

2013

Alma OpenURL Migration Strategies

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Alma OpenURL Migration Strategies

ELUNA, May 1 2013

Jimmy Ghaphery, VCU Libraries

Alma headed hipsters

Virginia Commonwealth University

One of the nation's top research universities, VCU enrolls more than **31,000** students on two Richmond campuses—the Monroe Park Campus and MCV Campus. The VCU Medical Center, including the university's health sciences schools, offers state-of-the-art care in more than 200 specialty areas and serves as the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center.



VCU

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Make it real.

Just push the button it's
Alma-matic

VCU Libraries

Almost 2.5 million volumes

2.1 million visitors annually

52 Professional & 88 support staff

Budget \$17 million (9.7 collections)

One library on each campus, including
support for Qatar campus in Middle East

Alma Early Adopter

Alma migration April - October 2012

Less than 7 months migrated SFX, ARC, Aleph,
Metalib, VERDE (test), Primo

January 2013 complete migration to Alma
OpenURL resolver and Alma Course Reserves

In an ideal world

Physical/electronic (P2E) migration perfected

Test platform as soon as 1st data load

Realize Alma OpenURL is not SFX

Alma quiet on the western
front

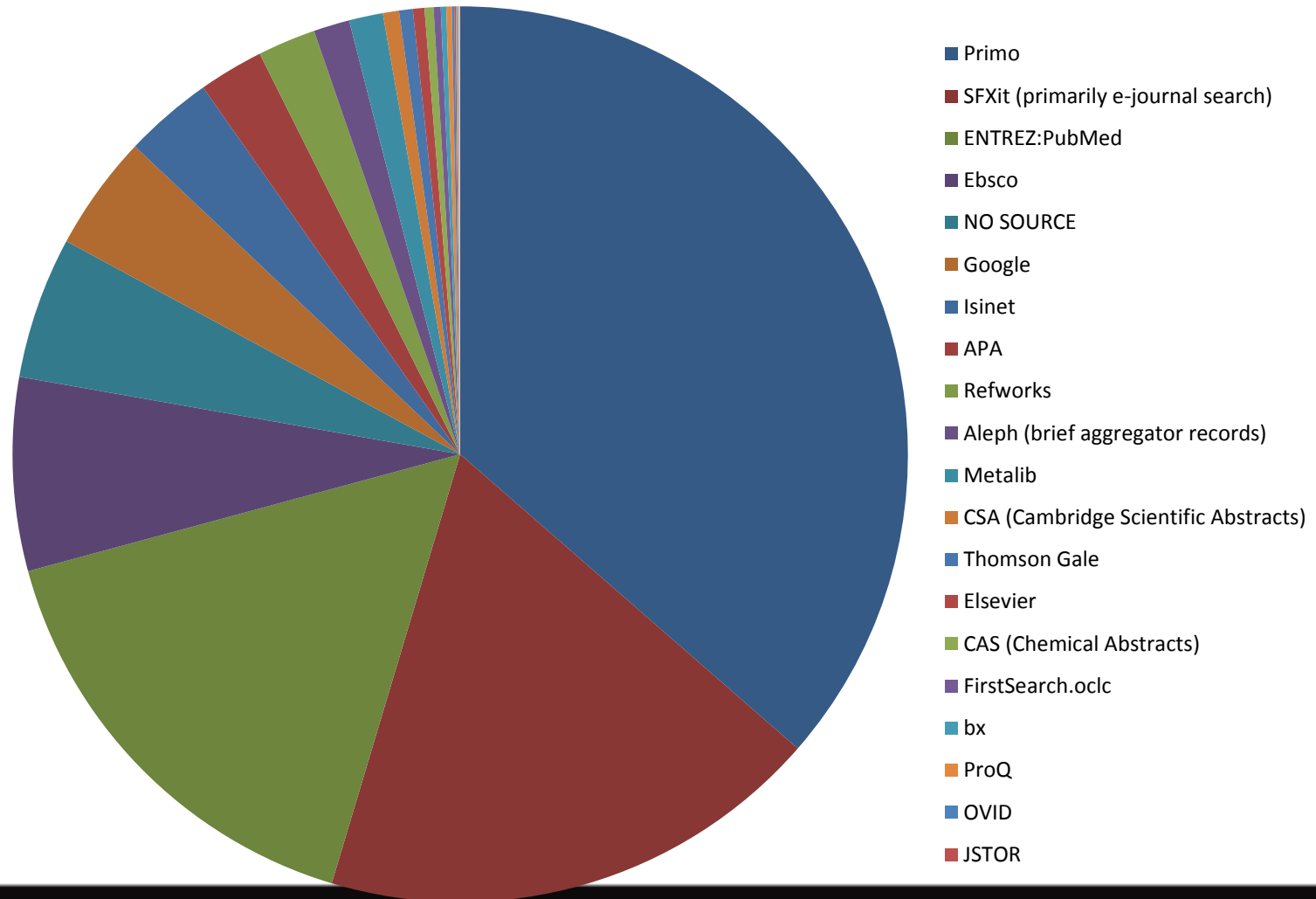
Gather Data

Top targets and sources

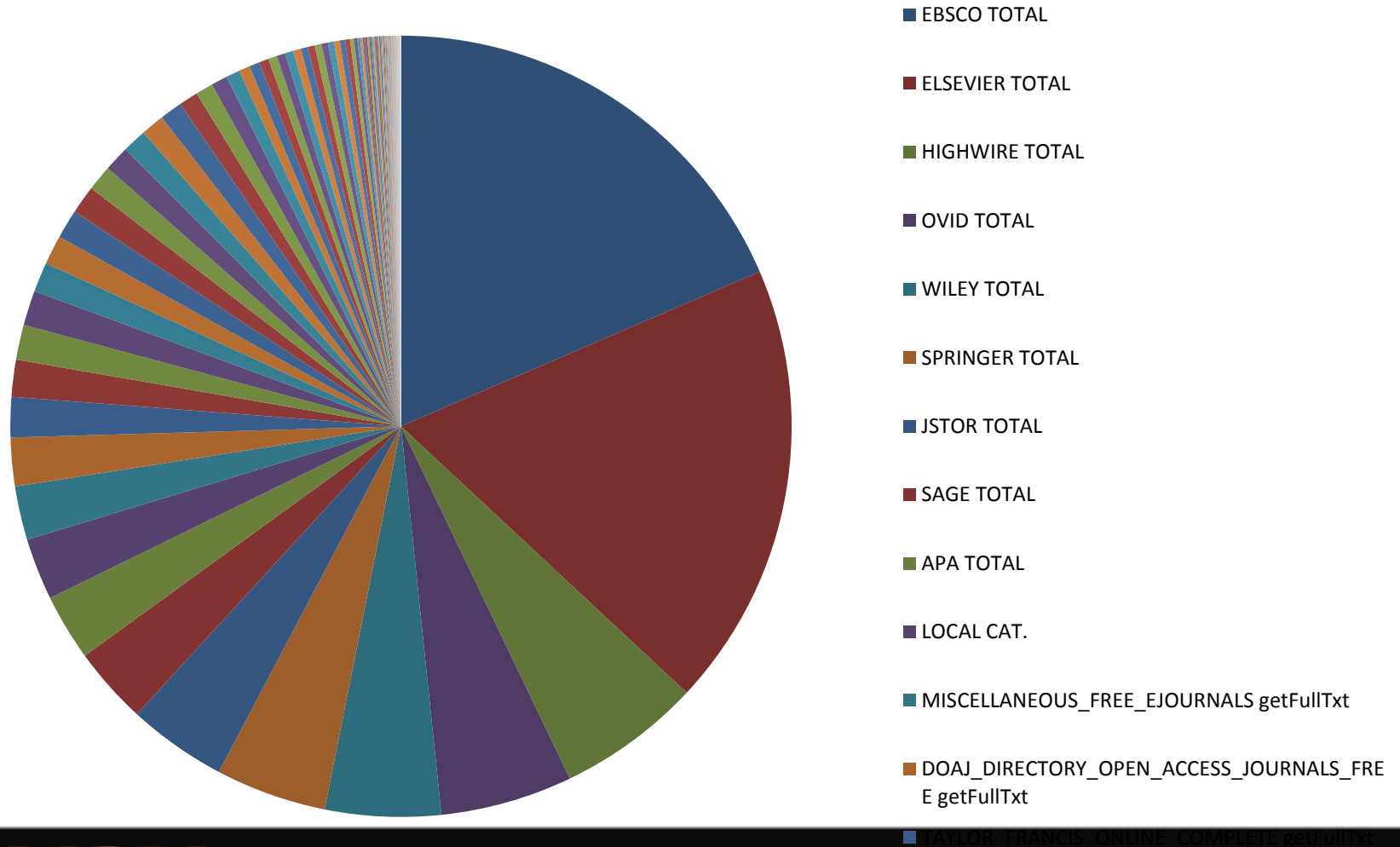
Use this data for testing priorities

Share with Ex Libris

Query 2. SFX Requests by Group April-June 2012



Query 7. SFX Clickthroughs grouped by Target Service, Apr-June 2012



Gather more data

SFX Display Menu Logic

Custom Services

Migrate, Transition, or Delete

Share with Ex Libris

Test ID for Ex Libris

Proxy/off campus access is crucial
University id management barriers

OpenURL Bookmarklet

One click to compare SFX to Alma OpenURL
Share widely with staff for testing

[Example](#)

Bookmarklet Code

```
javascript:location=location.href.replace("sfx.library.vcu.edu/vcu","vcu-alma-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/openurl/VCU/vcu_services_page")
```

Don't think twice it's Alma-right

Cutover

Primo @ Alma Launch

How to manage all of those other references

VCU DNS Trickery

Changed `sfx.library.vcu.edu` to point to our
Web server, `www.library.vcu.edu`

Created directory `/vcu` and created php
forwarding script

SFX image stored on new server also

Php Script

```
<?
/* wrap access to openURL server created June, 2012 by Erin White */

// services page URL - Alma
$resolver_url = 'http://vcu-alma-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/openurl/VCU/vcu\_services\_page?';

// backup resolver URL - VCCS
//$resolver_url = 'http://sfx.vccs.edu/vcu?';

if(isset($_SERVER['QUERY_STRING'])) {
    header('Location: ' . $resolver_url . $_SERVER['QUERY_STRING']);
}
else {
    header('Location: ' . $resolver_url);
}
```


DNS pros and cons

Pros: global route of all SFX traffic to Alma
SFX server was being retired

Cons: global route of all SFX traffic to Alma
We are still relying on this

Look and Feel

CSS customization

Alma (General config → Digital Delivery)

Mashup.css

```
@import url("http://vcu-alma-  
primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo_librar  
y/libweb/customized/css/vcu_uresolver.css");
```

Before customization



Article

☆ **Epidemiology**

Xu, Guangxign ; Li, Li - Ping ; Liu, Fengying ; Pei, Desheng ; Sheng, Wang ; Pang, Dong
Rheumatology, 2011, Vol. 50(suppl3), pp.iii59-iii60 [Peer Reviewed Journal]

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After customization



Article

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get it  VCU

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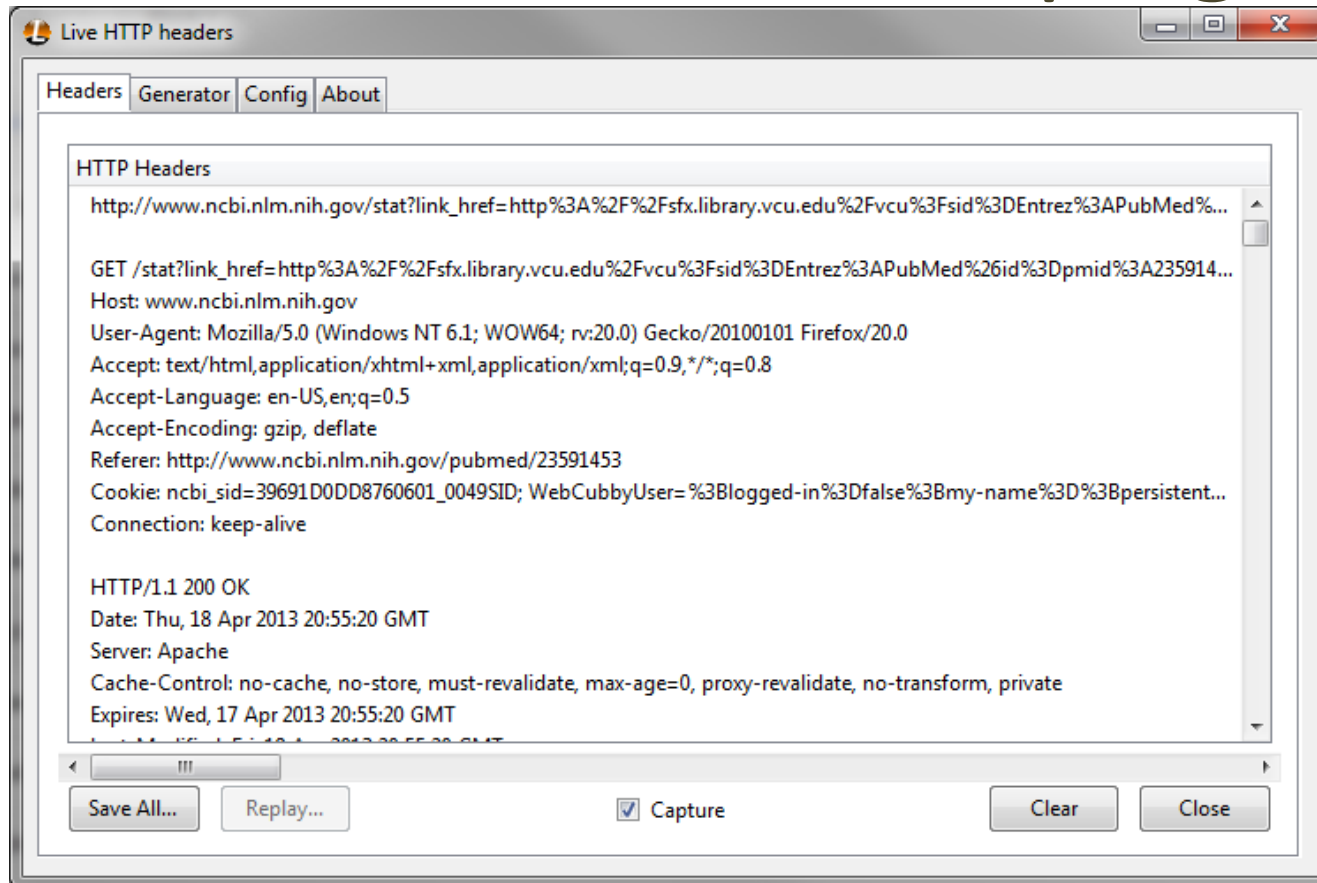
http_referer tools

Track all of the handoffs

Vendor (or Primo) → OpenURL → Target

Alma April release includes more debugging

Live HTTP headers FF plugin



Staff Feedback

Open sessions

[Staff reporting system](#)

Conclusion

A major production migration by itself

Plan

Test

Inform

Repeat

Thank you

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