

# Ex Libris



## Embedded Identifiers in Libraries

Ted Koppel

Verde Product Manager, Ex Libris

# Libraries

- ... are users (consumers), not originators, of identifiers
- ... are at the end of the supply chain and use whatever has been created upstream
- ... have developed flexible and generally open-ended storage and resolution mechanisms to use the variety of identifiers that come our way
- ... library materials are (generally) identified by >1 unique identifier. A many-to-one relationship.
- ... have unmet identifier needs (see later slide)

# Libraries make use of

- Locally unique identifiers
  - UserID Barcode to identify person
  - Item Barcode to identify item for circulation
  - (arguably) local call number for shelf location
- Industry-wide unique identifiers
  - ISBN
  - ISSN
  - LCCN
  - SICI
  - DOI
  - And many others that are being mentioned today

# Unmet needs and challenges

- Unique identifiers for collections
- Globally unique identifiers for libraries, down to the branch level. (Previous efforts: either US-centric [SAN], or too high level, or too arcane)
- Challenge: the move towards resolution systems for each identifier adds complexity and cost to libraries that need to resolve multiple identifiers