



News from UNILINC

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UNILINC, founded in 1978 and one of the most enduring cooperative endeavours in education, is pleased to announce the successful implementation of two ground breaking services for libraries.

The first of the new services developed by UNILINC is a hosted institutional repository (IR) of digital research outputs. In future this will include digital theses and other institutional content. The software is the DigiTool digital resource management system from Ex Libris, the world-wide library system supplier. UNILINC has implemented DigiTool in conjunction with Charles Sturt University, a foundation member of UNILINC, and did so in record time. From the time the software was installed on the UNILINC server to the time the first item was deposited, was just four months. Charles Sturt University is the first university in Australia to require that all researchers submit their peer-reviewed pre-publication manuscripts for the DEST Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) as an electronic file into the IR and it was essential that the service was up and running by the end of 2007. UNILINC designed the HERDC reporting interface to DigiTool specifically to allow this innovative solution which allows deposit of the manuscript to the open access repository and collection of the DEST data via a single interface. As Shirley Oakley the Executive Director Library Services at Charles Sturt University said *"We are very pleased with the result and the response and take up by the academic community speaks for itself. It has met our extremely tight timeline and exceeded our expectations"*.

The second hosted service from UNILINC enables libraries to manage the myriad of electronic subscriptions that are now so vital to any library's service delivery. The software used is Verde, the Ex Libris Electronic Resources Management system. To date libraries have tried to manage subscriptions using spreadsheets. This is messy enough but aggregated electronic subscriptions change coverage constantly and the staff time to monitor and record these changes is beyond most libraries. With Verde, these changes are notified on a regular basis and the library's records are automatically updated. The Verde implementation, also in record time, was the first to go into production in Australasia. As Chris Sheargold, Director of Libraries for the Australian Catholic University, says *"As a multi campus university, our need for electronic resources grows every year. For some time we have needed a system to help us manage the many subscriptions and licenses. Verde does this and implementing Verde through UNILINC has enabled ACU National to realise immediate benefits"*. Des Stewart, University Librarian Southern Cross University says *"We at Southern Cross along with all academic libraries provide an increasing range of e-resources to staff and students. The proliferation of e-resources and their effective management poses quite a challenge to us all. Verde allows us to efficiently manage the complex nature of these resources within the emerging digital library"*.

Tony Cargnelutti, Project Manager, who has overseen the implementation of the projects for UNILINC says *"Being involved in developing powerful online services for the university community with the opportunity to work with such talented colleagues at UNILINC in a real spirit of collaboration with the universities and the vendor is very exciting and rewarding. We now look forward to offering these new services to others"*.

The Executive Director of UNILINC, Rona Wade says *"We are particularly pleased to make this announcement on the eve of our 30th anniversary. These services further enhance our offering of fully supported and hosted library and information systems and are a testimony to the benefits of cooperation"*.

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For information about UNILINC please see: <http://www.unilinc.edu.au>

For information about Charles Sturt University Library please see: <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/library/>

For information about the Australian Catholic University Library please see: <http://www.acu.edu.au/Library>

For information about the Southern Cross University Library please see: <http://www.scu.edu.au/library/>