



## VALID Open Library System Implementation Taskforce (VOIT)

TO: VALID Steering Committee  
FROM: VALID Implementation Taskforce  
RE: Charge #1 VALID-OLS Discovery Layer (DL)  
DATE: January 18, 2013

In our communication of March 30, 2012, we concluded:

*Therefore, at this time, it is not possible (nor advisable, in our opinion) to make a final recommendation to VOSC that would exclude the, as yet, unseen potential of each of our three candidate DLs. VOIT does feel, though, that since we have seen the most promise and potential with VuFind, that we should continue our work on it. We wish to preserve the option to resume evaluations of XC and Blacklight at a future date.*

In these past nine months we have been able to achieve a functional, initial iteration of a composite database using VuFind as a discovery layer: <http://www.validnj.org/vufind/>. We have concluded that Blacklight offers no additional or desirable functionality over VuFind and would entail learning a set of programming, coding, and web-authoring techniques (Ruby on Rails) common with no existing VALE applications. We have not learned of any new developments of XC. Therefore, we would like to formally recommend the adoption of VuFind in order to fulfill charge #1 of the Implementation Taskforce. This recommendation is based on the following findings:

1. VuFind offers a set of features acknowledged as “next-generation” (Breeding, 2007; Murray, 2008; Yang & Wagner, 2010), that include faceted navigation, additional item suggestions, native spell-check, better relevancy ranking, and improved user-centered design (UX).
2. VuFind’s LAMP software environment (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) makes use of existing skills of participants.
3. VuFind is currently in service in over 100 institutions. There is a vibrant community of users who generously offer support on all manner of technical issues. These implementations range from large national libraries to small college or public libraries. Most importantly, there are implementations in environments roughly parallel to VALE, such as: [Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois \(CARLI\)](#), [Keystone Library network \(PA\)](#), [Marmot Library Network \(CO\)](#), [SPARK Library System \(PA\)](#), [Upper Hudson Library System \(NY\)](#), and [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Union Catalog](#).
4. Compatibility with Kuali-OLE was confirmed in a 10/19/12 teleconference with Robert McDonald, Michael Winkler, representatives from the Bloomsbury Colleges (UK) and HTC Global (OLE programmers). Bloomsbury plans to use the VuFind-OLE combination. HTC said that there will be no functional difference between using VuFind or Blacklight, that they have found no compatibility issues or problems, and that the choice of interface is *purely user preference*.
5. Villanova University (home of VuFind) is a development partner with Kuali Open Library Environment

Based on these findings and our existing experience with VuFind over the past year, VOIT is confident in recommending that we proceed with the use of this discovery layer.

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Grace Agnew, Rutgers (VOSC delegate to VOIT)  
Guy Dobson, Drew  
Ann Hoang, NJIT  
Christopher Sterback, Rutgers  
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## References

1. Breeding, M. (2007), "Introduction", Library Technology Reports, Vol. 43 No. 4, pp. 5-14.
2. Murray, P. (2008), "Discovery tools and OPAC", PowerPoint presentation at NISO Forum on Next Generation Discovery Tools: New Tools, Aging Standards, available at: <http://dltj.org/article/discovery-layer-video-tour/> (accessed 27 January 2010).
3. Yang, S. Q., & Wagner, K. (2010). Evaluating and comparing discovery tools: how close are we towards next generation catalog? Library Hi Tech, 28(4), 690-709.