

Out-of-the-Box, In-a-Box, or Outside the Box?

Lessons from an Environmental Scan of Digital Library Systems

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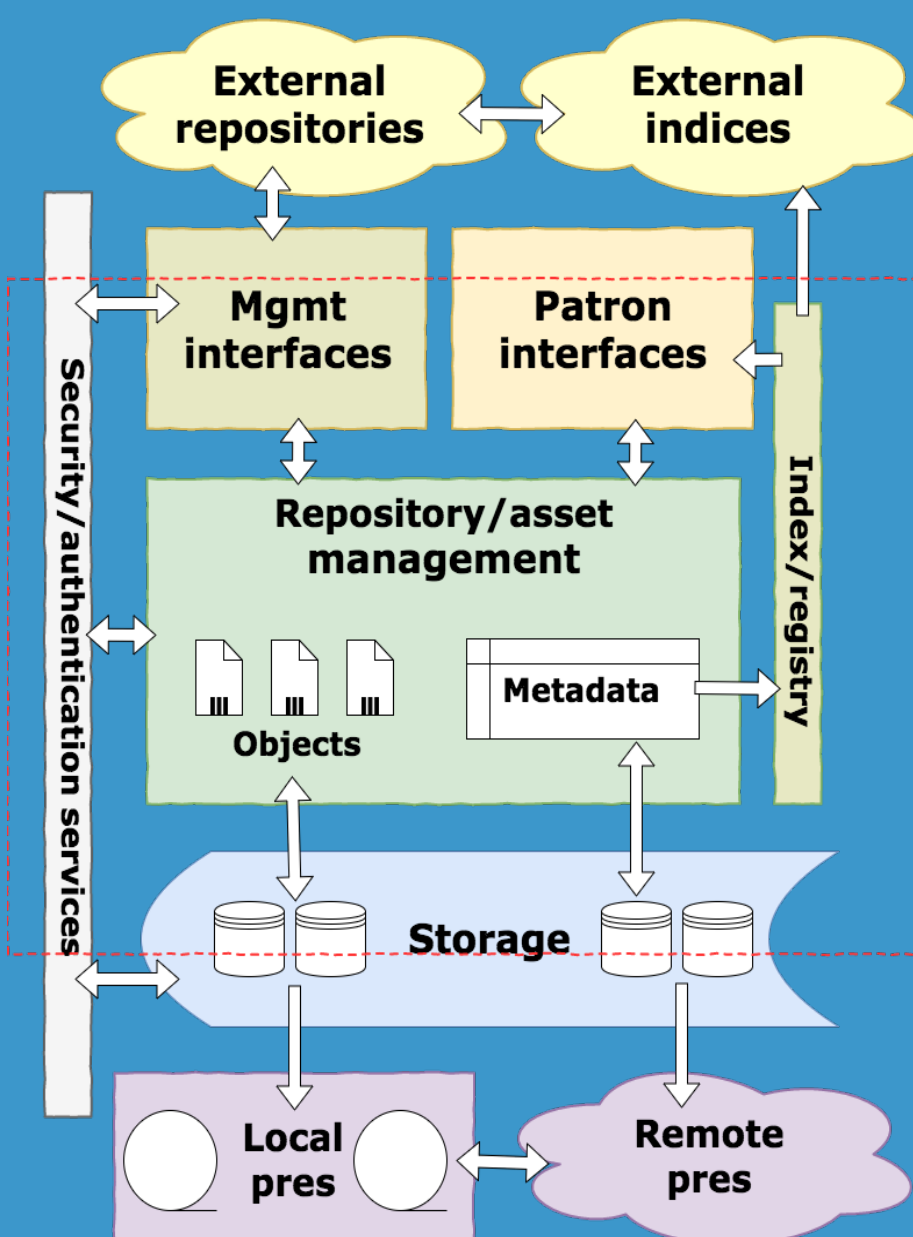
Motivation: The UCLA Digital Library Program seeks to evaluate technologies to adopt for the next generation of its core digital asset management systems.
Goal: Analyze the features, use paradigms and support models offered in current and future DL systems.
Methods: Interviewed librarians, technologists, and administrators at several peer institutions; conducted internal focus groups at UCLA to compile key use cases.

Feature	Hyrax	Nux/Cal ¹	Notes
Asset management			
Workflow tracking & audits	✓ +	✓ -	Hyrax is more granular
Bulk ingest of assets, metadata	✓ +	✓ -	Recursive batch ingest needed
Rights/access management	✓	*	*Option in Nux, not in Csphere
Controlled vocab autofill via APIs	✓	--	
Unique handle creation/mgmt	✓	*	*Could do in Nux, not in Csphere
Supports use of older data model	✓	--	Important for ease of adoption
Configurable user roles?	✓ +	✓ -	More granular in Hyrax
Mgmt of non-published assets	✓	✓	
Front-end			
Self-deposit, crowd-sourcing	✓	--	
Data access via API endpoints	✓ -	--	Maybe thru Solr/Rails features, but needs more work
Robust search/browse/faceting across colls	✓ +	✓ -	Blacklight has better features
Other			
Metadata harvest export	✓	API only	ResourceSync enabled in Hyrax

¹Nuxeo/Calisphere, the California Digital Library's DAMS/front-end systems. This matrix is a subset of the full study.

Paradigms and models

- The single main back-end developer (aka "DB admin") paradigm is effective but seems risky in the long term.
- Commercial vendor support, even with open-source software, works in some cases but is not a complete solution.
- Content-agnostic paradigms with flexible data models are popular in some settings and may integrate more easily with preservation back-ends.
- LOD remains aspirational, "as needed," rather than universal.



Our study focuses on the DAMS (center) and related components

Current progress and general observations

- Finding the best DL system for any institution involves balancing local culture, modes of community support, and anticipated use cases.
- We are currently developing user stories for both present and future cases.
- At this point, though, we have more questions than when we began.