When I was at Georgia State University, we were the only University System of Georgia school to fully implement EBSCO’s ERM, so I do have some thoughts on it. We used it for about 7 years. Georgia State migrated to Alma in 2017, so we moved all our ERM functionalities from EBSCO to Alma. There was no point in paying for an extra system when our LSP performed the same functionality. It is a good system, but it has some flaws.

Pros

All your EBSCO order information is populated into the ERM for you. This is a great deal of work saved if you vend most resources through EBSCO.

You can edit the fields not auto populated by EBSCO to represent any data/terms you want. It is super flexible that way.

It is a good place to keep notes about resources that had no proper records in the ILS.

And, regardless of who used it or how often, the exercise of implementing the ERM was a useful one for spreading institutional knowledge among my unit. Implementing it protects you from losing institutional knowledge when someone leaves, if you have fully populated it.

Cons

Some resources you subscribe to are not part of the knowledge base, for example any ProQuest database. EBSCO and ProQuest did not play well together when I used this ERM.

Where you may have titles and packages under a single license with a vendor (and where EBSCO disagrees with your calling a resource a package rather than a title), the ERM will not let you have these two types of records under a single Master Order, which is where the license data lives. That means you have to create a Master Order for <Vendor X> Titles and a Master Order for <Vendor X> Packages to hold the license terms, even though they are covered by the same license. Duplication of work.

Sometimes EBSCO would assign a resource the vendor of “other” instead of having a vendor record. This did cause some problems creating orders or relationships between orders on occasion.

All of this may have changed since I last used the ERM, but I did want to give you my input. I think it is a good system and could be useful if you can put up with these flaws.

Replying off list. I was under the impression that EBSCO was no longer offering ERM Essentials. However, have you investigated FOLIO?

Depending on when you would like to transition, FOLIO might be an option for your library as it is a community-based, open-source LSP. The caveat is, it is still under development, but libraries are planning to migrate to it in 2020.