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Sept. 5, 2001

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UM TO INSTALL NEW LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana has purchased a new computer system that will make it easier for students, researchers and the public to use the holdings of the University's six libraries.

UM bought the Voyager integrated library management system. Set to go live in late December, Voyager replaces the older Dynix system at UM campuses in **Missoula, Butte, Dillon and Helena.**

Voyager will manage more than 1.5 million volumes, which serve the needs of more than 15,000 students and 700 full-time faculty. The Voyager system is a product of Endeavor Information Systems of Des Plaines, Ill., and more than 850 academic and research libraries worldwide already use Voyager.

The cost to install and maintain the system at the four UM campuses is \$620,000, paid over four years. A portion of student technology fees will fund the project.

UM also has purchased Endeavor's Media Scheduling for media room and equipment booking, as well as Citation Server for integrated searching of local materials and electronic

databases. The libraries will use Sun Microsystems hardware.

"We had a system with aging technology, so we were looking for enhancements and a modern Web-based system to meet our needs – Voyager was a perfect match," said Frank D'Andraia, dean of UM library services. "We definitely liked the fact that Endeavor has an academic focus.

"One of the things that we were sensitive to in our decision process was that we are a multi-campus system," D'Andraia said. "Voyager provides all of the affiliated campuses with the ability to address local options and needs when they present their system to their users. Voyager also has been implemented by many of our peer institutions in neighboring states, which will be a benefit for our users."

Voyager uses an Online Public Access Catalog with a clean graphical design to help patrons search for information available in their local library, other libraries or the Internet. The OPAC interface is designed to be easy to learn for new students and users, but it also can be tailored for more advanced searches by high-level academicians.

Voyager also is compatible with the Banner administrative information system software used by UM campuses. Voyager can work with Banner to track campuswide statistics, such as student information and financial data for acquisitions. D'Andraia said, "There are a number of Voyager sites using Banner, and that was a very attractive option for us."

Voyager will assist people in other ways. "One of the qualifications, obviously, was a Web-based system, which enables the linking of all electronic items that can't link with a text-based system," said Bonnie Schuster, administrator of UM's GrizNet. "The hooks to local holdings of electronic databases through Citation Server and Voyager's simultaneous searching

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across the system also will benefit our users."

D'Andraia said patrons at the various libraries will appreciate the improved graphical user interface because "the nature of how information comes to us has changed. We're very user-sensitive and user-focused, which helps us continue to be conscientious to the University mission and provide a system that is responsive and easy to use."

Jane Burke, Endeavor's president and CEO, said, "(UM) is a wonderful example of a library consortium that recognizes their changing needs and addresses them with a forward-thinking library automation and information system. It is important for libraries to realize that only a system like Voyager, that is entirely built on new technology – with an Oracle base, no old code – is the key for providing all the information the library and campus will need for extensive reporting capabilities and other new systems like Banner."

Voyager will serve UM's Missoula campus, which includes the University's law library, as well as libraries at Butte's Montana Tech of UM, Dillon's UM-Western and UM Helena College of Technology.

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