THOUGHTS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

TINA HERMAN BUCK
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
TINA.BUCK@UCF.EDU
CONCEPT

• Library knowledge bases have improved generation by generation, product by product over the last couple decades but…

• I think a few more fields and limiters would improve life for librarians trying to find ‘stuff’ and developing projects for staff.

• I’m sharing these ideas to start a conversation and help continue the improvement of KBs.
THE KBS THAT HAVE INFORMED THESE IDEAS

• UCF’s knowledge base was EBSCO’s Holdings & Link Management until summer 2021.
• Since June 2021, we’re on Alma from Ex Libris.
  – So not an expert, obviously. Let me know if I’ve missed something.
• I also looked at GoKB and KB+ to gather ideas
WHY MORE FIELDS AND FILTERS?

• The data is often in the KB; it should be as usable as possible.
• Make it easier to problem-solve, to identify sets of resources that need attention, to make it easier to create a set of records for a less-knowledgeable staff person to work with.
• Filters are a great way to surface relevant data and show how frequently it occurs.
• Field-specific is more useful than keyword when the same words tend to recur so often.
WHERE ARE THESE NEEDED?

• Primarily thinking about continuing resources.
• But applicable to monographic materials too.
DATA POINTS I’D LOVE IN THE KB

• Previous & subsequent name(s) for continuing resources (it’s there in the bib for journals but my staff would benefit from having it pulled into the holdings/coverage/linking area. I would also like to know if databases have been renamed over time.)

• Open access flavor

• If KBART Automation (“auto-holdings” in Alma speak) is available

• Who created the KB package (i.e. the publisher, a library, a consortia, etc.) That could be a clue as to whether it’ll be updated regularly.
INDIVIDUAL DATA ELEMENTS
IN THEIR OWN FIELDS INSTEAD OF CRAMMED INTO RESOURCE NAME

• Available to limited geography
• Available to limited class of persons (such as alumni)
• Specific to a consortia
• Dates specific to the collection
• Let me filter by each of these! Scrolling through other consortia’s packages wastes a lot of time.
MORE DATES

- Date the package was updated (both package/database info and component parts)
- Expected date of next update (or the schedule)
- Cessation date
- Current coverage available/only
- Archival coverage available/only
- Any dates relevant to the package such as year of issue
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
WELCOME
@ TINA.BUCK@UCF.EDU