

Abstract - Moving towards a service oriented architecture

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BIBSYS has a long tradition in delivering services based on open protocols, as z39.50, OpenURL and OAI. There is now a change in demands on services, both as producer, but also as consumer of services. BIBSYS started its "ready to serve" project, in cooperation with Norwegian archive, Library and museum authority, early 2006. The scope of this was to enable services delivering and converting to MARC21 metadata. The target services would be OAI, SRU, SRW and web services on metadata conversion.

During the initial stages of this project, it became clear that building services strictly on top of the library system wouldn't give the desired flexibility and demanded content. To be able to satisfy these demands, fundamental structural changes to the software architecture would be necessary. The main focus has been on search, retrieval and metadata representation.

The way the new software architecture is designed, it will be very easy both to create fault tolerant and distributed systems. The architectural components should not need to be aware of what kind of messaging, or remoting protocols that can be used. So both SOAP, XML-RPC, REST, AJAX, message queues and other binding methods may be used, and coexist in the same system. This also enables the use of external services in an incorporated way.