

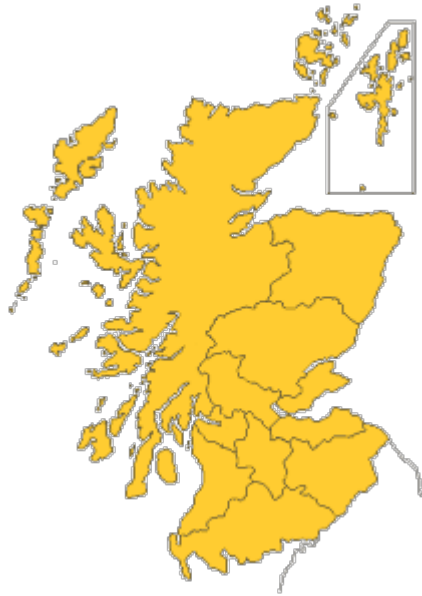
A unified Library Management System for NHS Scotland

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NHS Scotland library landscape



- 14 geographical Health Boards
- Special Health Boards, e.g. NHS 24, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), providing national services
 - Approx. 80 library sites
- Some services contained within University systems / catalogues (e.g. Dundee, Edinburgh)

ULMS feasibility study

Questionnaires returned in 2003 reflected:

- The diversity of library systems, policy frameworks, funding streams, and management arrangements
- Some library services still using card catalogues or local Access databases
- Few online catalogues due to NHS network restrictions
- Lack of cataloguing standards (no AACR2, no MARC)
- Lack of prioritised IT support
- Cost of ILLs from the British Library

ULMS for NHS Scotland

Benefits to include:

- Creation of a networked Scottish Health Information Environment
- Equity of provision via centrally-funded, centrally-supported system
- Linking with eLibrary – <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>
- Cost savings on maintenance and system development
- Collaborative practice and professional staff development
- Management information – stock control, budget tracking
- Raises NHS systems to the level of HE and national research libraries

Unified systems approach

Current single-system projects include:

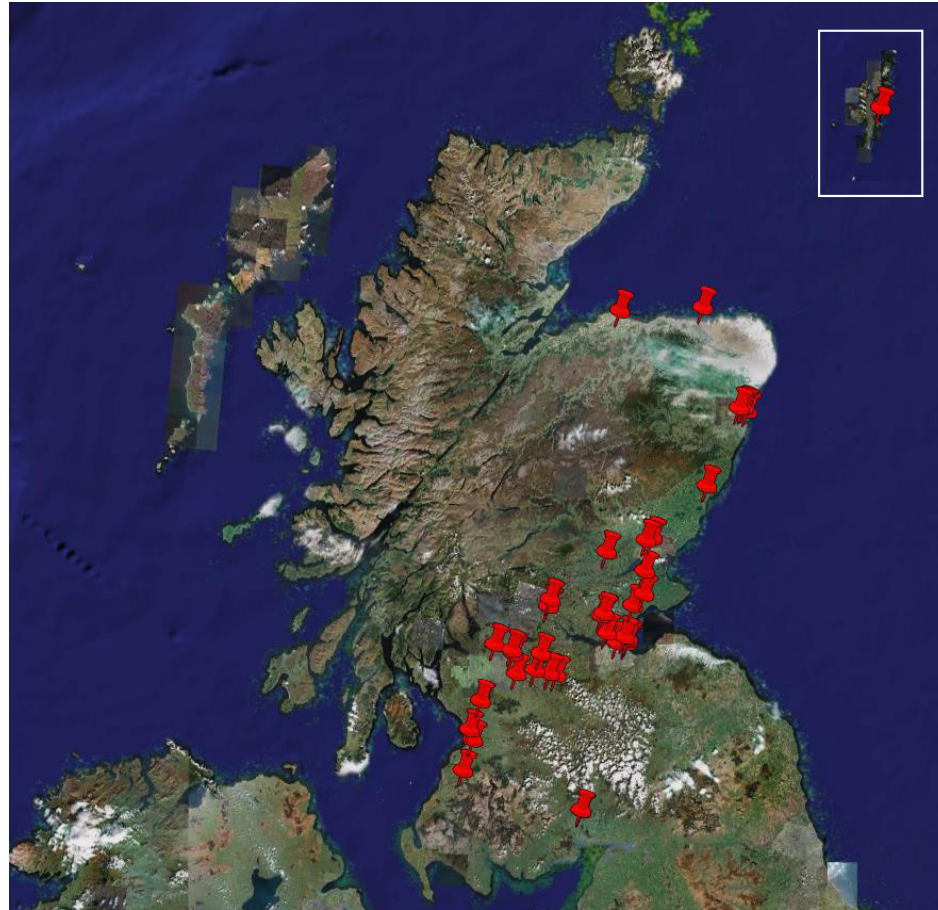
- NHS South West – four Strategic Health Authorities
 - Devon & Cornwall
 - Dorset & Somerset
 - Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire
 - Hampshire & the Isle of Wight
- Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust
 - UHCW Acute
 - Coventry PCT
 - South Warwickshire PCT
 - Warwick Acute
 - Myton Hospice

Phase 1 implementation scope

- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- NHS Dumfries & Galloway
- NHS Fife
- NHS Forth Valley
- NHS Grampian
- NHS Lanarkshire
- NHS Shetland
- NHS Tayside
- Vale of Leven Hospital
- NHS 24
- Health Management Library
- NHS QIS
- NHS SIGN
- ISD Library Services
- Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association
- Dementia Services Development Centre

43 library sites; 60% of total in NHS Scotland

Implementation map



The decision

The ULMS Working Group recommended the purchase of the **Aleph** library management system from **Ex Libris**. Deciding factors included:

- Online resource booking for Health Promotion services

- Unique Z-targets at multiple levels, e.g.
 - all libraries
 - specific Health Board
 - specific library within a Board
 - specific library collection
 - specific material type within a collection

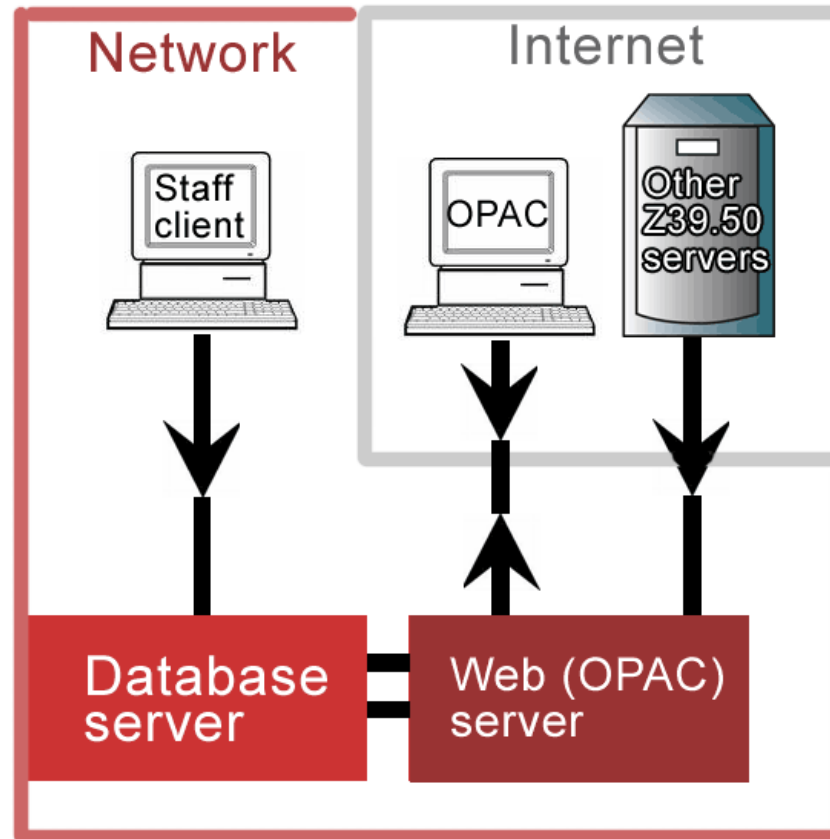
thus allowing external partners to specify which elements of the union catalogue they wish to cross-search

- High quality MARC cataloguing interface
- New ILL module for the automated management of intra-library loans between Health Boards
- Self-issue functionality integrated into the OPAC: essential for 24-hour access to hospital libraries
- High profile customers including The British Library, BMA, Dundee / Napier / Aberdeen universities

NHS network issues

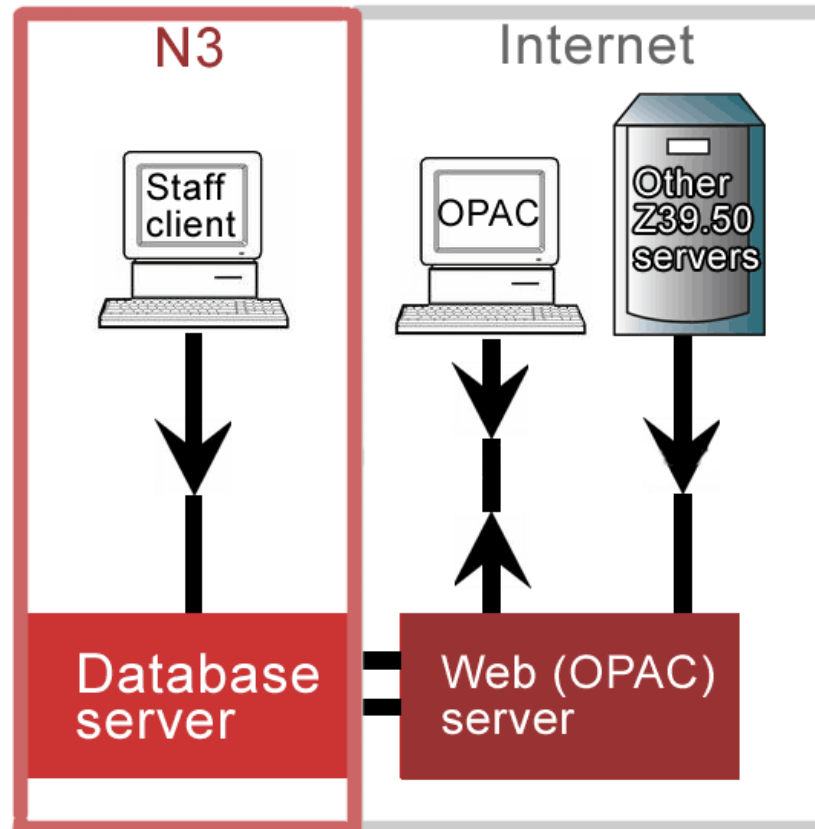
- As mentioned previously, the high-level security of the UK-wide NHS network **N3** (with a national firewall managed by BT) has been the primary block to library system development within the NHS.
- Hosting of the Aleph servers was contracted to Atos Origin, an NHS Scotland partner company with a link into **N3**.

Standard architecture

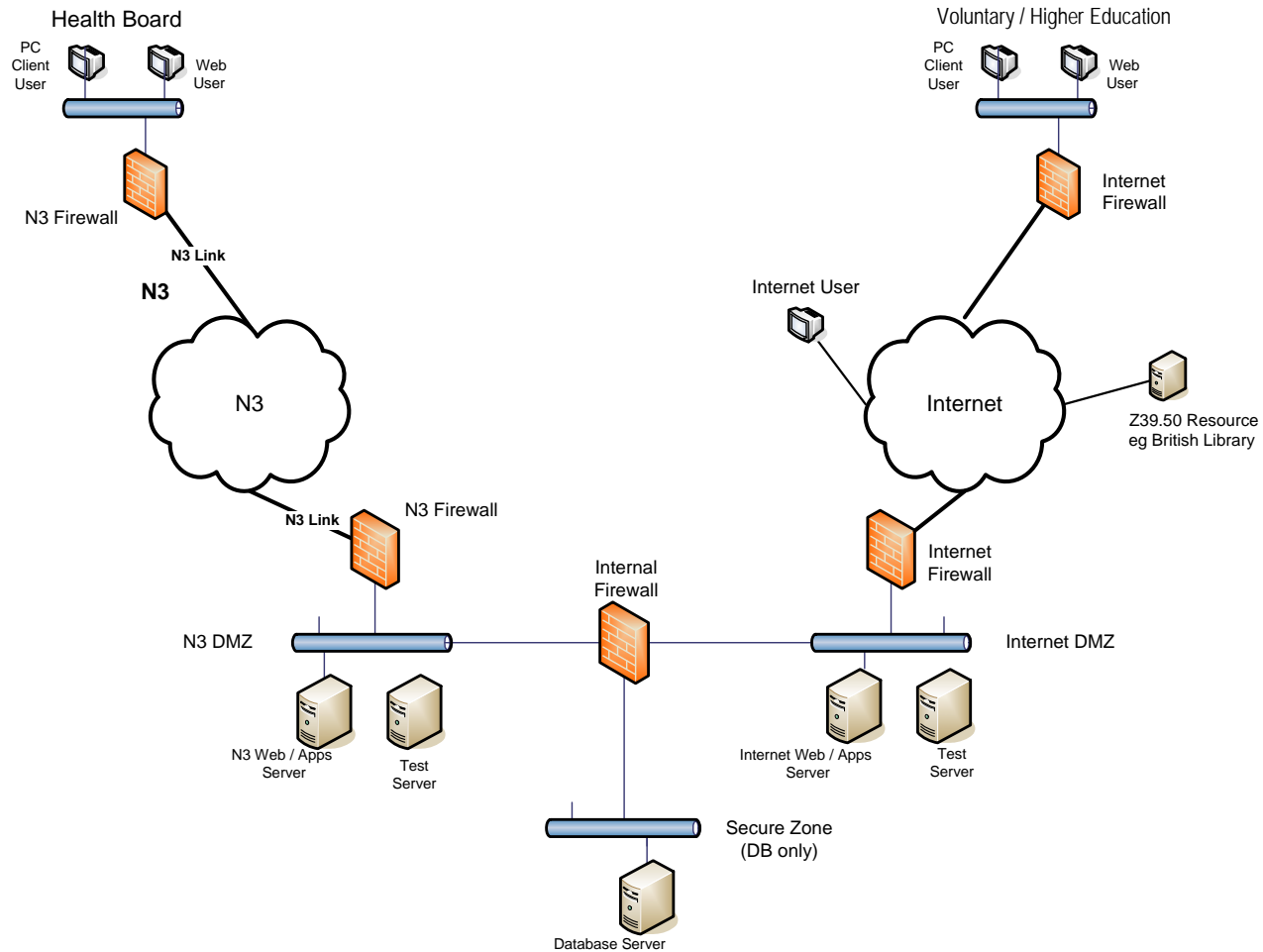


NHS problem

no incoming traffic allowed from the Internet



The solution



Associated work

- **Barcoding**

From July 2006 to March 2007, NES employed six library students via job agencies to (re-)barcode all book stock at the 40+ sites around the country.

A single database requires a unique identifier for each item.

- **MARC training**

All staff will complete a beginner's course in AACR2 and MARC 21 (created in-house) before cataloguing training begins on Aleph

Online catalogue branding

Library staff were asked to propose a name for the online union catalogue, with the majority of votes going to ...

Shelcat – **Scottish Health Libraries Catalogue**



www.shelcat.org

Live ...

late Feb/ early March 2008

... with Phase 2 implementations expected in 2009, for other NHS Scotland and partner services wishing to join the system.

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