Do It Yourself

Custom Data Output with Symphony’s Seltools

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Have You Ever … ?

- Been asked to provide data to your dean or director by the end of the day
- Been asked to provide data to staff to assist them with a project that needs to be completed ASAP
- Wanted to pull your hair out because there is no report that outputs all of the data requested in an Excel friendly format
You Could Have The Tools Needed!

- With Symphony’s seltools, you can provide just about any data that is requested.
- They come in handy when there is not enough time to request a custom report from LOUIS.
Please Be Aware...

- You will not learn how to use seltools today
- The purpose of this session is to convince some of you that you should strongly consider being trained to use seltools
- Seltools are not for every system administrator – that’s OK
- Practice makes perfect
  - Make a commitment to use the seltools
  - It’s not like riding a bike ... you are likely to forget how to use them over time
Agenda

- What are seltools?
- System administrators & seltools
- Using seltools
- Relating seltools to WorkFlows report
- Simple uses of seltools
- Advanced uses of seltools
- Demo of seltools
What Are Seltools?

- Seltools are selection tools
- They allow you to select and output data
- Your Symphony database is comprised of individual databases – each of these databases has a selection tool
- Think of them as the tools behind the scenes of each selection tab of a WorkFlows report
System Administrators & Seltools

- Seltools are normally used by API trained customers
- LOUIS created a wrapper for the seltools so that system administrators can use them
- Submit a FootPrints incident if you are interested in being trained to use seltools
Using Seltools

- To get the most out of seltools, you should have a basic understanding of Symphony’s database structure.
- Records are stored in different databases.
- Understanding the database relationships will make it easier to select and output data.
- That being said, you can work from an existing custom report to which you would like to add output.
  - Submit a FootPrints incident requesting the custom report’s Perl script (by report name or source).
  - You don’t need to know Perl – you will recognize the seltools.
Relating Seltools To WorkFlows Report

- **List Items Report**
  - Home location: REFERENCE
  - Print Item: 245 and All copy info

- **Seltools (selitem and selcatalog)**
  - All item records are considered as input
  - Only items with a home location of REFERENCE are selected
  - Selitem output is fed into selcatalog in order to output the 245
selitem -l REFERENCE -o CBlyqegl mftp 2>catkeys.err | selcatalog -i C -e245 -o Se
Simple Uses of Seltools

- Output shelving key – for a shelflist that sorts well in Excel
- Output classification scheme – to identify errors
- Output additional MARC field(s)
Advanced Uses of Seltools

- Identify titles in a particular call number range that also have MARC holdings records attached
- Amount spent on ebooks by LC classification (even though you have used Available Online as a generic call number)
Demo Of Seltools
Contact Information

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