East Carolina University.

A Symphony
In Three Parts

Three distinct libraries merge catalogs into one ILS to offer a rich database of collections to three campuses.

Where there were three separate "voices", now there is a concert.

18th Century
Johann Sebastian Bach

19th Century
Ludwig van Beethoven

20th Century
Paul McCartney

The Cast

Laupus Health Sciences Library and Joyner Library – East Carolina University (ECU), Greenville, North Carolina

Little Library - Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Setting The Stage

1992

14 out of 16 University of North Carolina (UNC) libraries used Dynix LS/2000 as their integrated library system (ILS).

Dynix announced the "end of life" of the LS/2000 ILS system. The North Carolina Legislature designated the University Libraries into "Networks" to coordinate future ILS support.

Laupus, Joyner and Little Library, formed The Eastern Carolina Network.

A new ILS product with upgrades evolved into the SirsiDynix Horizon ILS system.

Each of the three libraries maintained separate ILS databases.

June 2007

SirsiDynix announced that Symphony would replace the existing Horizon system.

April 2008

SirsiDynix demonstrated all Symphony modules at ECU.

Individual libraries maintaining their separate processes made a single database for all three libraries feasable.

May 2008

ECU libraries decided to stay with SirsiDynix and migrate to Symphony. ECSU was invited to join the venture.

One database for ECU libraries with one public interface would be the most important advantage to library clients.

1st Movement

August 2008

The contract was signed. The Symphony Implementation Team was comprised of associate directors and ILS staff from each library to:
• Coordinate activities
• Facilitate communication
• Enable decision-making at each library
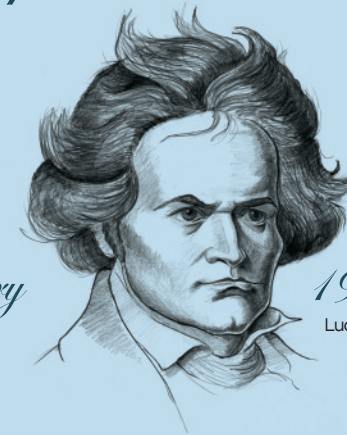• Communicate with SirsiDynix project managers

November 2008

Weekly conference calls with Implementation Team & Symphony Project Manager began.

Tech Services, User Services, and OPAC Wikis were opened to enhance communication between the libraries during the Symphony transition

2nd Movement

December 2008

• Initiated online & Web-based training classes
• Data cleanup, Policy Profiling and De-duplication began
• Testing plans were prepared
• SerialsSolutions license was reviewed

January – March 2009

• Data loading questionnaire completed
• Testing data migrated to testing database

April 2009

• Symphony testing begins

3rd Movement

May – June 2009

• Data tested in testing database
• Final data extraction completed

• Work stopped in the Horizon System
• Go Live for Cataloging, & Circulation modules
• Implementation of OPAC
• Post-implementation conference calls with SirsiDynix
• Go Live for Acquisitions module

July 2009

• Download Serials Solution records into Symphony
• Test authority records prior to load for all three libraries
• Index note fields
• Importing registrar data to register all ECU students for both ECU libraries

Finale

Outcomes

• Good interlibrary communication and vendor interaction resulted in a smooth implementation
• Improved collaboration between all three libraries
• Users can access all ECU libraries at once
• One library account for ECU students, staff and faculty
• Collection Codes and Item types were simplified
• Circulation policies, various procedures, accounting (fines and fees) were standardized among the libraries
• Implementing one ILS was cost and time efficient

Patty Greenstein, MLS, AHIP • Susan Simpson, MLS, AHIP
Jason Cottle, BFA