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## Packages, Packages, Everywhere, and None of Them Quite Right

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# Packages, packages, everywhere, and none of them quite right:

thinking about standard identifiers for  
packages/databases/collections

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# About University of Central Florida

- Very large public university in Orlando (FTE ~ 58,858)
- Many fields of study, many eResources needed
- Part of Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC) with 39 other public universities and state colleges.
- Small eResources unit. Need every efficiency we can get.
- In the midst of consortia-wide migration from Aleph+Holdings Management to Alma-Primo.
- Have LibGuides A-Z database list and expect to keep it



# Why a standard identifier for packages

1. A lot of packages have similar names
2. Often tricky to tease out a name change vs one product being absorbed into another vs a new component
3. Product designations on invoices can read like alpha-numeric soup and cause confusion at many stages
4. Kb migrations are too timeconsuming
5. Any function that depends on collection knowledge could be simplified, as with books and journals
6. Variations like volume, year, purchase date ('grandfathered in')



# Goals

- Make kb management and migrations easier and more accurate
- Make package/collection identification more straightforward especially for staff who are not closely involved with the collection (such as paying invoices)
- Simplify collection assessment tasks such as comparisons between libraries and accreditation processes
- Simplify tracking resources over their life cycle (change in name, absorbed into another, ceased)



## Other benefits

- Potential for improved sharing of resource entries in a-z database tools like LibGuides
- Use in linking fields in bibliographic records
- What are the benefits for publishers and vendors?



# What format should a package identifier take?

- A standard number like ISSN or ISBN?
- An alpha-numeric string with component parts representing provider, name, other elements?
- I lean toward the latter because that could transmit information



# Elements that might be useful

- Content provider
- Package name
- Date, edition, volume if applicable
- Coding for:
  - Currently available, absorbed, ceased.
  - Changed names





## Other elements – maybe save for the kb?

- Open Access flavor
- Available to limited geography entity, consortia, or class of persons
  - E.g. US, FALSC, alumni
- Platform
- Wholly contains or is contained within another resource



# So maybe...

## vendor code.name.volume.year/span.active

- Alexander Street Press Ethnographic Video Online Volume 1 (for subscribers after Sept. 2015)
- ASP.EthnographicVideoOnline.1. 2015+.A
- Gale General Reference Center Gold
- Gale.GeneralReferenceCenterGold.D
- Digital National Security Archive (DNSA): Japan and the United States: Diplomatic, Security, and Economic Relations, 1977-1992
- PQ.DNSA-JapanAndThe US.1977-1992.A



## Prefer a numeric id like ISSN?

- 3<sup>rd</sup> party needed to administer?
- If publishers and vendors could agree on unique prefixes and a structure, could they be self-assigned?
- I'd still like to see an initial at the end for A (active), C (ceased), S (subsumed) or similar





Thank you!  
Questions, comments, or discussion?

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