraries of all types have seen substantially greater involvement with content delivered in digital formats during the last decades. The hard-cast model of the ILS lacked the flexibility to accommodate new formats of materials requiring substantially different business processes for acquisition, description, and access.

**Details of some ERMS are as follows:**



### 1. Verde ERM:

Verde ERM is developed by Ex Libris in 2004. It is commercial software. Approximately 160 users are used Verde ERM software. It is a centralized repository managing e-resource workflows such as acquisitions, trial, usage, cost, access, and administrative data.

#### Features:

- ✚ It can be integrated with existing library applications such as SFX, OPACs, A-Z list.
- ✚ Libraries can quickly analyze actual expenditure vs. budget
- ✚ It is a tool for well manage e-collections
- ✚ It can easily analyze cost, usage, and licensing information.

#### Functions and Modules:

Verde interact not only with Ex Libris products but also with similar products provided by other vendors based on industry standards. Users can access e-resources via an A-Z list, library portal, library OPAC, or link server. It provides the functionality such as acquisition, cost analysis, admin, Verde Task, KB Manager, KB tools etc.

### 2. VERA MIT (<http://vera.mit.edu/>):

VERA is a project of MIT (Massachusetts Institutes of Technology) for managing the eresource, launched in 2000. It is developed by using FileMaker Pro software.

#### Features :

- It allows librarians sitting anywhere can make changes to the title database→ without downloading software to their computers.
- Standards and Compatibility: Standards compatible with VERA ERMS are COUNTER and SUSHI, DLF-ERMI Standards, MARC, NISO, ONIX, SOAP, XML
- It is a system for both library staff and users. Users can allow searches by title, subject, and keyword etc.

#### Functions and Modules:

Modules of VERA are licensed details, licensed list, admin details, admin list, subject list, maintainer list and reports

### 3. HERMIES:

HERMIES (Hopkins Electronic Resource Management System) is an ERMS created by the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) libraries. It is the integrated system for the process of selection, purchase, and management of e-resources.

#### Functions and Modules:

Modules of HERMIES are Authentication, Authorization, Selection, Acquisitions, Catalogue Interface, Library Computing Services, Public Display, Administrative Search, Report, Scheduled Notifications, Automated Subject Indexing.



### Standards and Compatibility:

LDAP (Lightweight directory access protocol), XML standards are compatible with HERMIES.

### 4. RESEARCH MONITOR:

This system is the product of Priory Solution and was developed in the year 2004. External online database as well as internal intranets and knowledge base portals are easily managed by Research Monitor.

#### Features:

- ✚ It gives the online statistics of usage and reports of all modules.
- ✚ It records online fines so that library staff can estimate what fines he/she can levy on to its patrons.
- ✚ It translates its data into 10 different languages, forecasts, ability to export the reports into Excel, power point & PDF formats and split screen facilities etc

#### Functions and Modules:

The modules of ResearchMonitor are Usage Analysis, Access control, Client validation, Cost recovery, Contract management.

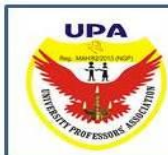
#### Advantages of ERMS:

- ✓ It efficiently manages the e resource life cycle i.e. it manages its acquisition, shelving, renewal and evaluation.
- ✓ It gives the usage statistic instantly.
- ✓ Searching through multiple ports is possible.
- ✓ ERMS administers control and restrict the library staff to read, create, update or delete the authorization of e resources workflow.

#### Life Cycle of E Resources:

##### The life cycle of e resources consist of 6 stages:

1. **Evaluation:** The librarian discovers a particular e resource from e database, from request from faculty member, from the bibliographical database etc.
2. **Trial:** There are many challenges to use an e resource. Hence a trail will enable a librarian to decide if it is workable from library ports and what is the response of college authorities about it.
3. **Selection:** After the trail librarian takes decision whether to subscribe it or not.
4. **Acquisition:** For acquisition the license code, geographical restriction, usage restriction etc are taken into consideration. With the permission of college authority, librarian takes decision whether to pay lump sum amount for a particular period or to pay for each title.
5. **Access:** After acquiring it, it is to be managed so that it is accessible to staff as well as students.



6. **Renewal of subscription or deactivation of subscription:** The librarian needs to check usage statistic periodically. If it is well used and from the feedback from students and staff the decision about its renewal or cancellation is taken.

#### **Institute that have implemented ERMS:**

Following are some of the institutions who have implemented ERMS

1. Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore, India)
2. Florida Institute of Technology (Melbourne, Florida)
3. IMT Institute for Advanced Studies (Lucca, Italy)
4. International Institute for Applied System Analysis (Laxenburg, Austria)
5. Northern Michigan University (Marquette, MI)

#### **Conclusion:**

ERM tools have capability to store, retrieve and compare license agreements.

ERMS is going to be an inevitable part of university libraries in future. It helps us in analyzing the cost per use. Each ERM tools have different features and functionality. We can manage eResources effectively and efficiently using ERMS. It serve as a single platform for managing all eResources. It provides renewal alert notification through email. We can create A-Z list of all eJournals and it saves the time of staff and students.

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