

Spring 5-7-2019

What I Learned from ELUNA 2019

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Recommended Citation

Fu, Ping, "What I Learned from ELUNA 2019" (2019). *Library Scholarship*. 76.
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A Visual Presentation for Attending ELUNA 2019

By Ping Fu

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2019-5-6

1. Why I attended the ELUNA 2019

As I stated in the grant application, ELUNA 2019 was focused on Ex Libris products as well as other related current professional issues relevant to libraries today. I had a unique opportunity to meet with Ex Libris experts to learn more about product roadmaps, discover new product features, and uncover other insider information. It allowed me to bring our sticky issues to the Ex Libris Support Center to work with support staff in person and meet Ex Libris management in person to advocate for our institutional needs. In addition, networking with other users in the ELUNA community was a great way for me to gain fresh ideas and learn about the cutting edge features that others have developed for their Ex Libris products. The ELUNA user community has a long history of helping one another; I had opportunities to establish new professional contacts as well as put faces to names I've collaborated with on listservs. The conference helped me explore issues of diversity in Brooks Library and how they affect the ethnic communities who use our services and will improve ability to improve our systems to ensure support diversity on campus.

ELUNA 2019 Annual Meeting – by the numbers

199 BreakOut Sessions: (296 speakers)

69 Alma
22 Primo
37 Ex Libris
71 sessions for Aleph, CampusM, Exploro,
Content, General, Leganto, MetaLib,
Rosetta, SFX, Voyager, RUG's, Rialto,
Sponsor (vendors), "Data," etc.

Developers Day Attendees: 176

Australia	5
Belgium	1
Brazil	2
Canada	56
Chile	4
Colombia	2
Denmark	3
Israel	36
Jamaica	1
Mexico	3
Peru	1
Qatar	1
United Kingdom	1
USA	960

1076



1076
Attendees
from around
the globe



ELUNA 2019 Welcome



2. What I learned, and how it will benefit our end users

(1). New information visualization discovery tools are available

Today's libraries are affected and shaped by data and technology. We are in the digital era. All around us is about data and technology. The following keywords or terms I heard very frequently from the ELUNA 2019: Information Technology, Data Technology, Digital Transformation, Research Data, Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR& AR), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Analytics, etc. Libraries are exposed to big data and various emerging technologies. The large amount of data and those data in library need to be transformed into information or knowledge which then be used by researchers or users. Librarians might need to understand how to transform, analyze, and present data in order to facilitate knowledge creation. How to make big datasets more useful, visible and accessible is a challenge for librarians.



One information visualization tool is Yewno. According to Stanford Libraries, “It is a discovery tool provides a graphical display of the interrelationships between concepts. Yewno uses computational semantics, graph theory, and machine learning to extract concepts from scholarly publications including journals, books, and theses, and displays search results in a graphical interface that displays the interrelationships between those concepts. Users can follow links in

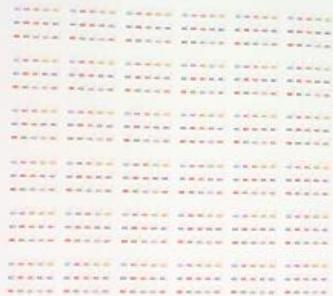
that display to find the underlying publications from which concepts and relationships are extracted, and the system integrates with library resource licenses allowing users to have direct access to the full text of underlying publications.” If our budget allowed in the near future, I would recommend to implement this product in our libraries.

Yewno Technology

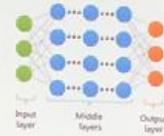
From Data to Knowledge

Machine Learning + Computational Linguistics + Graph Theory

Computational linguistics analysis is undertaken on raw data to create a vast, multi-layered, multi-dimensional set of **concepts**

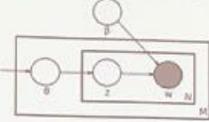


(Deep) Neural Nets



Concepts are projected onto a hierarchical **knowledge network** that represents their relations

(Dynamic) Topic Models

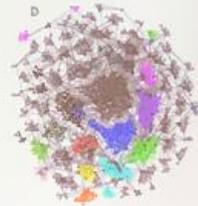


Stochastic Learning



Data ingestion

Knowledge extraction

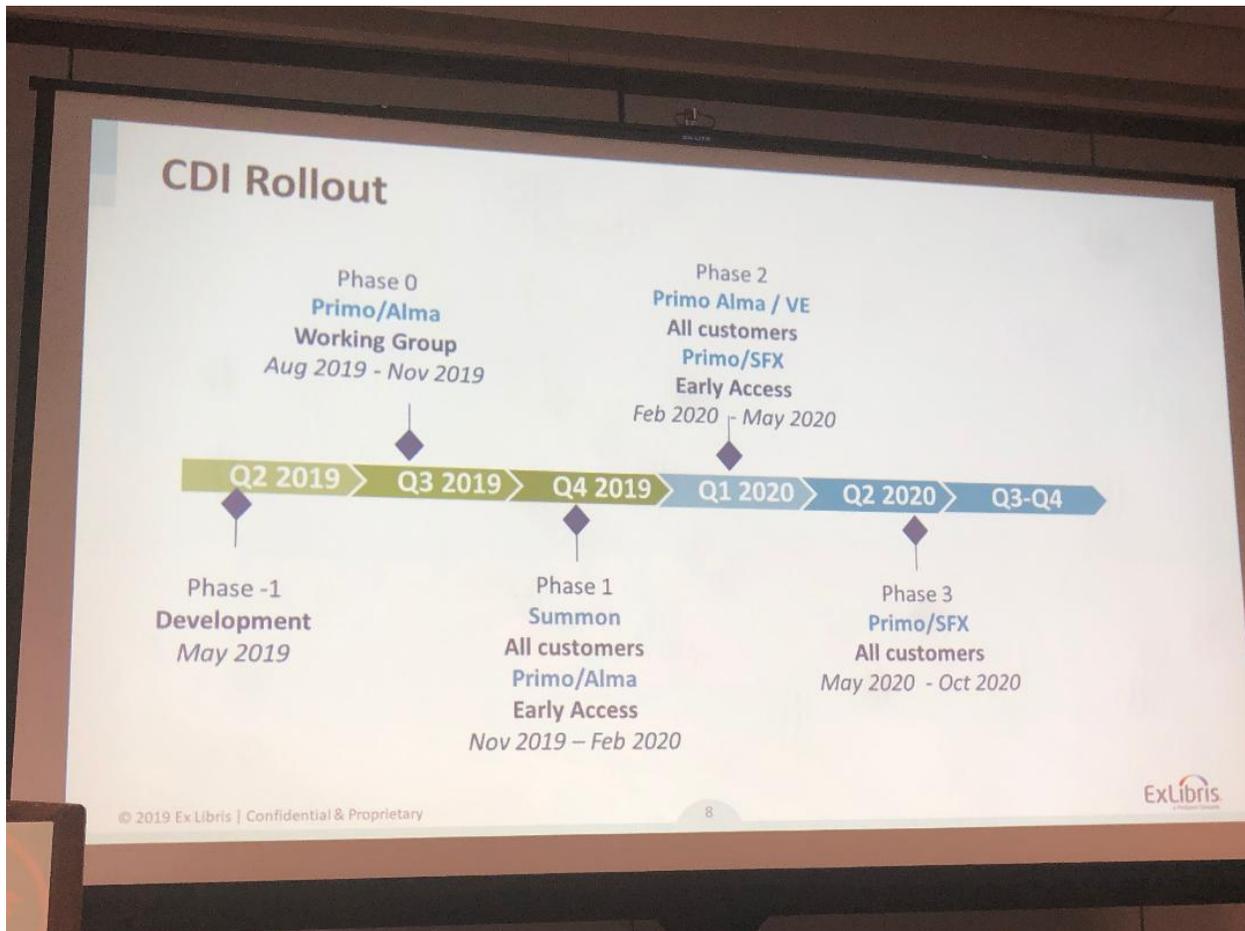


Data-driven analysis is performed against the knowledge network to detect **emerging phenomena**

Strictly confidential, not for distribution without the prior c...

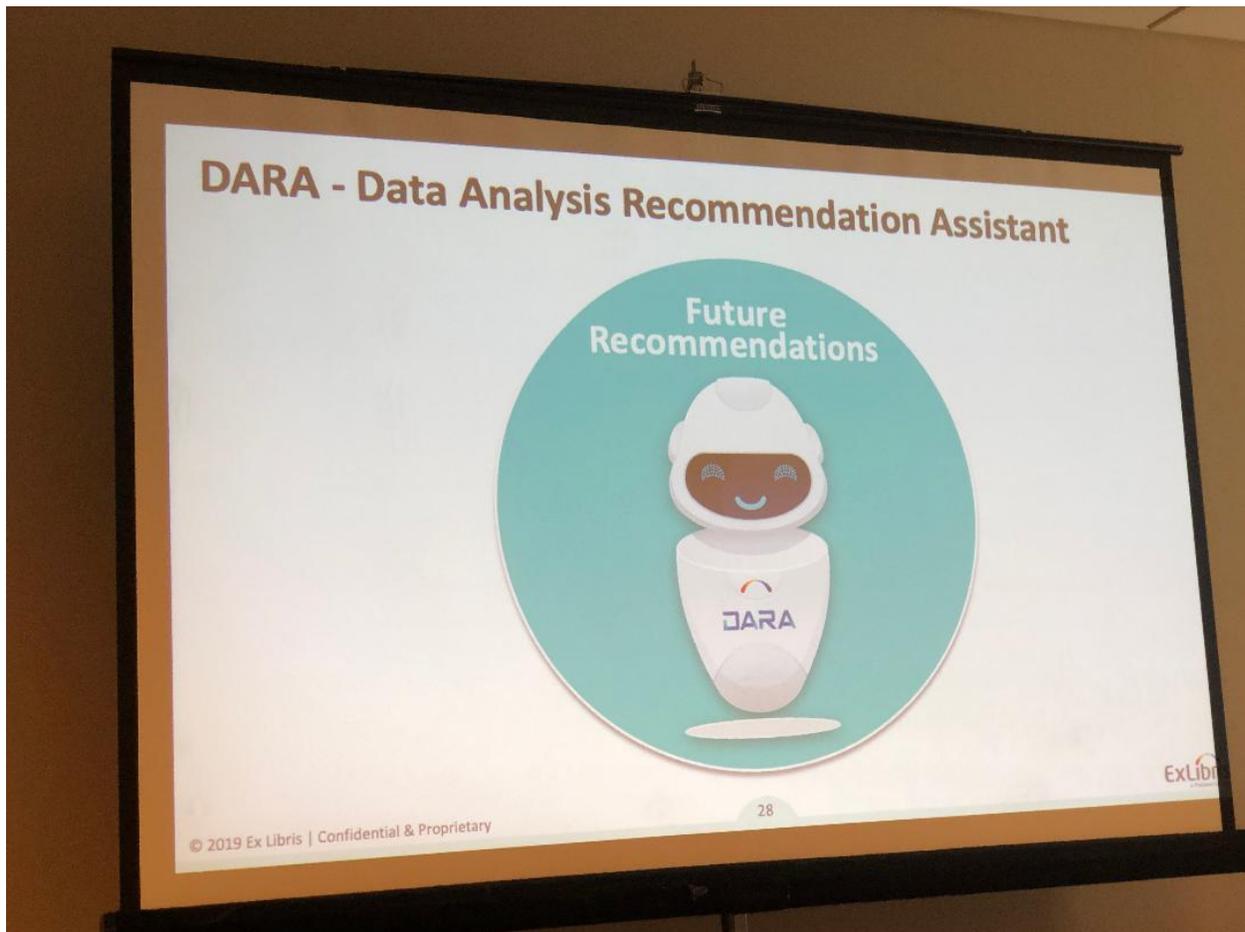
(2). From Single Search Box to CDI

Ex Libris announced its strategic plan for accelerating discovery product innovation, enhancing operational excellence, and improving customer experience. One exciting product called CDI. According to Ex Libris Knowledge Center, “CDI is a central discovery index – leveraging existing assets - that supports both Summon and Primo and delivers enhanced discovery, streamlines library management and provides operational efficiencies. CDI will replace the Primo Central Index and the Summon Index to give access to Ex Libris provided data. The ingestion of local data will continue to function as before.” The key benefits of the CDI are that CDI will increase scalability and improve infrastructure that is designed to address future challenges. Meanwhile, CDI will enhance operational efficiencies for Ex Libris’ customers, content partners and Ex Libris itself. Particularly, for Ex Libris users like us, we are able to have a single activation to publish content to users. Before we had to activate both in Alma and Primo Central Index. If we missed some steps, we would not make some information available in our front –end discovery layer although we have paid for access. CDI will make the activation easier and improve our workflow and increase our activation accuracy. In addition, CDI would make faster content update cycles including new content. For electronic holdings, CDI will make daily rights update for all customers. I will be happy to see we will move from single search box to CDI in the near future. According to Orbis Cascade Alliance timeline, I expect to see CDI will be implemented in Q1 2020.



(3) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and DARA (Data Analysis Recommendation Assistant)

This year's ELUNA is really exciting! AI was talked by many speakers. Is AI a real thing for libraries? Ex Libris recently released a white paper on AI. The title of the white paper is "Can Artificial Intelligence Give Libraries a new Competitive Advantage in Today's Information landscape?" Here are highlights in the white paper: How AI can help libraries? Improve operational efficiency. Engage larger audience through netter user experience and new services. Help libraries achieve new goals. Establish a strong foothold for libraries in the new scholarly information landscape. At the ELUNA 2019, Ex Libris introduced its new Data Analysis Recommendation Assistant called DARA. DARA is a smart decision-support engine, driven by adaptive technology that brings machine learning into the library. DARA recommends Alma workflow efficiencies, suggests features, and validates custom configurations. With seamless integration, DATA can implement many of its recommendations with a single click. The speaker gave us an example that DARA can recommend to implement a SUSHI harvest for certain database based on other Alma users' best practices and experiences. DARA is free to all Alma users. I will be happy to see DARA will be available in Q4 2019.



(4) Networking and better customer support

I had a lot of opportunities to make friends with other librarians from peer institutions in the USA, Canada, and other part of the world. I met with librarians, technology specialists, vendor representatives during the reception, session breaks, and networking cocktails. I am active on many Ex Libris listservs; however, this conference provided me an opportunity to meet with some peers in person from other institutions including Orbis Cascade Alliance member institutions. It gave me an opportunity to know what's going in other ELUNA member institutions and learn from others for developing new ideas and expanding my horizons.



3. Present at the conference

I co-presented with Grace Liu from University of Winsor in Canada. Our presentation title is "An Institutional Perspective on the Shared Next-gen ILSs and Library Consortia: Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges". This presentation examined the adoption of the leading next-generation ILS products to reveal the trends, and offer an individual institutional perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and benefits that the shared ILS has brought. 62 attendees registered for this session. There were 32 attendees actually attended the session. We did a good presentation and answered some questions. Ginny Blackson, Interim Associate Dean of CWU Libraries also attended. Ginny gave an excellent comment for my presentation. She shared how the CWU Library Technology Service Unit provided a profound support in the library.

4. Have fun in Atlanta

I visited CNN headquarter in Atlanta in the afternoon on the registration day (5/1) and Georgia Aquarium where the ELUNA welcome reception (5/1 evening) was held. Also had a night walk in the downtown area including Olympic Park around the Hilton Hotel after a diner with a friend.



