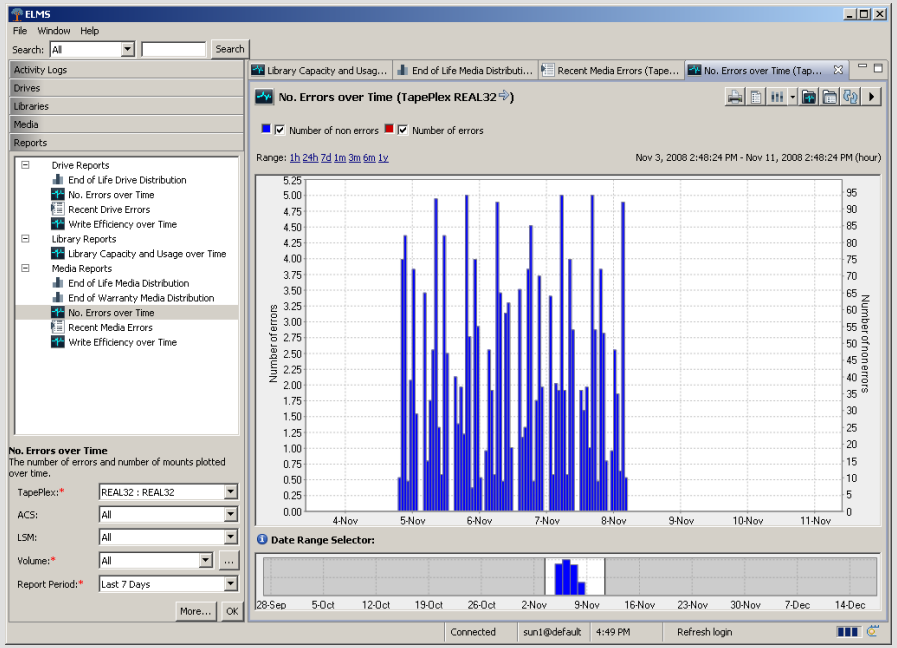
SUN ENTERPRISE LIBRARY MANAGEMENT STATION



ENTERPRISE LIBRARY MANAGEMENT STATION

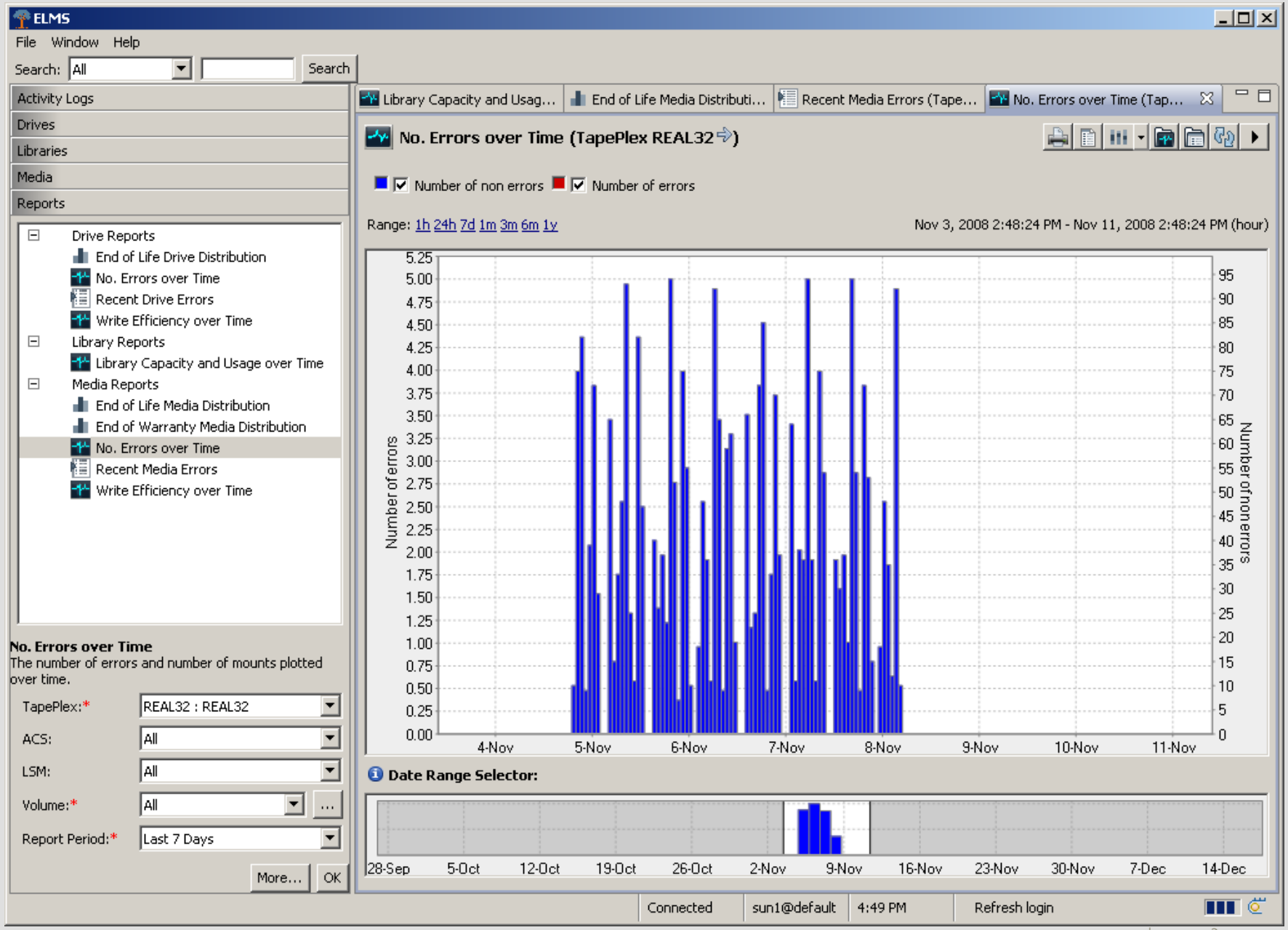
This is an example is a storage tape library tool designed for Sun users who had mainframe attached storage libraries. The goal of the application was to monitor the health of tape library drives and cartridges where the data was stored so that a cartridge or drive could be replaced if indicators pointed toward possible failure due to drive read/write or tape media errors.

KEY ISSUES

- Goal: How can we see tape and drive errors in our tape storage libraries over time?
- ELMS is a mainframe attached tape library tool for generating reports about media (tape) and drive errors over time, as well as monitor when tape media was nearing end of life.
- Users could use preset time periods or select their own time parameters
- Reports could be in tabular or bar chart format, depending on the report type

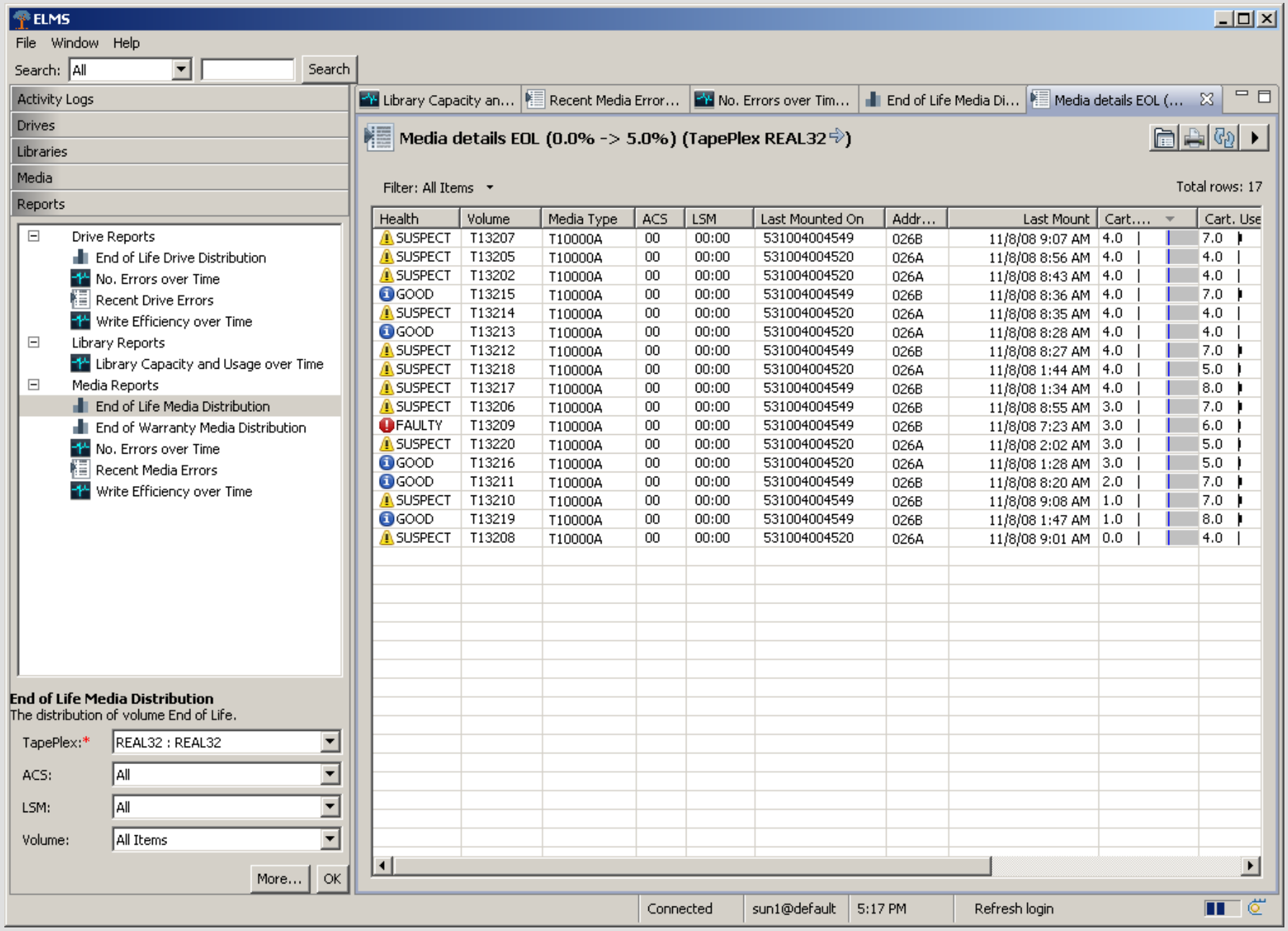
ELMS MEDIA ERRORS OVER TIME REPORT

This is an example screen of a report that showed, graphically, media errors over time for a given tape library complex. Users could easily modify the time periods and/or graphical display of the information.



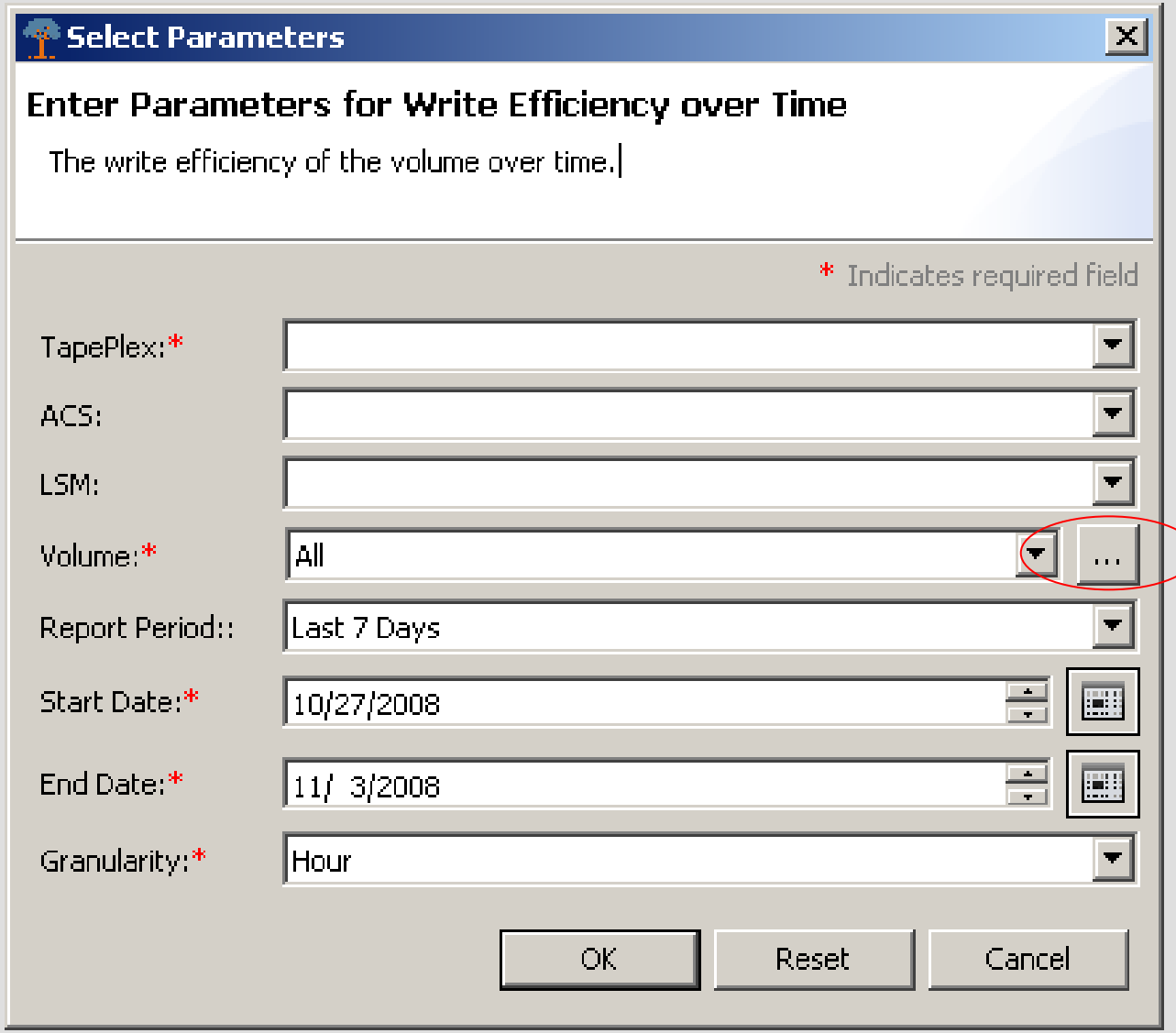
ELMS MEDIA END OF LIFE REPORT

This is an example screen of a report that showed media (tapes) that were nearing their end of life due to usage or to errors being generated in the read/write process. Note the “at-a-glance” Health indicator if a tape was good, suspect, or faulty, as well as detailed information for each tape.



ELMS USABILITY ISSUE: VOLUME SELECTION

One of the significant challenges we faced in the design of this application was providing users with a method to quickly narrow their search if they were looking for a specific tape, or type of tape. It was not unusual to see libraries containing 10,000 tapes.



ELMS VOLUME SELECTION SOLUTION: CUSTOM FILTER POP-UP

Our solution to this dilemma was a custom filter that allowed users to highly customize their search by criteria they selected and could add, on the fly, such as the tape serial number (Volume ID), the media type, a volume range, etc. They could also save this custom filter for use again at any time in the future, if it was needed.