

2013

# Alma OpenURL Migration Strategies

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Almamatic for the people



# **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 1<sup>st</sup> data load

Realize Alma OpenURL is not SFX

Alma quiet on the western  
front

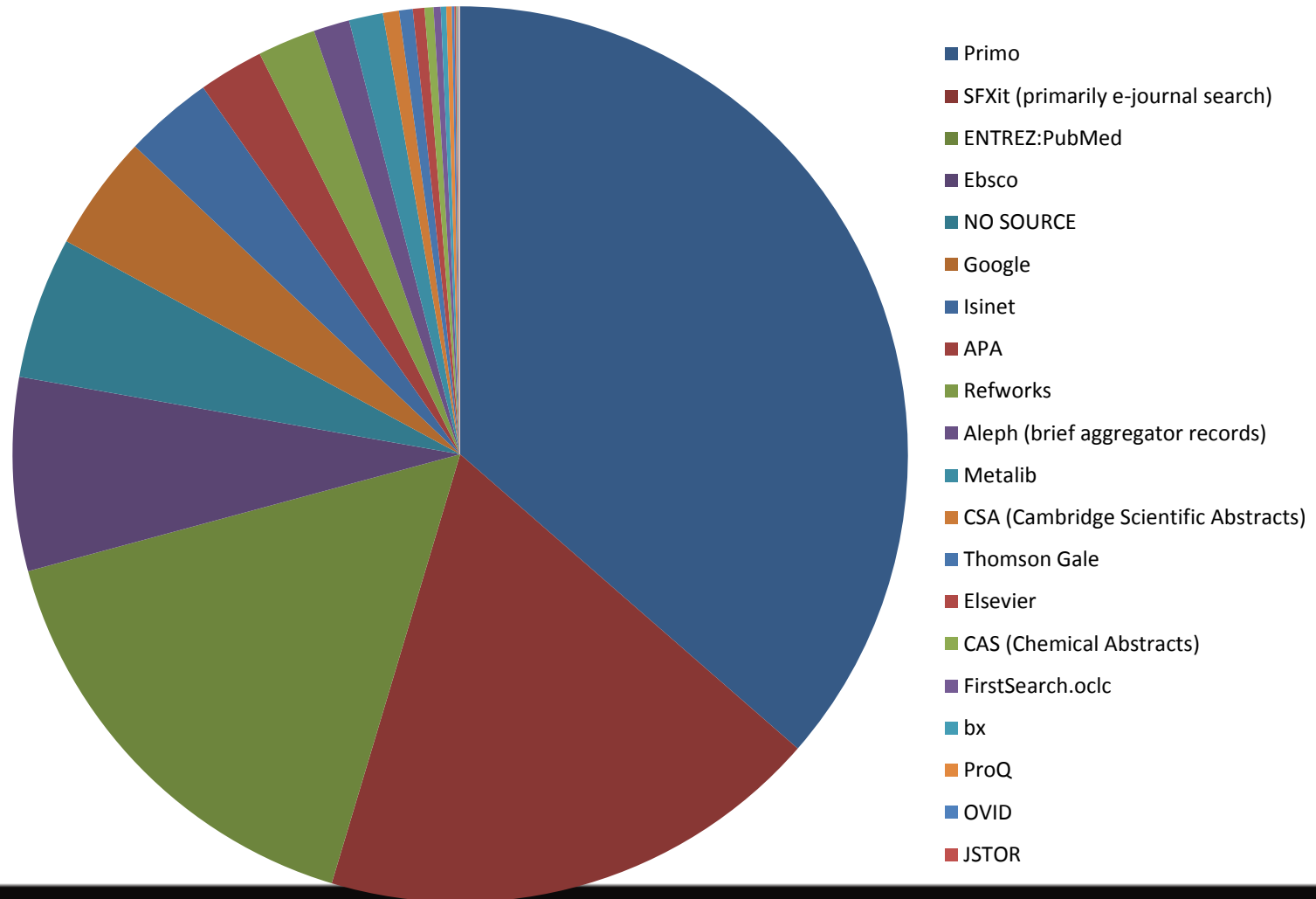
# Gather Data

Top targets and sources

Use this data for testing priorities

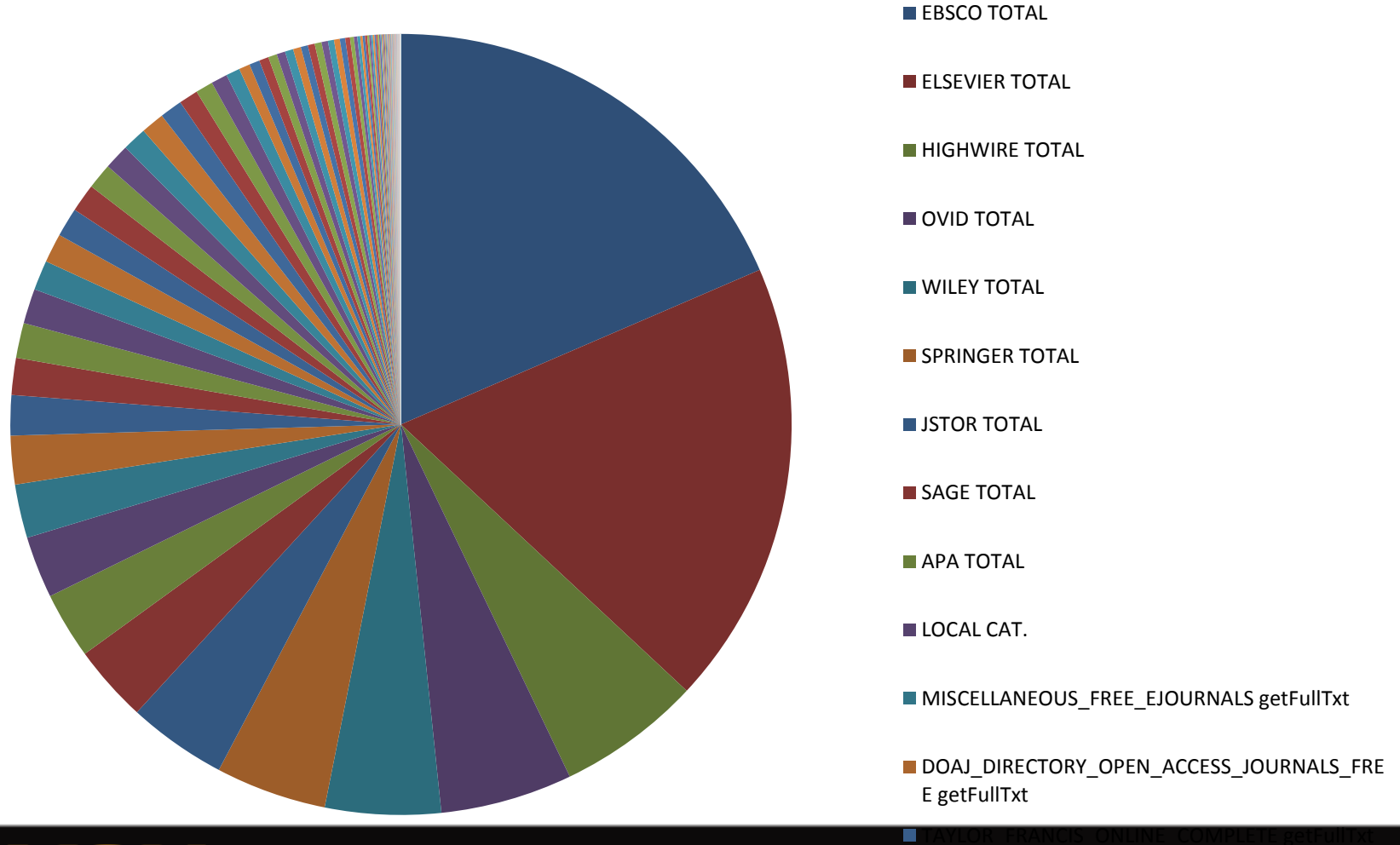
Share with Ex Libris

### 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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Most recent 1 year(s) not available

Full text available at: [Oxford University Press Journals Current](#)

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# After customization



Article

☆ **Epidemiology**

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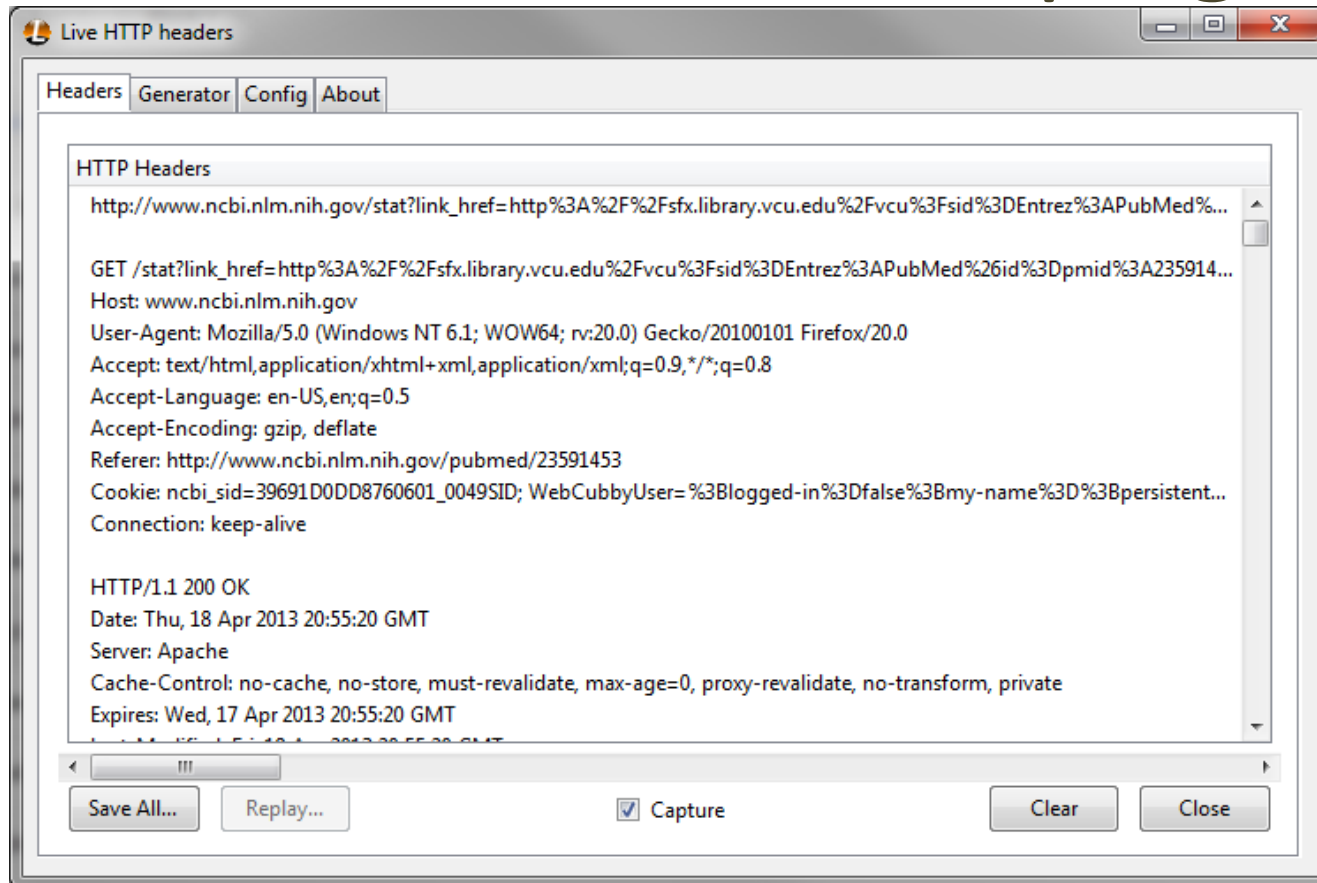
# http\_referer tools

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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