

What Works at Plymouth State University IUG 2005 — San Francisco

Elaine S. Allard, Systems Librarian
Casey Bisson, Library Systems
Plymouth State University
Lamson Library



Building on past work

- The library's involvement with the campus portal began during the early stages of considering portal vendors in 2000 and 2001
- The portal went live in Summer 2002 and we presented our work at IUG 2003 in San Jose.



What can it do?

- Once in the portal, patrons have access to a number of resources without being asked for authentication information
 - Access to WAM-proxied databases is transparent, just click the link!
 - MyMillennium features, like self-service access to the patron record and renewing books is easy too!
- Contact information is pre-loaded in ILL forms, and the portal is used to authenticate patron status before the request can be submitted



What's new?

- Changed student information systems (now Banner)
- Changed portal platform (Web Platform to Luminis)
- Billing integration
- Implementation of "roles"
- Awareness of identity management as a barrier to further progress



o ldentity management?

- A way of authenticating a patron and asserting that authentication info to other systems
- A way of sharing information about who the patron is and what he or she can do (or, what groups/roles the patron is part of)



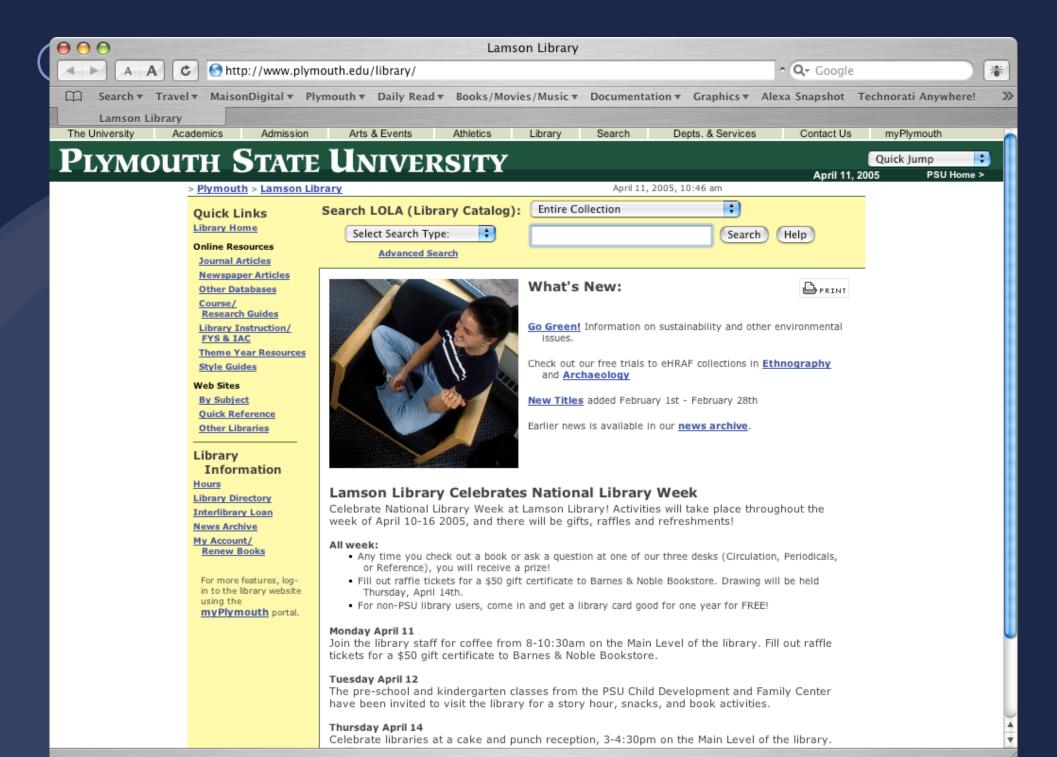
O Roles?

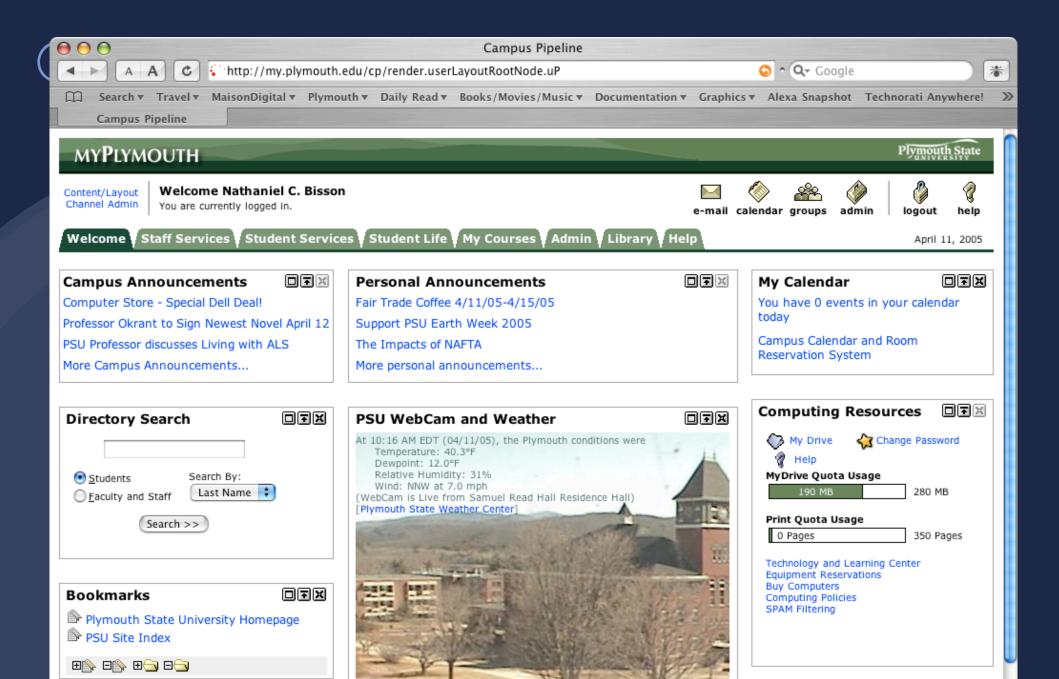
- Campus Pipeline's "roles" are similar to III's patron type
 - ...but unlike patron type, each user can have multiple roles
- Within the portal, roles can be used target specific content for different types of users

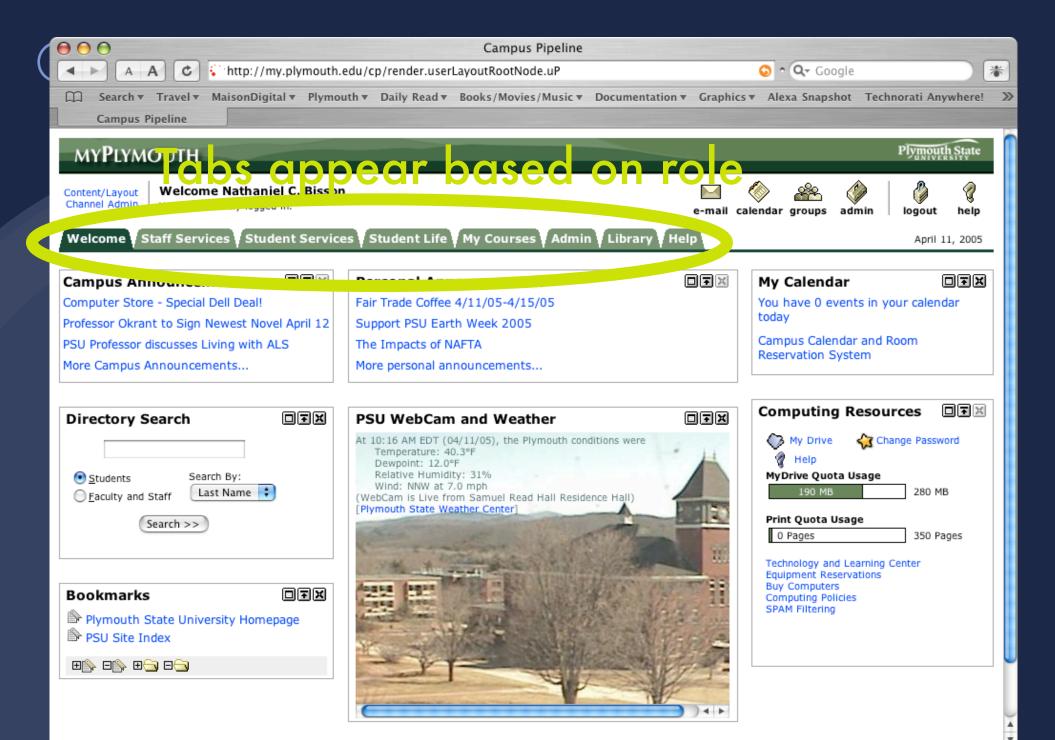


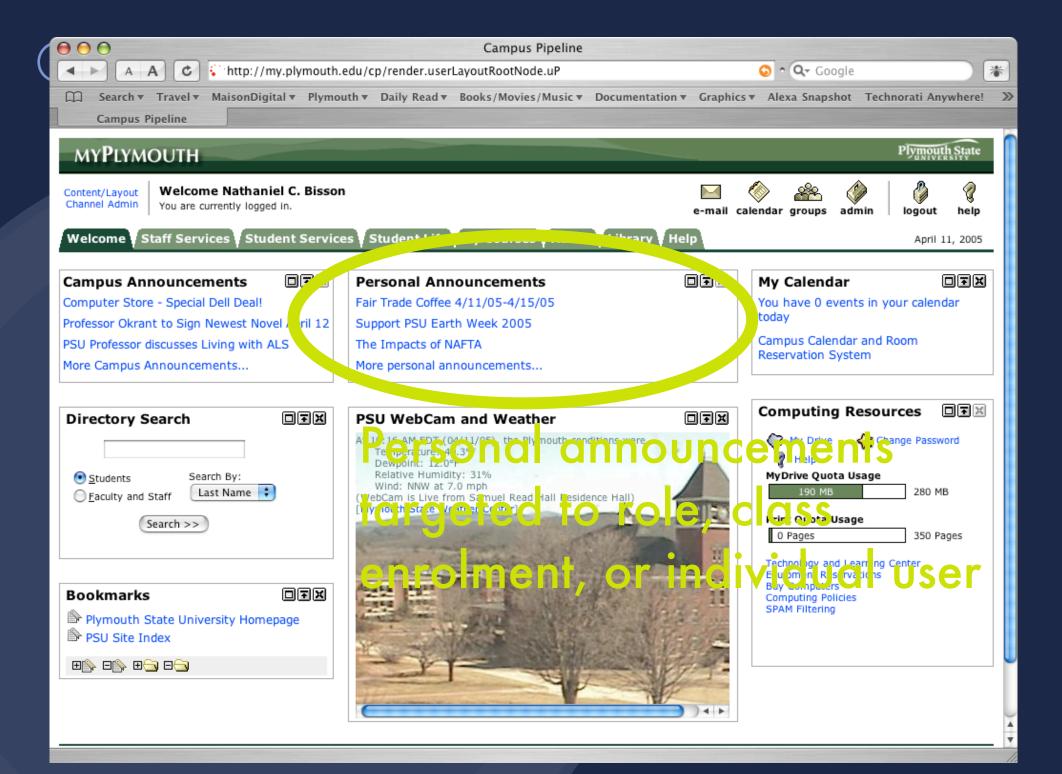
Demo & Walkthrough

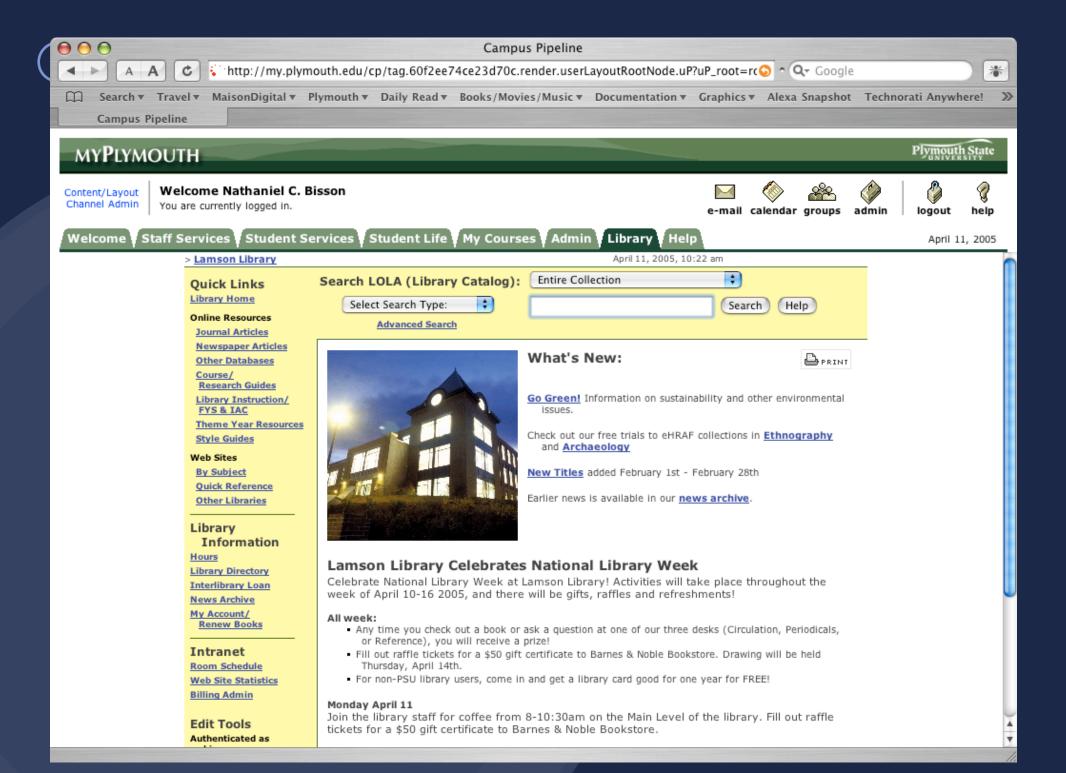


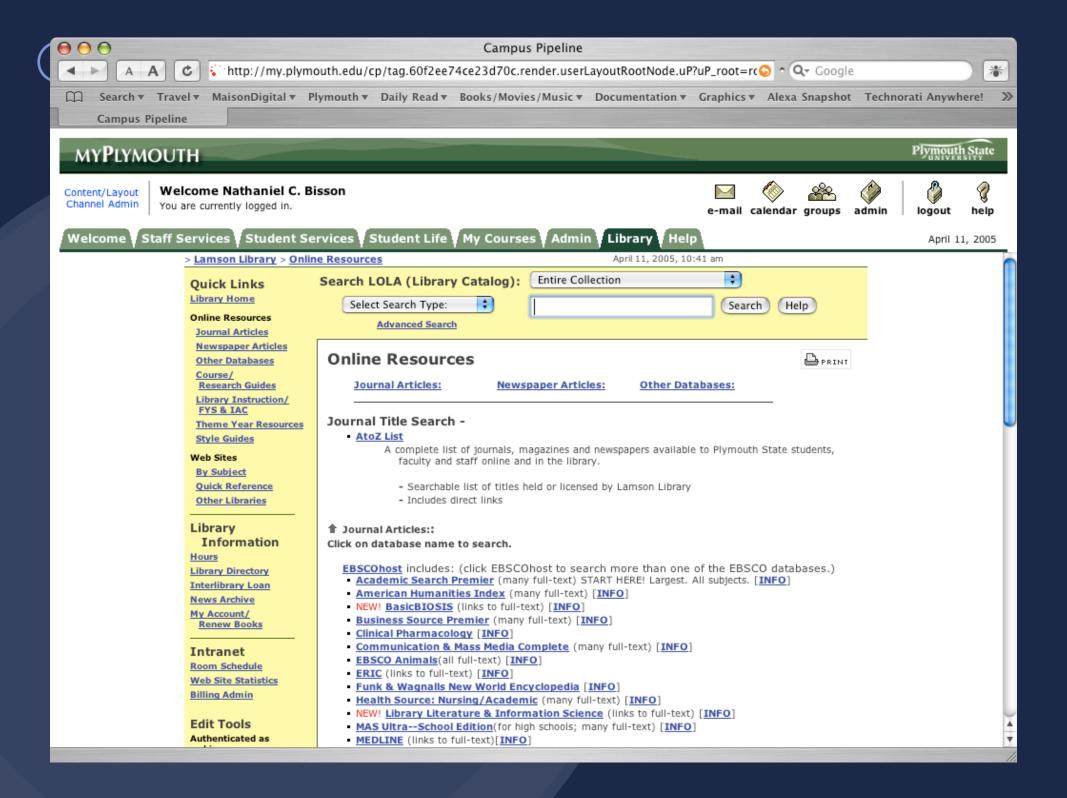


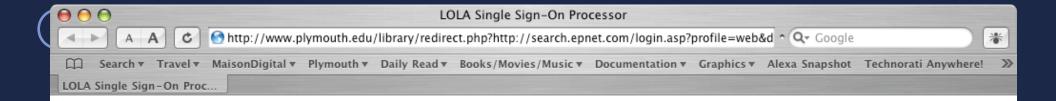








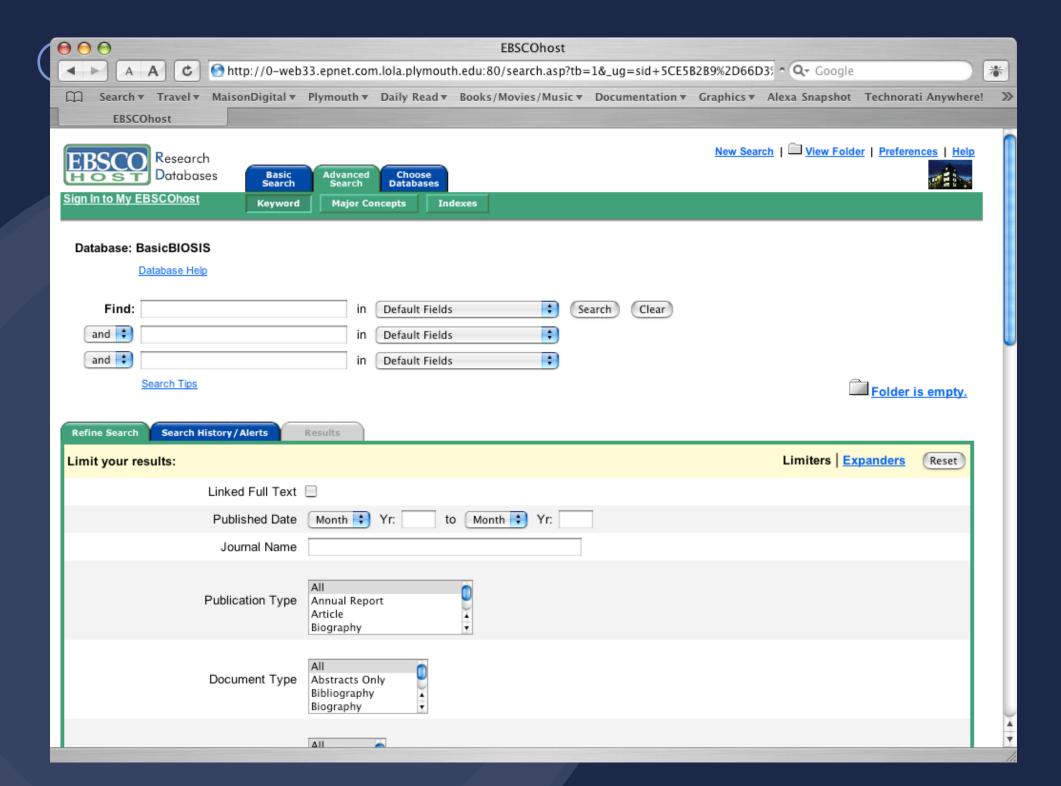


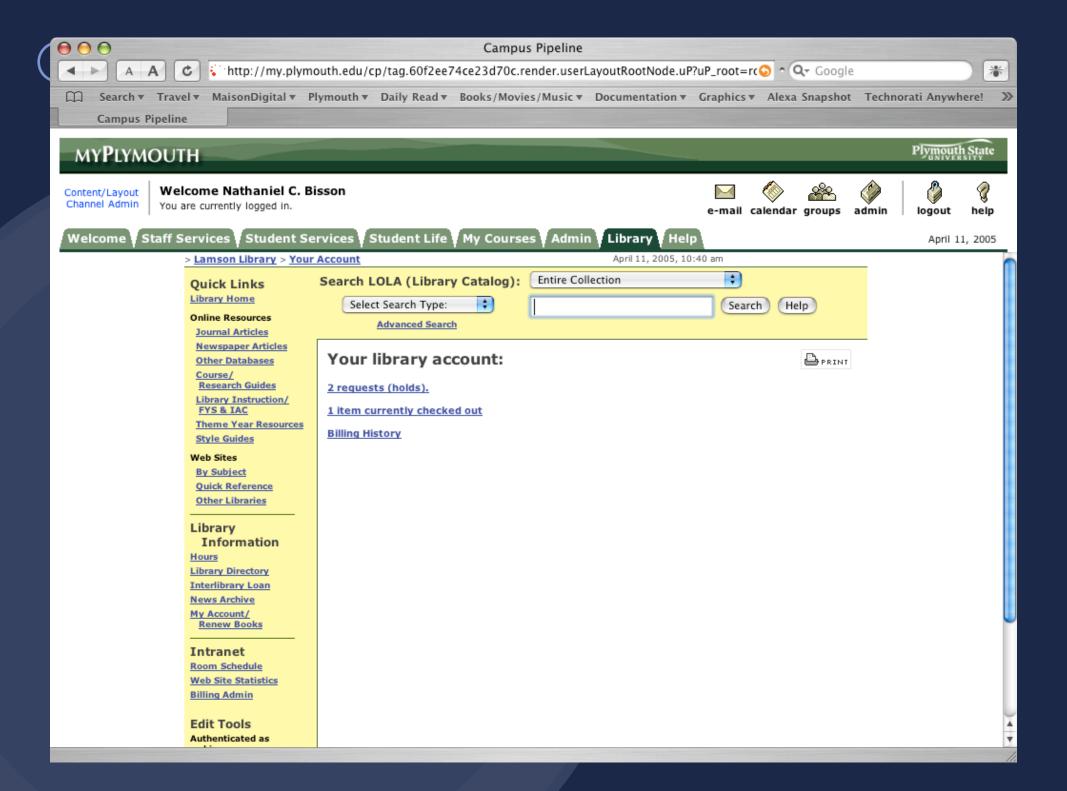


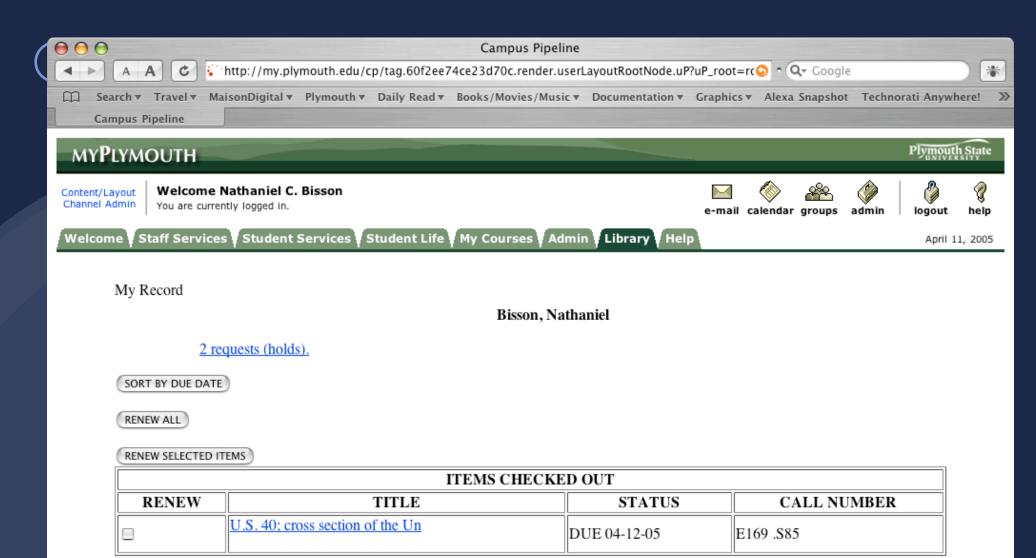
Authenticating portal user for off-campus access to restricted databases. Please wait....



Click here if not redirected within a few seconds.





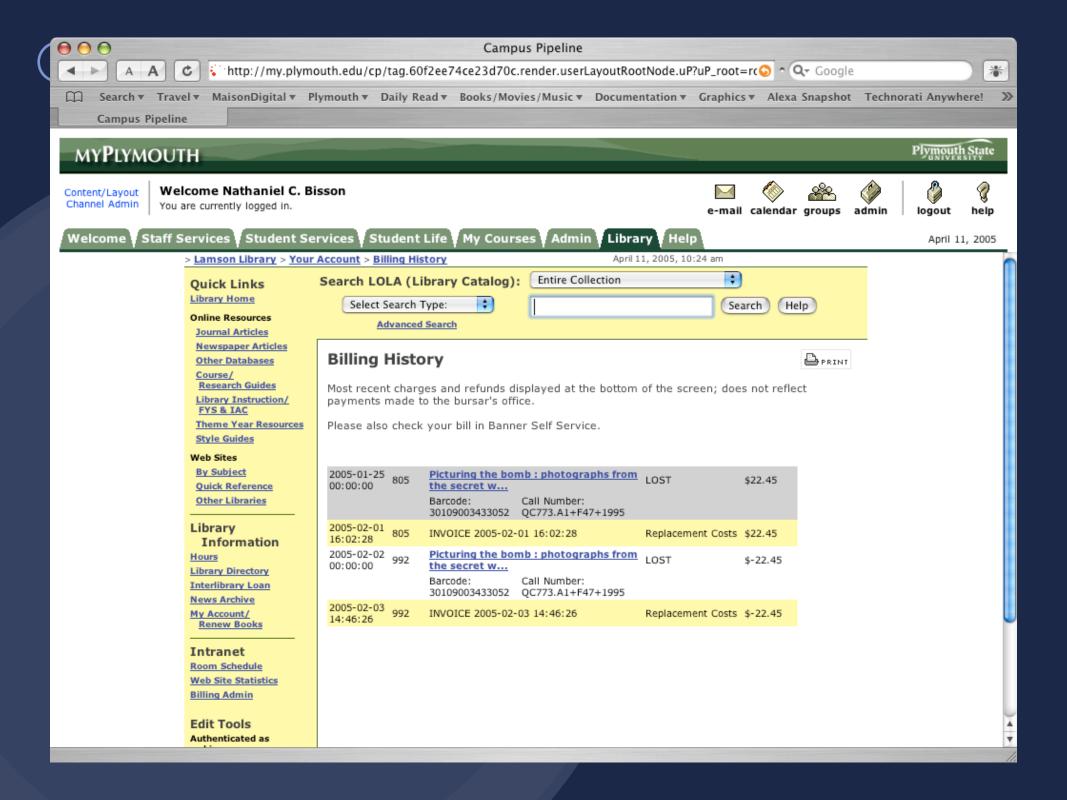


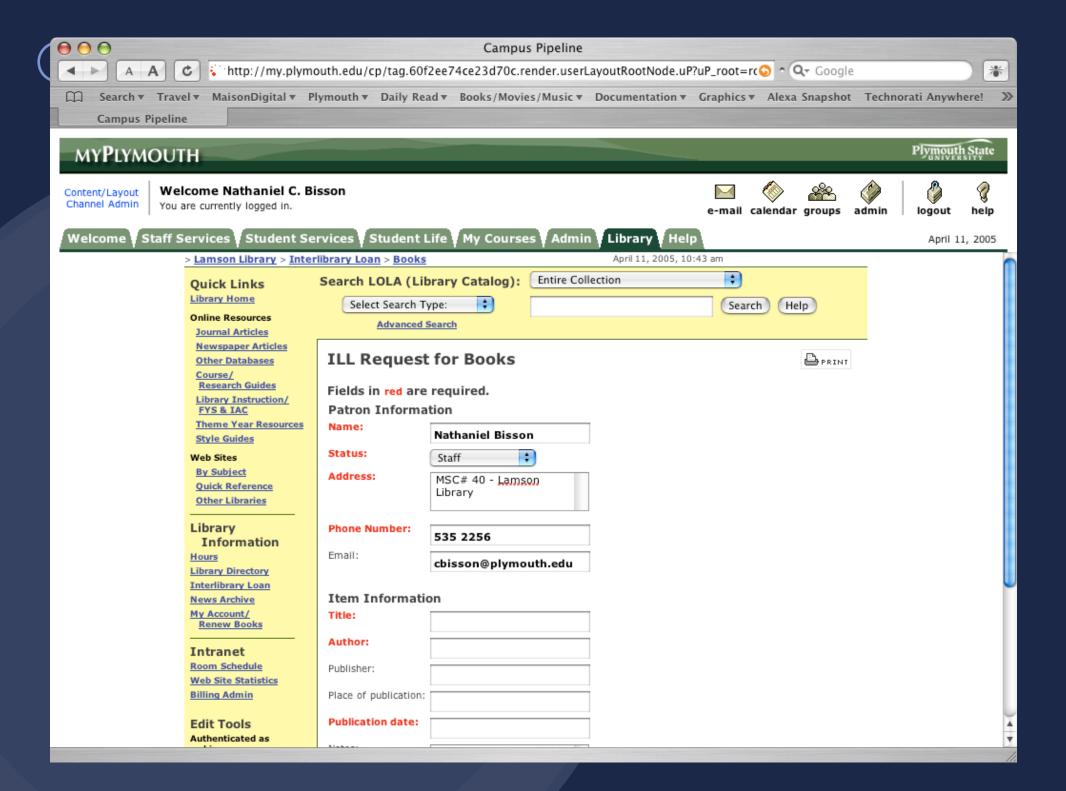
Plymouth State University, 17 High Street, Plymouth, NH 03264-1595

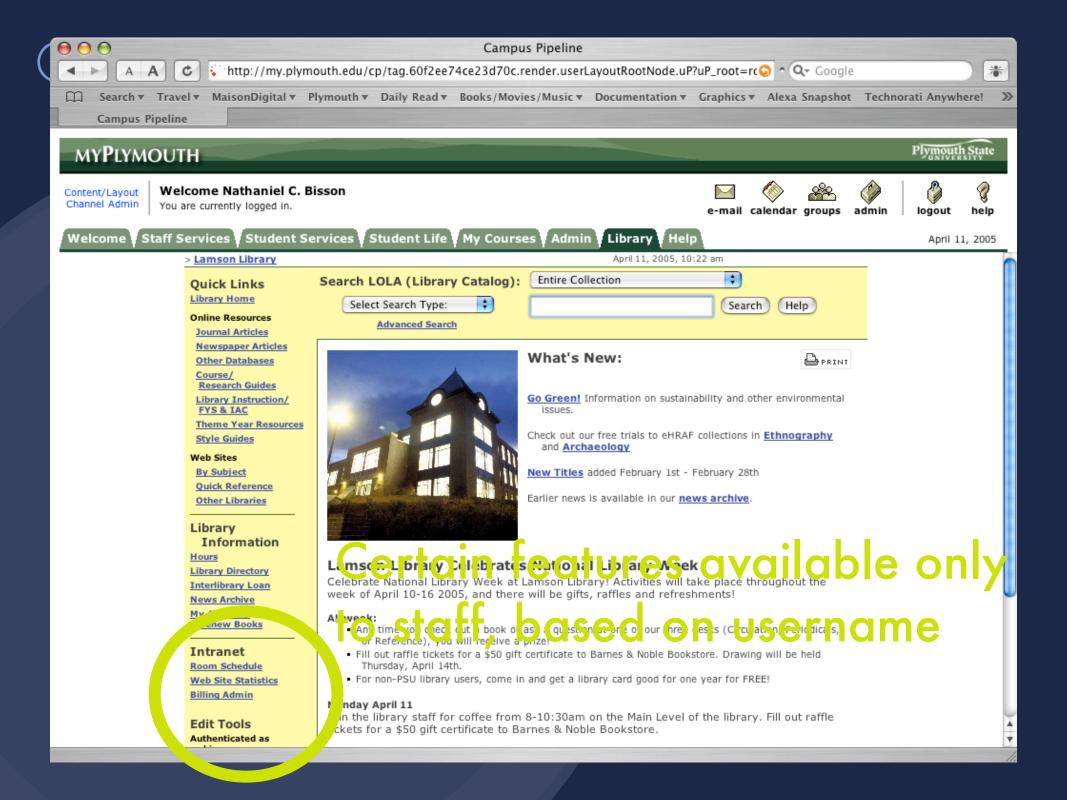
<u>University System of New Hampshire</u> This page was last revised: 4/4/2005 2004-2005 All rights reserved.

The Adobe Acrobat PDF Viewer for your web browser can be downloaded from http://www.adobe.com/

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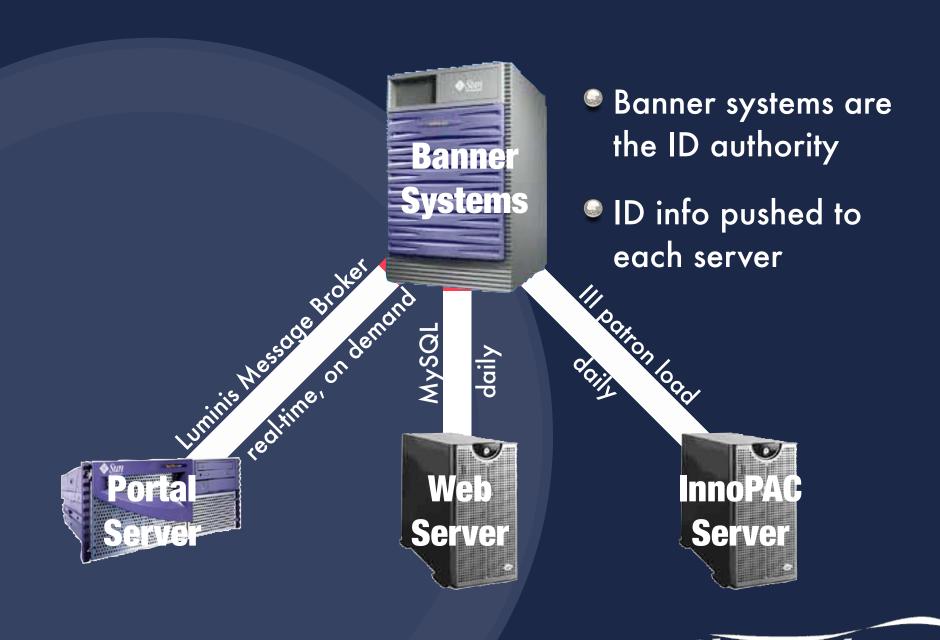


O Details details

- Identity management is key...
- Single sign-on only works because all servers are "on the same page" and can identify patrons in a common (or, at least, translatable) way

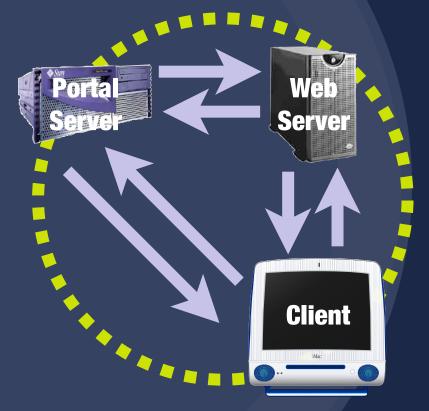


All these servers?



• The library tab

- CPIP is used to assert ID info to the webserver (CPIP = Campus Pipeline Integration Protocol)
- Used to connect to all sorts of 'external' systems, not just libraries
- Ask me about YaleCAS





A 'standard' Campus Pipeline CPIP connection



Plugging into III The Challenge

There is no 'standardized' or supported way to assert user information on the InnoPAC server as required for single sign-on



• Plugging into III So how does it work?

- The PSU single sign-on hack works by automating the submission of the authentication credentials
- We use III's standard patron log in process, but submit the information in a hidden form



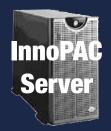




Everything starts with the patron load



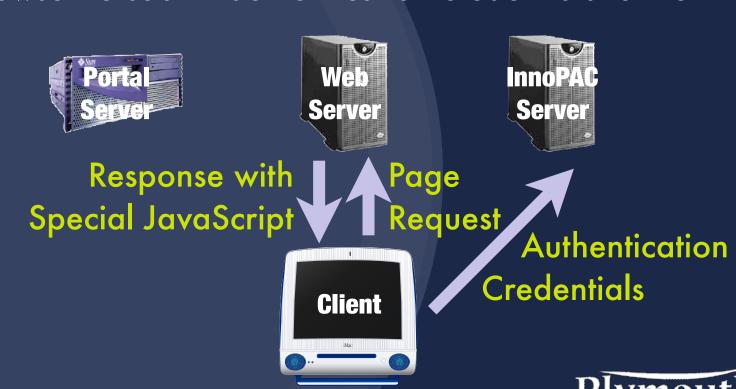








- Client clicks on a WAM-enabled link which connects to the WS
- The WS looks up the patron's name, barcode, and PIN (the InnoPAC authentication credentials)
- The WS returns a web page with a JavaScript that causes the client browser to submit authentication credentials to the InnoPAC



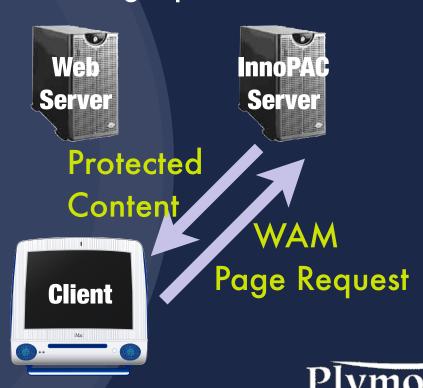
- InnoPAC accepts authentication credentials
- InnoPAC sets browser cookie to identify the client
- After a delay, the client attempts to load the WAM URL for the protected resource





- InnoPAC receives WAM request and identifying cookie from client
- InnoPAC recognizes the valid cookie and fulfills the WAM request
- Client has no idea what magic just went on

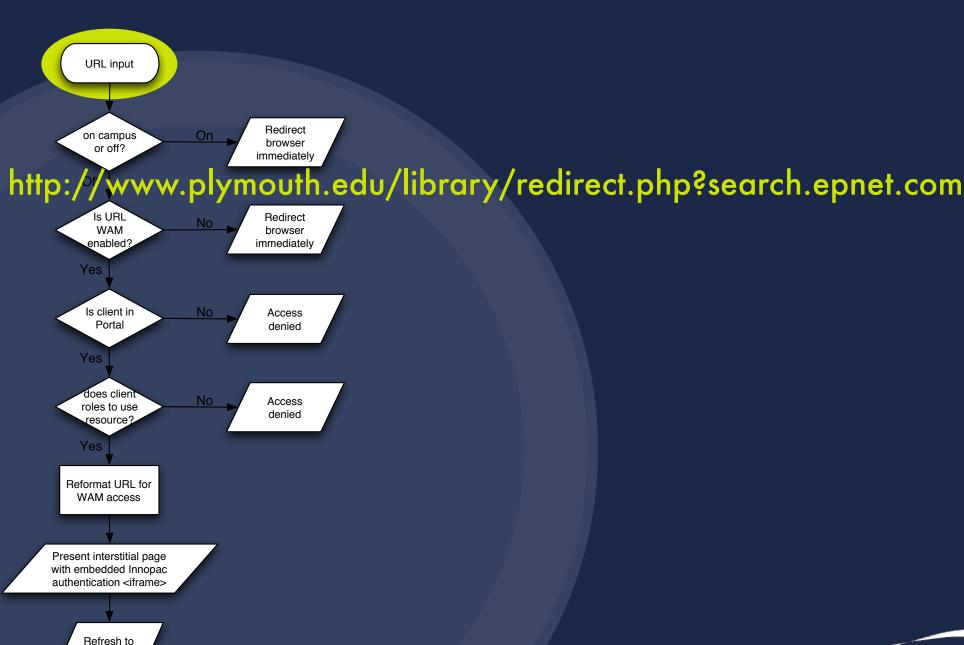




Connecting to WAM What's this redirect script?

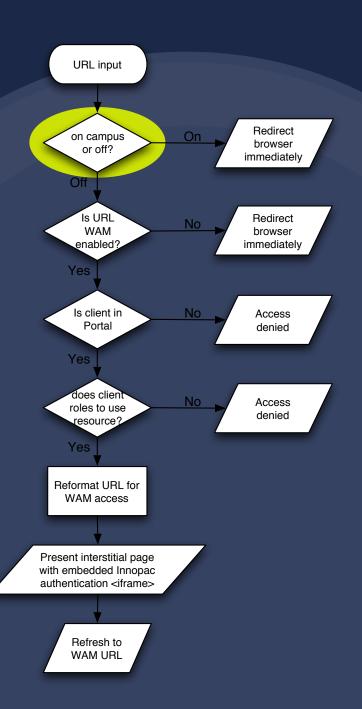
- All off-campus links go through a redirect script running on the web server
- The redirect script makes decisions about what to do based on the destination URL, the client's network location, status in the portal, and role memberships
- Any URL from any page can be WAM enabled





WAM URL



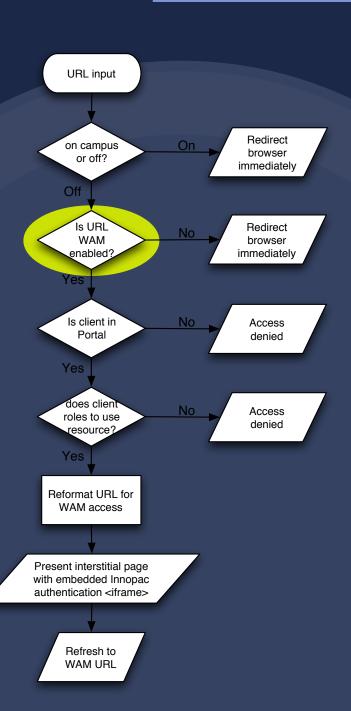


Check IP range

158.136.*.* = on campus

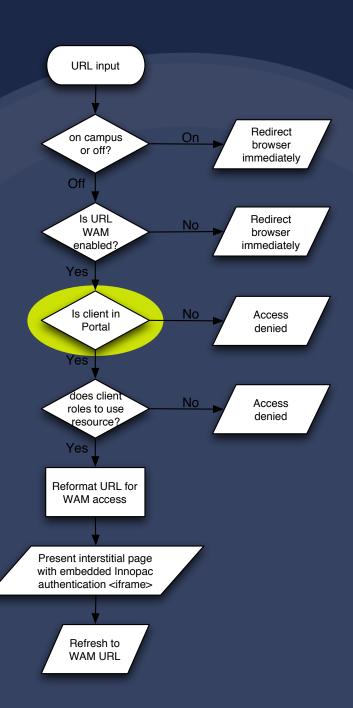
everything else = off campus





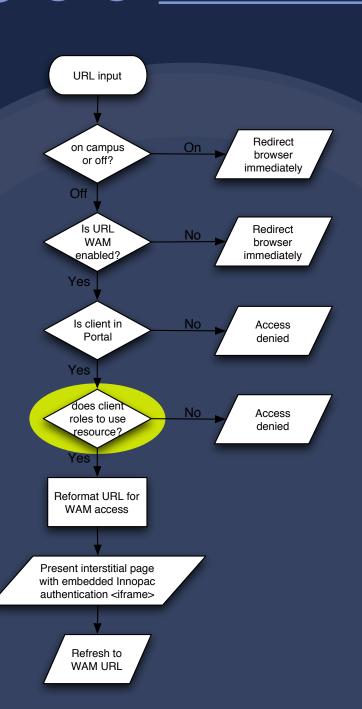
Is the destination URL in the WAM table?





Is the client in the portal?

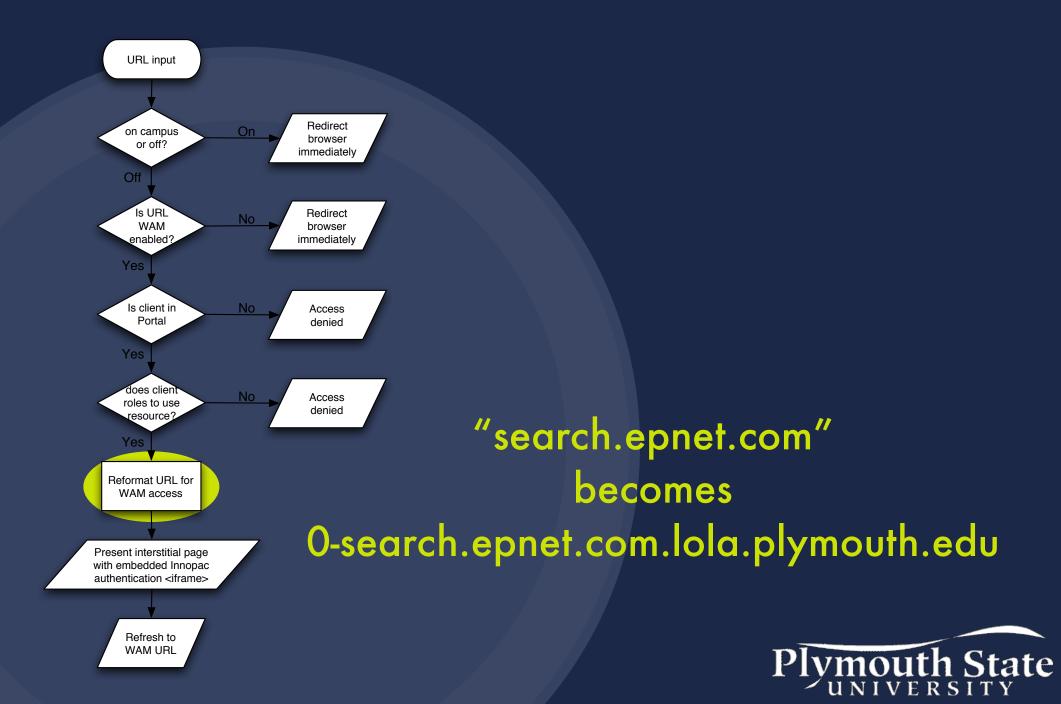




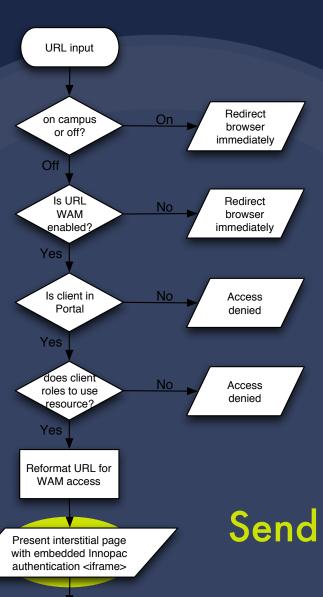
Are client roles listed among acceptable roles for the WAM resource?



How does it connect?



How does it connect?

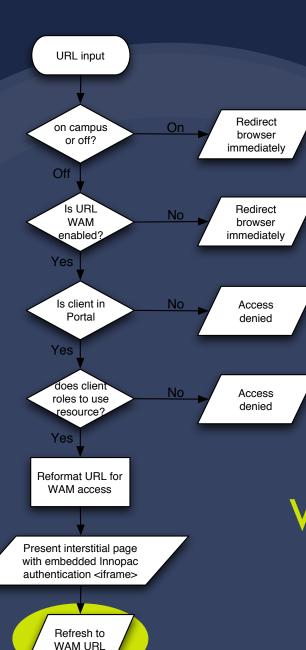


Refresh to WAM URL

Send the authentication page to client with tricky JavaScript



How does it connect?



Wait a moment, then have client load WAM URL



Connecting to WAM What's this JavaScript?

- It's part of a web page that contains a hidden form pre-loaded with authentication credentials
- A one line JavaScript submits the form
- The InnoPAC can't tell the difference, and sets the appropriate cookie in the client browser



• Connecting to WAM Tricking the InnoPAC

```
<form name='patform' method='post'
    action='http://lola.plymouth.edu/patroninfo'>
    <input name='name' type='hidden' value='Joe Pseudo'>
        <input name='code' type='hidden' value='12345678'>
        <input name='pin' type='hidden' value='5678'>
        </form>

<script language='JavaScript'>
        location.href='javascript:document.patform.submit()'
</script>
```



• Plugging into III What about LDAP ...or the Patron API?

- III's LDAP client software allows you to use authentication credentials stored on a remote server, perhaps one shared by a number of services
 - ...But, it still requires that patrons enter a password when using protected resources
- Patron API allows a remote server to check the authenticity of a PIN against the patron database or get information about a patron
 - ...But, it's basically the reverse of what's needed for single sign-on

Lessons Learned



o Lessons learned

Stats

Library website usage Page loads per month





Lessons learned Technical considerations

- Standards for single sign-on and identity management are maturing slowly; vendor support is often limited
- Going it our own way has created a small house of cards that keeps us on our toes



Lessons learned Do they like it?

- To patrons, all our integration efforts are just meeting their expectations of ease of use
- They love it, and they don't even know what a miracle it is



What's next?

- Integration with XML Server to offer resources based on a student's major or class schedule
- Deeper integration with WebCT to present all relevant library resources — reserves, bibliographies, research guides, recent acquisitions in the subject area — within the context of individual courses in WebCT
- Posting overdue notices and bills to "personal announcements" in the portal welcome page





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http://www.plymouth.edu/library/?portal

