Using Blacklight for Unified Discovery

Bess Sadler
Manager for Application Development, Stanford University Library
eIFL-FOSS advisory board member
What is a discovery portal?

• primarily about discovery, not collection management

• separating these concerns allows us to focus on user experience

• users like to be able to find everything in one place, and a good discovery portal allows that
SearchWorks

- http://searchworks.stanford.edu
- Stanford University Library’s discovery portal
- Includes Stanford collections but also hosts collections from elsewhere that are of interest to the scholars we serve
Browse

Search

Access
- At the Library: 6,093,149
- Online: 1,186,812

Format
- Book: 6,146,697
- Journal/Periodical: 308,663
- Microformat: 288,046
- Conference Proceedings: 208,839
- Music – Recording: 128,905
- Thesis: 125,266
- Other: 111,279
- Music – Score: 88,493
- Map/Globe: 68,038
- Video: 52,013
- Manuscript/Archive: 12,928
- Newspaper: 5,996
- Computer File: 4,548
- Image: 4,361
- Sound Recording: 3,555
- Database: 1,200

Call Number
Location
Language

Looking for Articles?
- Browse or search the complete list of databases
- Not sure which database to try? Try these selected databases
- Go to xSearch (search several databases at one time)

Connecting
- Connecting to databases from off-campus
- Report a connection problem

Course Reserves
Find print, media, and e-resources set aside for classes.
- Search by course or instructor.
- Instructors: Place materials on reserve.

Can't find it at Stanford?
Request it through interlibrary borrowing, or ask us to purchase it for the libraries.
Two possibilities for discovery portal

• Actual data exchange (also serves as a preservation strategy)
• Metadata exchange only
Two possibilities for discovery portal

- Actual data exchange (also serves as a preservation strategy)
- Metadata exchange only
Limit your results

Access

Online (1)

Format

Image (1)
Manuscript/Archive (1)

1. Medieval Manuscripts from the Bibliothèque nationale de France

Format: Manuscript/Archive Image

Summary: The Bibliothèque nationale de France has agreed to provide digitized copies of their holdings of fourteenth and fifteenth century manuscripts containing the works of Guillaume de Machaut for display in the Stanford-developed interoperable environment (DMSTech). Some twenty-five manuscripts of interest to all medievalists, and ranging from sumptuous complete-works books created for royal patrons to rough poetic miscellanies of unknown provenance, represent the single largest digital collection devoted to a figure who influenced not only the course of French literature and music, but, through his significant influence on Geoffrey Chaucer, the development of English literature as well.

Browse all 20 items in this collection

208 Images 232 Images 82 Images 128 Images 520 Images
Two possibilities for discovery portal

• Actual data exchange (also serves as a preservation strategy)
• Metadata exchange only (content remains in...
Welcome to the United States Holocaust Museum cross-catalog "next-generation OPAC" system, providing an interface allowing you to search across our Library, Archives, Art & Artifacts, Film and Video, Oral History, Photo Archives, and Victim List catalog records. Collections Search spans 214,745 records including:

- 82,498 books and other publications
- 62,971 oral histories
- 26,151 names sources
- 26,785 photographs
- 8,221 document (archival) collections
- 4,508 moving images (films)
- 3,040 objects
- 571 collections (groups of more than one item)
an eIFL consortial discovery portal

• would publish to the internet the contents of digitization efforts among eIFL libraries
• this would be a great favor to scholars around the world, AND
• would increase visibility of eIFL libraries and their local scholarship and collections
an eIFL consortial discovery portal

- would not require each eIFL library to host their own collection, which would save time and money

- will provide hosting options to institutions who might not otherwise be in a position to host collections online

- will provide a richer user experience than individual collection hosting by co-locating documents from many institutions
Blacklight and solr can easily be hosted in the cloud.

Member collections submit records via solr to a centrally hosted discovery solution.
This is a proven pattern

• Stanford is following this pattern for collections from across Stanford and from libraries around the world

• Northwest Digital Archives followed this pattern to publish the digitized collections of 48 member archives
How might this happen?

• Setting up cloud hosting for a test instance would cost about $20 US / month

• Individual institutions would need to develop procedures for exporting documents. Maybe we could publish how-to guides for various local systems?

• Let’s talk about whether this is an idea worth pursuing, and what issues it raises.