



Managing Linking

Cover Story

The [SUNYConnect Advisory Council \(S.A.C.\)](#) has been considering proposals for a *SUNYConnect* linking software system managed by the vendor. SUNYConnect was a relatively early adopter of a linking system from Ex Libris ([SFX](#)). Linking capabilities, primarily from a citation to the full article, have quickly become expected for modern libraries.

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Tasks involved in each library (as well as OLIS) maintaining and supporting the SFX system are substantial, however. As a result, OLIS currently maintains an SFX system for sixteen of the libraries. And more than a half dozen libraries have opted to use [Serials Solutions'](#) ArticleLinker software even though SFX was paid for via *SUNYConnect* fees (and central monies).

Serials Solutions uses a "[software as a service](#)" model. Data and software are housed on their computers. Libraries can opt to make changes to their linking systems either via a web interface or requesting that it be done by Serials Solutions' staff. Either way the changes show up the next day.

ArticleLinker (now called "[360 Link](#)") uses a database ("[knowledgebase](#)") that is updated (by Serials solutions) on a nightly basis. SFX provides monthly updates that must be scheduled, run and tested by all sites. Daily updates mean changes to journal and database information are in the system as quickly as possible. This results in a better utilization of a library's electronic resources.



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