New Catalog Features – Assessment Results  
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Charge
The Library Catalog Advisory Committee asked for an assessment of new public catalog features, some in place, and some in development. Pat Fisken and Laura Graveline met with Mark Mounts from LCAC to discuss the features to be assessed, and develop questions for volunteers. Bill Fontaine from LCAC also offered input on the test questions, outlined at the end of this report. Four students participated in the assessment.

Recommendations
The implementation of the sort feature and relevancy ranking poses little problems for students, and may be useful as they search.

The new keyword search format pleased the majority of the students, and should be implemented. The spell check option idea is appreciated, although the current accuracy of the spell check is not consistent.

Relevancy ranking does not bother students, and some may find the ranking helpful.

The More Info Button should be activated.

The inclusion of book jackets in catalog records should be implemented with the link out to Amazon.

Assessment Results

- Catalog sort option
  One student noticed the option, the others did not.
  Two were unsure initially about how useful it would be, and two thought it would be useful. The term System Sort was unclear.
  There was minimal hesitation between the choice/function of the Search & Sort buttons

- The new keyword search format
  Three students liked it, and appreciated that it was more like eresources, one student preferred the old single search box for simplicity.
  All the students liked the spell check option, but one student pointed out that it doesn’t handle phrases well.

- Keyword relevance sorting
  Two students hadn’t noticed it, and would ignore it. The other two students thought it might be useful. None wanted to turn it off.

- More Info Button
  All the students liked the idea, two suggested adding Amazon.com. One wanted to keep the Worldcat option
• Display of book jackets
  All the students liked this feature, and three especially liked the link to Amazon for reviews, etc.
• Other comments:
  Use eResources more than the catalog, it would be helpful if the catalog were part of Search360.
  Like the new results display, with locations and call numbers.
  Don’t like to scroll down on web pages, and the library link from the Dartmouth homepage (not the library), is now down at the bottom. Prefer drop down menus.

Recommendations
Implementation of the sort feature and relevancy ranking poses little problems for students, and may be useful as they search.

The new keyword search format pleased the majority of the students, especially those who were unaware of all the option available.

Relevancy ranking does not bother students, and some may find the ranking helpful.

The More Info Button would be appreciated by students

Students liked having the book jackets in the catalog record, and some appreciate the link to Amazon, for more information and options.

Test Questions

1. Conduct a title search for anything [quantum].
   a. Do you notice any options you’d like to explore with the results?
   b. Ask about interest in sorting – would this feature be useful with other search results.
   c. Change search from title to subject and assess the choice of sort vs. search button.

2. Review the new keyword search format
   a. Any comments about the use of multiple search boxes.
   b. How does this compare to the old format?
   c. Note spell check option for comment.

3. Conduct a keyword search & display results sorted by relevance.
   a. Is relevance sorting useful?
   b. Would you like to turn off the sorting option?
4. Is the More Info button useful?

5. Any other comments on the library catalog? Any features you would like to have, or features which don’t work well for you?

   a. How about book jackets displayed in the record?