

PubPac Committee Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2010

10 a.m.

At today's meeting we discussed several issues.

- Contact us form

It was decided, based on feedback from the committee, that we would have a drop-down list with all the libraries listed for the patron to select. It would default to the station library, not the patron's login. This way it would work within the library and would seem to be easier to program since it would work similarly to the way the kiosk will probably work for the default search library.

A link to the form will be available from the MyLibrary page as well as the contact us link at the site's header & footer.

- Kiosk mode

When a machine is in kiosk mode, patrons will have to temporarily login in order to perform any action which would normally require a login, and there will be some things which patrons will not be able to do, such as adding social content to the catalog (i.e., ratings, reviews, and tags).

The committee members felt that the default search library within the library (in kiosk mode) would be the station library, vs. all libraries. Most patrons come into the library looking to leave with an item and then will expand their search to view all to place a hold. This should also make it easier to configure and maintain.

We are going to submit this as a recommendation to the membership.

- Subject faceting

Message from Sid:

First, it's not on the demo site yet, but I actually have implemented an initial version of the subjects faceting. Here's how it is currently working. We can set a cutoff number. If the number of subjects exceeds that number, we will sort them by the number of bib items referred to by each subject, and take the top ones up to our cutoff number. So, for example, if we set the cutoff number at 30, we would return the 30 subjects with the greatest number of bib items referred to. This is certainly not perfect, but I think it's worth taking a look at before deciding it's inadequate.

We discussed this and will be looking at Sid's subject faceting before making a decision, but feel that if it doesn't work (or works like what we have now), it's better to either spend the extra development money or not have it at all. If it doesn't work, maybe wait for phase 2? It makes no sense to do a search for gardening and come up with "you found titles in astronomy".

- Holds

upgraded the holds management system. This covers three tasks: allowing users to change their pickup location; allowing users to suspend/unsuspended holds; and displaying a hold's place in the holds queue.

We couldn't look at how nice the holds display, but found out that if you log in with your current patron account, you may get results - user id & PIN on my account page at: <http://demo.sailsinc.craftyspace.com>

- Custom lists

the list system is now fully functional. It supports three kinds of lists. Each user has their own private "My List." Any time they view an item in their search results, it will include a link to either add that item to their list, or remove it from their list (as appropriate). In addition, lists created in the Sirsi ILS are imported into SOPAC, and can be found using SOPAC's search system. This means that an authorized user can set up links pointing at the contents of a Sirsi-created list, and display the contents of such a list as a carousel. Finally, based on discussion, the scope of this feature was extended to include the ability for authorized users to create public lists wholly within the Drupal website. Authorized users do this by adding a tag enclosed in braces to each item they want on their list.

We all thought this was great. One question we have for Craftyspace is if we'd be able to create a list of tags for authorized users to choose from or, when a tag is created for a list, could it be saved for other authorized users to re-use. This way we wouldn't be stepping on other people's lists (they'd need to be unique or other results would display) and this could be the beginning of a taxonomy of sorts.

- Feeds

The committee is going to look on publisher's websites for ideas for what we could link to or pull in. There is a lot of good, free content out there. Maybe have an author feature each month/week? We also expanded this conversation to include a project for people working in the network, going to library school. Maybe we could create tasks for them that would also qualify for extra credit? Do we have people in the libraries who would want to take ownership of a subject guide - there's lots of talent out there. We could also just have a place for short features so no long time commitment for staff.

- Best sellers – carousels or list?

Lists please. There would be a list on the catalog page for the most popular best sellers lists, each linking to a list of results. One question - do we want to include all the best sellers, but only feature the most popular on the first page, with a "more..." button? Is that worth it?

I also asked Sid about allowing people to subscribe to the best sellers lists, so they can add them to an RSS reader, as they would a saved search. Can this be done?

Along these lines, the recommended reading lists are also all in the system, same as the best sellers. Do we want to handle these the same way? Different? Please look in iBistro to see all the available lists.

I have to work on selecting which SAILS pages to bring over – we can have CraftySpace convert 15 for us.

I also have to get a mockup for the full details page of a title.

Get the content from the libraries for what they want on their "MyLibrary" page. For now thinking a picture, contact us form, hours, directions, similar info to what's in the directory.

- MyResources - I'm not exactly sure where this is right now. I assume that Craftyspace needs to enter the resource headings and then I add the actual individual resources?
- Circulation History - We requested the feature to view the circ history, but didn't say anything about allowing the patron to "turn on" this feature in their account. Currently this is done at the circ desk, but if patrons can do it themselves, it would be great. We've asked CraftySpace about this.