



How Infor V-smart manages unified resources handling for e-resources and print materials

Unifying materials under a single system

Libraries usually use an integrated library system (ILS) for managing metadata, materials selection and acquisition, and administering serials and circulation. Many of the systems used today have their roots in the 1980s. By contrast, Infor® V-smart is a more modern solution that originated in the early 2000s. Infor V-smart provides a single system for a wide range of material types, open connections to and from the outside world, and a single interface to many resources.

Appealing to today's tech-savvy user

Today's library must manage shrinking budgets, tech-savvy users wishing to access services on a wide range of devices, frequent technology shifts, and a growing mix of resources. The rise of e-resources (e-journals, e-books, full-text databases, websites, and packages) has also generated a new set of requirements including the delivery of journals and books in packages, a multiplicity of search interfaces that can lead to the same resource, access rights controlled by licenses that can be and often are different for different suppliers, and a selection process that is often consortium-based.

With Infor V-smart, libraries can manage all of these needs, while also cutting down on costs. This paper discusses how Infor V-smart can be used to manage:

1. E-resources

E-resources are often presented as completely new materials. Obviously, however they are not. An e-book is the same work as a book in printed form. For this reason Infor believes that e-resources should not be treated differently than print resources; an e-resource is simply a different type of material.

Our approach means that Infor V-smart integrates e-books with other resources. Records for e-resources can be created in the application manually using standard processes or via file import in formats such as MARC21 or ONIX. Records can also be imported online via the application's built-in federated search (based on tens of connectors to third-party suppliers).

With Infor V-smart, libraries can manage shrinking budgets, keep up with tech-savvy users, anticipate technology shifts, and plan for a growing mix of resources, while

cutting down on library costs.

From the end-user's point of view, there are three main integration areas for e-resources—search, sign-on (SSO, single sign-on), and circulation:

- **Search**—E-books are integrated with printed materials in a single interface, so that users find e-resources and printed materials with a single search; digital holdings (e-holdings) for retrieved records are displayed in a similar way to print holdings for the sake of consistency, while current availability status is retrieved online via an API. If required, the search interface can be extended with a federated search component to integrate search results from third-party suppliers.
- **SSO**—The next step in the access process is to log in to the e-resource. This requires a single transparent login for all resources, irrespective of whether they are maintained inside or outside of the library.
- **Circulation**—Ideally loans of e-books are integrated with the circulation module of the ILS, mainly because the library user does not care where the material comes from: She just wants a copy, no matter where the resource is located. Integrated loan facilities also support integrated statistics for the librarian.

Although e-resources share most of their characteristics with traditional printed materials, nevertheless they do have some specific characteristics, mainly involving support for standard protocols such as ONIX for import, vendor-specific APIs for the display of availability and CAS, Shibboleth, SIP2, EzProxy, and other protocols for SSO.

Support for statistical protocols such as COUNTER and SUSHI is also needed.

2. Unified resource handling

V-smart is designed to handle all sorts of materials, electronic and printed. Common data storage in the ILS supports resources integrated from third-party suppliers and exposes them via the search and discovery interface (Iguana), the end-user interface (Iguana), and apps. Infor V-smart handles resources of all kinds in a single, consistent way—e.g., unified resource management (URM).

Electronic resource management is based on the recommendations of DLF-ERMI, with extensive additional functionality. The application is integrated with email applications, can store all kinds of documents (digital and printed) and supports multiple languages.

V-smart also handles bibliographic data (such as title, ISSN, and keywords), holdings data, URLs, user codes, passwords and roles, license data and terms, emails and documents, publisher, provider and vendor or agent information, and usage statistics (V-insight).



3. Open Archives Initiative (OAI)

Infor V-smart (ILS), Iguana (the search, discovery and personalization platform), and V-insight (statistics and analysis) can handle all the data types and workflows associated with e-resources, but for them to be useful it is vital that they are open to the outside world.

Openness occurs at multiple levels, such as at the technology level, with support for SOAs, web services, XML gateways, and so on. A good example of openness in the library world is the OAI protocol.

According to the [Open Archives Initiative](#):

“The Open Archives Initiative develops and promotes interoperability standards that aim to facilitate the efficient dissemination of content. OAI has its roots in the open access and institutional repository movements. Continued support of this work remains a cornerstone of the Open Archives program. Over time, however, the work of OAI has expanded to promote broad access to digital resources for eScholarship, eLearning, and eScience.”

Infor V-smart offers an OAI client and an OAI server.

On the server side, Infor V-smart can run as an open archive server that can be harvested by other systems; in other words, records from V-smart are available for third-party repositories.

V-smart supports all six OAI “verbs.” These include:

- GetRecord
- Identify
- ListIdentifiers
- ListMetadataFormats
- ListRecords
- ListSets

Infor V-smart can also operate as an OAI client. The OAI client application enables libraries using Infor V-smart to harvest data from other OAI-PMH compliant repositories, store the harvested data in local V-smart databases, and then provide access to the data (the records) via Iguana. Configuration tools enable the definition of targets, tasks, export formats, conversion rules and other elements to create an easy-to-use, fully automated environment for data harvesting.

The advantages of this approach over traditional solutions (such as D-space) are:

1. Flexible metadata management
2. The provision of powerful tools to manage the metadata (e.g., global change and authority control)
3. Search capabilities

Most traditional repositories don't offer these capabilities—they simply provide storage, with no authority control or search. Infor V-smart's additional controls ensure that the metadata managed in V-smart will be of higher quality.

Lowering library costs

Infor V-smart supports the full lifecycle for all types of documents. It manages all relevant workflows, including the evaluation, selection, acquisition, description, maintenance, analysis, and dissemination of both printed and digital e-resources. Infor V-smart also has multiple interfaces that connect to other applications. Regardless of the type of material, the Infor V-smart application is multi-lingual, multi-format, multi-platform, and can run in a consortium environment. And because Infor V-smart is browser-based, it's highly flexible, which helps it to significantly lower costs to the library.

[Learn more about Infor V-smart.](#)



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