

GOKb New Directions Workshop Report

[GOKb is exploring several new directions](#) that would help capitalize on the existing strengths of the project and engage with the new FOLIO collaboration from EBSCO and OLE. To help with this effort, GOKb hosted a half-day workshop with electronic resources librarians from North Carolina State University, Duke University, and The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to brainstorm challenges and potential solutions for issues that affect the electronic resources supply, specifically:

- Supporting management and access when journal titles transfer across publishers
- Understanding and distributing data about OA publications
- Making the best use of standard and proprietary identifiers.

During the workshop, participants brainstormed specific challenges and then solutions for a range of actors in the supply chain, including GOKb. Actively engaged throughout the process, the workshop participants provided creative and helpful suggestions for these three further areas of GOKb development. This report provides a summary of the workshop findings and potential plans for new GOKb services.

Managing title transfers

When journals transfer between publishers, librarians may struggle to understand the implications on end-user access, cost, and business model. NISO's Transfer Code of Practice and Alerting Service have already done much to address these issues, and recently GOKb has engaged with Transfer to talk about possible enhancements to the service. We wanted to explore supply chain needs for effectively managing all aspects of title transfers.

Transfer challenges

- Information about transfers is not always consistent across the supply chain. Details may vary between the publisher's web site, Transfer Alerting Service, knowledge base, etc.
- It can be very difficult to find accurate information about older transfers, especially those that happened before the creation of the Transfer Alerting Service.
- A large amount of manual work is often involved in identifying transfers and determining which ones affect an organization's collection.
- Transfer information is often stored in silos and repetitive work must be performed across all of the systems that store data related to the transfer.
- Not all publishers provide useful transfer notifications and even those that do may not provide them in a timely manner.

Proposed solutions

- Embrace and continue working to improve the existing Transfer Alerts Service.
- Make alerting services more customizable and responsive. In particular, allow users to filter notifications to only those that affect their local holdings.

- Use a crowdsourcing approach (like Wikipedia) to allow community contribution to shared knowledge about transfers. This may include corrections or additions to publisher-provided data, as well as sharing of specific experiences and solutions related to specific transfers.
- Encourage more publishers to participate in transfer reporting by providing improved tools such as automated submission of transfer events. Make these tools as easy as possible to use.

Open Access

Open Access (OA) issues are of broad concern both within the electronic resources supply chain and in the wider research community. Librarians are interested in finding ways to identify, report on, and evaluate OA materials. We were interested in learning what types of OA-related metadata GOKb could provide to better support libraries and other supply chain stakeholders.

OA challenges

- It's difficult to find structured data about OA attributes, including which titles are OA, which OA model they use (gold, hybrid, delayed, etc.), and their peer-review status.
- Hybrid journals are especially problematic, as it's hard to find structured information about which articles within a journal are OA. This affects access, cost, and assessment.
- Definitions of terminology within the OA space can be inconsistent.
- Providing alerts/updates on OA content to librarians

Proposed solutions

- Reuse structured data about OA from sources like DOAJ whenever possible.
- Encourage publishers to identify OA status at the article level and share widely.
- Encourage publishers to provide consistent standardized information about OA status, OA embargoes, peer review status, and other OA metadata.

Identifiers/Coreferencing Service

GOKb can store an unlimited number of namespaces and identifiers for each resource such as title, packages, and organizations. Additionally, GOKb internally assigns a proprietary unique ID to each record. For some types of resources, like holding records (or TIPPs), this may be the only ID that exists for a resource of that type. GOKb also provides a coreferencing service, which allows users to submit an identifier and return all of the related identifiers stored within GOKb that are associated with the same resource. We wanted to learn which identifiers are most valuable to librarians and what they'd like to be able to do with them.

Identifier challenges

- While ISSN/ISBN are generally accepted as unique title identifiers, not all resources have them and they are not always truly unique.
- Identifiers are not always used consistently across the supply chain.
- It can be difficult to crosswalk data across different platforms when no match points exist.

- Many concepts related to ERM, including title families, packages, and entitlements, don't have established standard identifiers.

Solutions

- Develop a central place for storage of many different types of identifiers related to library resources. Use a crowdsourcing approach to help correct bad data or leave feedback about the quality of particular data sources.
- Encourage commercial and open source knowledge base vendors to make internal KB identifiers public so they can be used to crosswalk data.
- Embrace linked data concepts so that identifiers can be used to signify resources, rather than simply using text strings.

Future Directions

The workshop results demonstrated that all three topics reflect important concerns for GOKb's user community. We believe that GOKb could provide some services and infrastructure needed to help address these issues. In other cases, these solutions may represent industry-wide needs that could be met by another organization.

Some ideas for potential future directions include:

1. Use GOKb data and/or other sources to provide improved information about transfers
 - a. Provide a journal title authority so that transfer information can be linked to a resource, rather than a title string.
 - b. Supplement transfer metadata with identifiers and publication history.
 - c. Provide a platform to support crowdsourced enhancement of Transfer records.
2. Add new metadata elements to GOKb to better describe OA resources
 - a. Provide an OA status to define whether a resource is full OA, hybrid, or delayed.
 - b. For hybrid journals, use CrossRef and other existing metadata to calculate the percentage of the journal that is actually OA.
 - c. For delayed OA publications, provide information about the embargo period until content becomes open.
 - d. Provide a field to capture peer-review status.
3. Work with publishers and organizations like DOAJ to source OA metadata
4. Publish definitions of OA terms and concepts
5. Enhance GOKb's treatment of identifiers
 - a. Allow users to provide feedback and suggest corrections regarding identifiers.
 - b. Track bad data and its source so that it can be disregarded in the future.
 - c. Continue to work with commercial entities to acquire proprietary IDs.
6. Pilot the collection of open data at the article level
 - a. Track OA status at the article level.
 - b. Track article-level identifiers such as DOIs.