

SFX from Ex Libris

Compiler: Joyce Meldrem, Northwest Missouri State University,
meldrem@mail.nwmissouri.edu

SFX is an innovative tool for navigation and discovery that provides a library's users with dynamically created context-sensitive links to services that are defined by the librarian on the basis of the institution's e-collections and policies. They also provide tools for consortia managers, supporting a range of consortia types, from fully centralized to fully decentralized. A new feature includes XML and HTML based options for generating A-Z journal title lists with the optional delivery of comprehensive MARC records.

System Requirements:

They recommend that the consortium have its own server. They recommend a SUN or LINUX server and the prices they provided ranged from \$7,500 - \$99,995. In the lower range, a LINUX server that provides for up to 60,000 FTEs is priced at \$10,000. The SFX server comes with a global KnowledgeBase that includes generic information about SFX targets such as how to link to a particular target, what journals are held on that target site, and the extent of coverage. However, some of their publicity states that it's possible to have the service without a server: "The Ex Libris-hosted SFX Subscription Service enables libraries to offer the full range of services available from the original link server, including integration in its local environment without the need to locally host and manage a server." It generally takes 2-3 months to implement a system.

Services Provided:

Services include links to full-text articles, the OPAC (to check local holdings), preferred document-delivery suppliers, Web-based resources, local information repositories, and more. They provide open-URL linking to the products of 27 vendors including AMS, Dialog, EBSCO, Elsevier, Gale Group, HW Wilson, Institute of Physics, ISI, JSTOR, OCLC, Ovid, ProQuest, RLG, and Bowker. They have provided service to several consortia including the California State University System and the State University of New York System. Each library is still able to customize the SFX interface and define its own services.

Set up and Technical Support:

They provide the installation and set-up of the server (from my understanding of my readings). They also provide technical support via phone and e-mail.

Pricing/Cost:

The pricing for Northwest Missouri State University (only pricing received to date):

- \$15,000 license fee for the software (based upon FTE's)
- \$4,500 for the installation for one school (each additional school would be an additional \$500)
- \$1,500 On-site training per day (2 day minimum / travel expenses included) (limited to 12 participants per session and are 2 days in duration)
- \$3,750 Annual maintenance fee (covers technical support and software upgrades)

Typically the cost of the software maintenance fee is around 15-25% of the license fee for the server.

Sources:

- ◆ Context-Sensitive Linking: It's a Small World After All by Maria D. D. Collins and Christine L. Ferguson. *Serials Review*, November 4, 2002, pp. 267-281.
- ◆ <http://www.sfxit.com/>
- ◆ <http://www.la-hq.org.uk/directory/record/r200112/article2.html>
- ◆ Ex Libris Acquires SFX Linking Software. *Computers in Libraries*, April 2000, p. 12.
- ◆ SFX: A Linkalicious Service by Karen Schneider. *American Libraries*, Jun/July 2001, p. 118.