

OpenURL Resolver Profile: Endeavor LinkFinderPlus

Compiler: Diane Johnson, University of Missouri – Columbia Health Sciences Library
(johnsone@health.missouri.edu)

LinkFinderPlus is a product of Endeavor. Originally part of their integrated library system, it has been available as a standalone product since June 2002. The latest version of the software was released in November 2002. “LinkFinderPlus works with any OpenURL enabled resource. ..When publishers provide OpenURL links in the references or fulltext LinkFinderPlus can seamlessly link to the fulltext of that reference.” All links are validated in real time so that users will not encounter dead links.

System requirements and functionality

Both local and remote-hosted ASP options are available. Local servers must be UNIX based; either Solaris or AIX.

Services Provided

LinkFinderPlus ships with a prepopulated Knowledge Base containing over 13,000 scholarly sources. The Knowledge Base is updated about every 60 days via SupportWeb. Through the System Administration Tool, libraries can edit the knowledge base, configure selected extended services (such as OPAC, document delivery, Google, Amazon, etc.) This includes access to print holdings (ie dynamic searches links to III catalog. You can pick what you want to search, ie title or issn)

Local customization or branding is now available in 3.0.

Resources can be weighted to determine which links are listed first.

Remote access is available through the institution’s regular proxy server.

The knowledge base is not really designed to function as a tracking service; but libraries can do batch uploads from tracking services like Serials Solutions & TDNet. Batch activation uses an XML file to “turn on” specific titles for specific dates for items in the Knowledge Base. Endeavor worked with Serials Solutions to develop the batch activation function. They are currently working with TDNet. Customers can also do their own tracking and add & modify targets as needed, either in addition to or in the place of a tracking service. Targets can be enabled either globally (e.g. “turn on everything from Wiley”), or just for selected titles in a target.

LinkFinderPlus works with all OpenURL compliant resources. A list of resources can be found at: http://www.endinfosys.com/prods/lfpl_resources.htm . If article based links aren’t supported by a publisher, a link will go to TOC or journal title.

Although canned management reports & user statistics are not provided, the data is in Oracle & therefore can be extracted using SQL.

ENCompass, their corresponding portal product, is sold separately. It incorporates resource discovery, object management, collection management, license and rights management in addition to the linking provided by LinkFinderPlus.

Setup and Technical Support

“Software can be installed within a week of the contract signing. Go-live date is dependent on the number of subscriptions.”

Each customer is assigned a project manager (at an additional fee). There is an additional installation fee, with an extra charge for on-site installation. Travel & miscellaneous expenses related to project management or installation cost extra.

Technical support available through toll free number & email.

Pricing

Consortial discounts are available. In order to provide a price quote for the consortium, Endeavor would want the total number of volumes owned by each site in the consortium (all consortium members, not just prospective participants.)

They could prepare a quote for a local server, centrally managed by the consortium, where each participating library would run their own system administration client off this central server.

The central server would need to be dedicated to LinkFinder Plus, but the number of individual libraries' installation clients would be limited only by the size of the server.

Alternately, they could provide pricing for a consortial "buyers club". Here each library would get a discount, but it would be up to the individual library whether they opted for a local server or decided to purchase the remote server/ASP option.

Initial prices for locally run setups include a license fee for the software, an Oracle 9.0.1 license fee, a project management fees, and an installation fee. A dedicated server is required.

Ongoing costs include maintenance fees for both the LinkFinderPlus license as well as the Oracle license. These would include product enhancements 1-2 times/yr .

A customer list can be found at: http://www.endinfosys.com/prods/lfp_custlist.htm
Standalone customers who are not running the Voyager ILS are starred. They have already done some deals with consortia, although none on this list appear to be standalone customers. LinkFinder Plus customers that use III ILS include University of Toronto Libraries, James Madison University, and the University of Maine Libraries.

Summary

Resource weighting, links to extended resources, local branding/customization are some of the chief advantages. The prepopulated database in combination with the system administration tool would seem to offer power and flexibility. This was among the first products to be launched. Endeavor has been purchased by Elsevier, and Jane Burke, the CEO has recently stepped down.

Data Sources:

Dustin Lamm, Endeavor Information Systems 608-526-2630 lamm@endinfosys.com

Website: <http://www.endinfosys.com>

Collins MDD & Ferguson CL. Context-Sensitive Linking: It's a Small World After All. *Serials Review* 28(4):267-282, 2002 (info current as of June 2002)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6W63-47RHXT5-3/1/1803c65b2fd71f9d3e430f1ef2e5117d>