

User centered design and the next generation OPAC - a perfect match? - The new LIBRIS project

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Challenges!

How OPAC sucks..

Features Your OPAC Wishes It Had

- **Relevance ranking**—As I explained earlier, on TF/IDF (term frequency/inverse document frequency), relevance rank is the essential building block to ensure the most likely search results rise to the top. Every search engine on the planet relies on relevance ranking. Many online catalogs don't offer it ("system sorted," anyone?) or implement it bizarrely. (I agree with comments that relevance ranking and online catalogs can be hard to do well, but I disagree that adding relevance ranking cannot be done at all; the [NCSU catalog](#) makes that clear.)
- **Stemming**—To steal from a couple of good Web definitions, stemming is "a method by which Search Engines associate words with prefixes and suffixes to [a] word stem to make the search broader," such as returning the same results for "applies, applying, and applied."

After relevance ranking, stemming is arguably one of the most important search features for an online catalog,

Karen Calhoun....”The changing nature...”

5. Improve the User Experience

5.1 Enrich the catalog with services (e.g., “more like this,” “get it” options, new book lists, etc.), and data (cover art, reviews, TOCs)

5.2 Enable much better browsing and organization of large retrieval sets

5.3 Enable best-match retrieval (no search dead ends)

5.4 Provide relevancy ranking of search results

5.5 Continue working with available technologies (but look for better ones) to federate

discovery and delivery of books, journals, and journal articles

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Karen Markey...."The online library catalog"

Building the Future Online Catalog Now

Ranking algorithms that give the highest weights to the summary data in metadata records such as titles, subject headings, class numbers, and qualification metadata to ensure the precision of ranked output

Relevance feedback (i.e., "find more like this") mechanisms that weight subject headings, titles, class numbers, and qualification metadata higher than words and phrases buried deep inside digitized texts

Data elements that users want to see in the catalog's brief displays of retrieved items

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Challenges

- Time!
- Constant change!

Working in iterations

- User-centered design
- Many small technical iterations (Agile software development)
- Interaction design

LIBRIS

- The Swedish National Union Catalogue
- Holdings of more than 300 library units
- University and research libraries (and some public libraries)