

Easy OPAC enhancements

(including some bits for MetaLib)



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The aim of this presentation is to highlight some easy enhancements which we can all make to our Aleph OPACs. Some of these suggestions are well-known, but some less so.

Missing links

- Link to full record from search results

First we look at “missing links”. There are several places in the Aleph OPAC where it would be helpful to have links and where none are present. In many cases we can add them easily.

Records 1 – 10 of 24 (maximum display and sort is 1000 records) [Jump to Text](#)

#	Author	Format	Title	Year	Lib/Items
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Flynt, John P.	Electronic resource	Perl power! : the comprehensive guide /	2006.	
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Friedl, Jeffrey E. F.	Text	Mastering regular expressions / 3rd ed.	2006.	Location
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Oualline, Steve.	Electronic resource	Wicked cool Perl scripts : useful Perl scripts that solve difficult problems /	c2006.	
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	University of Teesside. School of Computing	Video (DVD)	Animex 2006 awards : highlights: a celebration of student animation worldwide.	2006.	Location
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Begg, Rezaul.	Electronic resource	Computational intelligence for movement sciences : neural networks and other emerging techniques /	c2006.	
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Cozens, Simon	Text	Advanced Perl programming / 2nd ed.	2005 .	Location
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dwyer, Rex A.	Electronic resource	Genomic Perl : from bioinformatics basics to working code /	2003.	
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Lee, Eugene E., 1924-	Electronic resource	The integrity gap : Canada's environmental policy and institutions /	2003.	

The default Aleph OPAC has a small, easily missed, link to the full record display. We want a link from the title.

Records 1 - 10 of 24 (maximum display and sort is 1000 records) [Jump to Text](#)

#	
1	short-a-body Replace <code><td class=td1 \$2500 width="30%" valign=top>\$0500</td></code> with
2	
3	
4	<code><td class=td1 \$2500 width="30%" valign=top></code>
5	<code><script language="javascript"></code>
6	<code>var recordLink="\$0100";</code>
7	<code>recordLink = recordLink.substring(0, recordLink.indexOf(">"));</code>
8	<code>document.write(recordLink);</code>
	<code>document.write(">");</code>
	<code></script>\$0500</code>
	<code><script language="javascript"></code>
	<code>document.write("");</code>
	<code></script></code>
	<code></td></code>

This is all we need. You may need to adjust the placeholder numbers if your title display is not in column 5 of the short results table. The JavaScript takes the placeholder for column 1, the number with link, and extracts the URL from it. This is then wrapped round the title. It is all done in such a way that if the user has no JavaScript support the title will still appear.

Records 1 - 10 of 24 (maximum display and sort is 1000 records) [Jump to Text](#)

short-a-body

Replace `<td class=td1 $2500 width="30%" valign=top>$0500</td>` with

Results for Words= perl; Sorted by: Year (descending)/Author
Records 1 - 10 of 24 (maximum display and sort is 1000 records)

[Jump to #](#) [Previous Page](#) [Next Page](#)

#	Author	Format	Title	Year	Lib/Items
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Gilbert, Richard,	Book and e-book	Transport revolutions : moving people and freight without oil /	2007.	Location
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Flynt, John P.	Electronic resource	Perl power! : the comprehensive guide /	2006.	
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Friedl, Jeffrey E. F.	Text	Mastering regular expressions / 3rd ed.	2006.	Location
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Oualline, Steve.	Electronic resource	Wicked cool Perl scripts : useful Perl scripts that solve difficult problems /	c2006.	
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	University of Teesside. School of Computing	Video (DVD)	Animex 2006 awards : highlights: a celebration of student animation worldwide.	2006.	Location
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Cozens, Simon	Text	Advanced Perl programming / 2nd ed.	2005 .	Location
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Dwyer, Rex A.	Electronic resource	Genomic Perl : from bioinformatics basics to working code /	2003.	
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Lee, Eugene E., 1924-	Electronic resource	The integrity gap : Canada's environmental policy and institutions /	2003.	
9 <input type="checkbox"/>	Brown, Martin C.	Electronic resource	Perl : the complete reference / 2nd ed.	2003.	

And here is the result! Much better. This enhancement is very well-known, and was in fact recommended to us by someone from Ex Libris. When will the OPAC be enhanced to avoid having to use JavaScript for this purpose?

Missing links

- Link to full record from search results
- Links in My Library Card to expanded information

There is a similar situation in My Library Card.

Loan history list for : PHILLIPS, MATTHEW E (Panini20)

63 loans out of a total of 63 loans are listed.

For more details about a loan, click on the underlined number.

No.	Author	Title	Year	Due date	Due hour	Returned date	Return hour
1	Palmer, Martin	Making the most of RFID in libraries. /	2009	25/08/2009	23:59	07/08/2009	16:52
2	Rolt, L. T. C. (Lionel Thomas Caswall), 1910-1974	Thomas Telford /	1958	10/08/2009	23:59	20/07/2009	12:58
3	Manning, Olivia	The Balkan trilogy /	1998	24/06/2009	23:59	08/06/2009	08:57
4	Lawrence, D. H. (David Herbert), 1885-1930	Women in love /	1995	29/05/2009	23:59	20/05/2009	16:59
5	Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870	[Works. Complete edition].	1908	29/05/2009	23:59	20/05/2009	16:59
6	Wall, Larry	Programming Perl. /	2000	06/05/2009	23:59	07/05/2009	10:05

Small links from the numbers to the expanded information.

Loan history list for : PHILLIPS, MATTHEW E (Panini20)

6: **bor-history-loan-body**

Replace `<td class=td1 valign=top>$0200</td>`
with

N

```
<td class=td1 valign=top>
  <script language="javascript">
    var recordLink="$0100";
    recordLink = recordLink.substring(0, recordLink.indexOf(">"));
    document.write(recordLink);
    document.write(">");
  </script>$0200
  <script language="javascript">
    document.write("</a>");
  </script>
</td>
```

A very similar piece of JavaScript.

Loan history list for : PHILLIPS, MATTHEW E (Panini20)

63 bor-history-loan-body

Replace `<td class=td1 valign=top>$0200</td>`
with

63 loans out of a total of 63 loans are listed.

For more details about a loan, click on the underlined number.

No.	Author	Title	Year	Due date	Due hour	Ret d
<u>1</u>	Palmer, Martin	Making the most of RFID in libraries. /	2009	25/08/2009	23:59	07/08
<u>2</u>	Rolt, L. T. C. (Lionel Thomas Caswall), 1910-1974	Thomas Telford /	1958	10/08/2009	23:59	20/07
<u>3</u>	Manning, Olivia	The Balkan trilogy /	1998	24/06/2009	23:59	08/06
<u>4</u>	Lawrence, D. H. (David Herbert), 1885-1930	Women in love /	1995	29/05/2009	23:59	20/05
<u>5</u>	Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870	[Works. Complete edition].	1908	29/05/2009	23:59	20/05
<u>6</u>	Wall, Larry	Programming Perl. /	2000	06/05/2009	23:59	07/05

And here is the result. It is much clearer to the user that there are links to more information. There are several other screens in My Library Card which can benefit the same way.

Missing links

- Link to full record from search results
- Links in My Library Card to expanded information
- Links back to catalogue from expanded screens

Details for history loan no. 2

Loan date:	18/06/2009
Due date:	10/08/2009
Last renewal date:	13/07/2009
Number of Renewals:	1
Returned date:	20/07/2009
Fine:	

Loaned Item Details

[View item in catalogue](#)

Sublibrary:	Remote Store 1 (Solum)
Collection:	DOJ (Solum Store)
Location:	625.7 ROL
Description:	
Item Status:	4 week loan
Barcode:	38054000036049

[Back](#)

This is what our expanded information for a loan history item looks like. We have added a link (via the barcode index) to take you back to a catalogue search for the item you borrowed. This is handy if the user is wanting to place a hold request for something he/she had borrowed before.

Details for history loan no. 2

bor-history-loan-exp-1

Loan date:
 Due date:
 Last renewal:
 Number of R:
 Returned date:
 Fine:

Loaned Item Details

View item in catalogue

Sublibrary:
 Collection:
 Location:
 Description:
 Item Status:
 Barcode: [38054000036049](#)

Back

This time no Javascript is required: even better!

Details for history loan no. 2

bor-history-loan-exp-1

Loan date:
 Due date:
 Last renewal:
 Number of R:
 Returned date:
 Fine:

Loaned Item

View item in

<h1>
 Loaned Item Details
 </h1>

<p>
 <a href="&server_f?func=find-
 b&request=\$1700&local_base=DUN01&find_co
 de=BAR">

Whole set: Select All Deselect Refine Create alert 

Results for Barcode= 38054000036049; Sorted by: Year (descending)/Author
 Records 1 - 1 of 1 (maximum display and sort is 1000 records)

Jump to # Previous Page Next Page

#	Author	Format	Title	Year	Lib/Items
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Rolt, L. T. C.	Text	Thomas Telford /	1958	Location

Previous Page Next Page

And the link takes you through to the catalogue search results.

Missing links

- Link to full record from search results
- Links in My Library Card to expanded information
- Links back to catalogue from expanded screens
- RSS links for SDI

Alerts for: PHILLIPS, MATTHEW E (Panini20)

To create an alert, perform your search using the normal search screens. From the page showing the search results, the Create Alert link allows you to convert the search into an alert, whereby you will be notified of any new material matching your search as it arrives.

Select an alert from the list below before choosing an action.

This option will run the search now and display any new results in the catalogue. You will not receive an e-mail for these results nor will the new material appear in your RSS feed.

Alert name	Interval	Search terms	Database	Last action date	RSS URL 
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Nursing (with pers)	1 Days	Words= nursing	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=1QE26IL9FBI67MUJ
<input type="radio"/> History	1 Days	Words= history	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=H8N8UAG53F4FAXAS
<input type="radio"/> education	3 Days	Words= education	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=VT2CFVRHUDEIKB7U
<input type="radio"/> Nursing (no journal issues)	1 Days	Words= nursing	Excluding journals	13/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=NFYTD31L8RJ9TLH9
<input type="radio"/> Nursing 2 (with pers)	1 Days	Words= nursing	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=EAAJDHS91U167Y2N

This is the screen in My Library Card showing the users alerts or SDI requests. The RSS URLs are not clickable, limiting their usefulness.

Alerts for: PHILLIPS, MATTHEW E (Panini20)

To create an alert, perform your search using the normal search screens. From the page showing the search results, then click on any new results.

Select an alert type

Modify alert

On-line

Alert

Nursing (no pers)
 History
 education

bor-sdi-body
 Replace
`<td class=td1>$0800</td>`
 with
`<td class=td1>$0800</td>`

<input type="radio"/> Nursing (no journal issues)	1 Days	Words= nursing	Dundee Excluding journals	13/08/2009	rss&rss_key=VTZCFVRH0DEIK870 http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=NFYTD31L8RJ9TLH9
<input type="radio"/> Nursing 2 (with pers)	1 Days	Words= nursing	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=EAAJDHS91U167Y2N

Again, we can fix this without using Javascript.

Alerts for: PHILLIPS, MATTHEW E (Panini20)

To create an alert, perform your search using the normal search screens. From the page showing the search results, th
any new m

bor-sdi-body

Select an
Replace

Modify al
On-line

`<td class=td1>$0800</td>`

with

Alert

Select an alert from the list below before choosing an action.

Modify alert Copy alert Delete alert

On-line search This option will run the search now and display any new results in the catalogue. You will not receive an e-mail for these results nor will the new material appear in your RSS feed.

Alert name	Interval	Search terms	Database	Last action date	RSS URL 
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Nursing (with pers)	1 Days	Words= nursing	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=1QE261L9FB167MUJ
<input type="radio"/> History	1 Days	Words= history	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=H8N8UAG53F4FAXAS
<input type="radio"/> education	3 Days	Words= education	University of Dundee	19/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=VT2CFVRHUDEIK87U
<input type="radio"/> Nursing (no journal issues)	1 Days	Words= nursing	Excluding journals	13/08/2009	http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-rss&rss_key=NFYTD31L8RI9TLH9
<input type="radio"/> Nursing 2 (with			University of		http://library.dundee.ac.uk:80/F/?func=load-

Now the links are clickable.

Missing links

- Link to full record from search results
- Links in My Library Card to expanded information
- Links back to catalogue from expanded screens
- RSS links for SDI
- Remember to test with JavaScript disabled

When making enhancements it is very important to test the functionality with JavaScript disabled. This is because some users do not have access to JavaScript-enabled browsers, or prefer to disable JavaScript for security or privacy reasons. The main thing to ensure is that your “enhancement” does not reduce the functionality for these users. Sadly I have seen examples of Aleph OPACs where the use of JavaScript for quite minor purposes (e.g. preventing users double-clicking in error) has made parts of the interface unusable for those who do not have JavaScript available.

Social bookmarking

- Creating a permanent URL when the result has context within a set of results

```
http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/  
5DIT2RYUTA2RA8YE36D5MQS622ENTA842R6  
HB1CX14S5NXFBB5-36854  
?func=full-set-set  
&set_number=195186  
&set_entry=000002  
&format=999
```

This is a typical URL from a full record display in Aleph. If the user bookmarks the page the bookmark will stop working once VIR01 is cleared, because the URL depends on a session ID and a search set.

Social bookmarking

- Creating a permanent URL when the result has context within a set of results
- AddThis service: <http://www.addthis.com/>

We have added a bookmark button via the free “AddThis” service.

Full View of Record

Choose format: [Standard format](#) [Catalogue card](#) [Citation](#)

Record 1 out of 1

[◀ Previous Record](#)

[Next Record ▶](#)

Format	Text
Holdings	Location
Main Entry	● Rolt, L. T. C. (Lionel Thomas Caswall), 1910-1974
Title	● Thomas Telford / L. T. C. Rolt
Imprint	Longmans, Green, 1958
Physical desc.	211 p. : ill.
Subject: person	● Telford, Thomas, 1757-1834
Subject	● Roads - engineering and construction
	● Civil engineering
Record number	000071437
Holdings	Location

Here's what it looks like in our OPAC.

Search Results List Previous Searches Special Collections

Add to My e-Shelf | BOOKMARK | Save/Mail | M

Full View of Record

Choose format: [Standard format](#) [Compact format](#)

Record 1 out of 1

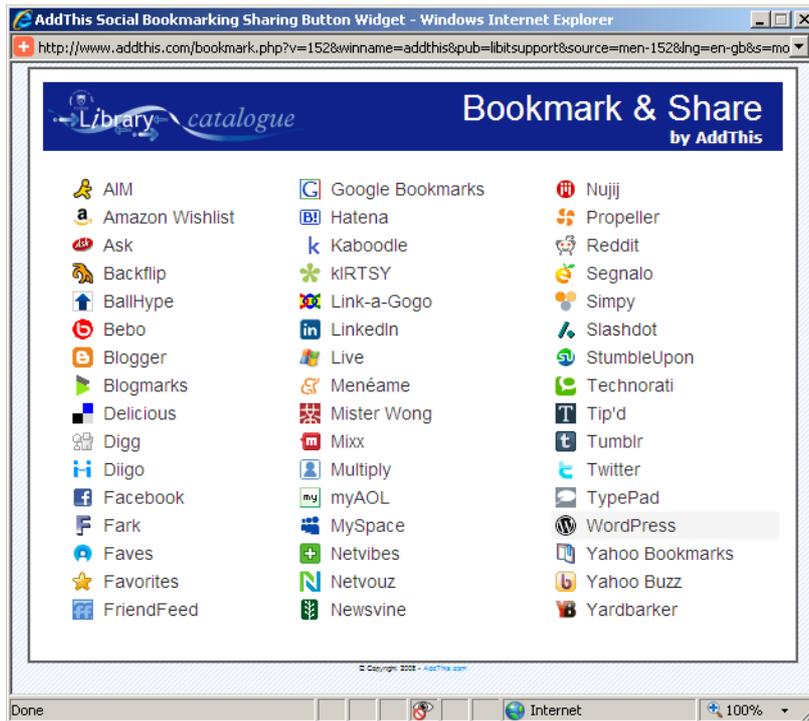
Format	Text
Holdings	Location
Main Entry	Rolt, L. T. C. (Lionel)
Title	Thomas Telford / L
Imprint	Longmans, Green, 19
Physical desc.	211 p. : ill.
Subject: person	Telford, Thomas, 1757-1834
Subject	Roads - engineering and construction Civil engineering
Record number	000071437
Holdings	Location

Bookmark & Share

-  Email
-  Print
-  Digg
-  MySpace
-  Facebook
-  Twitter
-  Favorites
-  Delicious
-  Google
-  Live
-  Technorati
-  More... (54)

[Get the AddThis Toolbar](#)  AddThis

Several different services are available on the pop-up menu.



Even more are available on the full menu. All of this is maintained by AddThis so we do not have to work out the API for each individual service.

Save a new bookmark

Now add tags and notes

URL Required

TITLE Required

NOTES

TAGS 1000 characters left
28 characters per tag

SEND Space separated

Mark as Private Save Cancel

Tags Send NEW!

Sort: Alpha | Frequency

You're one of the first to bookmark this page, so there are no recommended or popular tags yet.

Permanent URL based on doc_number

Here we are in Delicious, bookmarking one of our records.

Important note

Please note that the following slides show a method which is now out of date. Please instead refer to the improved method at

<http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/Aleph/AddThiss+bookmarking+from+Aleph+full+record>

full-set-head-*, direct-head-*****

(There may be several files to alter, e.g. full-set-head-bor, full-set-head-ill, etc.)

HTML to make AddThis button appear in the button bar:

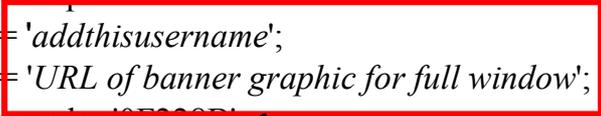
```
<td class="bar" align="center" nowrap>
  <a href="http://www.addthis.com/bookmark.php"
    onmouseover="return addthis_open(this, ', dunBookmark,
dunTitle)"
    onmouseout="addthis_close()"
    onclick="return addthis_sendto()">
    
  </a>
</td>
```

Note that these instructions have been superseded by the improved version at <http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/Aleph/AddThis+bookmarking+from+Aleph+full+record>

full-set-head-***, direct-head-***

Just above bottom line, above the <table> tag:

```
<!-- START: AddThis.com button -->
<script type="text/javascript">
  addthis_pub      = 'addthisusername';
  addthis_logo     = 'URL of banner graphic for full window';
  addthis_logo_background = '0F228B';
  addthis_logo_color  = 'FFFFFF';
  addthis_brand    = "";
</script>
<script type="text/javascript"
  src="http://s7.addthis.com/js/152/addthis_widget.js"></script>
```



Customize with your
username and graphics

continued on next slide...

Note that these instructions have been superseded by the improved version at
<http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/Aleph/AddThis+bookmarking+from+Aleph+full+record>

full-set-head-***

... continued:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
  var dunBookmark("&server_httpd");
  dunBookmark +=
    "/F/?func=direct&local_base=$0900&doc_number=$0600&dunsid=
addthis";
  dunTitle = "Title";
</script>
<!-- END: AddThis.com button -->
```

direct-head-***

Similar, but use

```
func=direct&local_base=$0300&doc_number=$0100
```

Note that these instructions have been superseded by the improved version at
<http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/Aleph/AddThis+bookmarking+from+Aleph+full+record>

full-set-head-***

... continued:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
  var dunBookmark("&server_httpd");
  dunBookmark +=
    "/F/?func=direct&local_base=$0900&doc_number=$0600&dunsid=
addthis";
  dunTitle = "Title";
</script>
<!-- END: AddThis.com
```

- Appears as the title of the web page in the bookmarking service.
- Hard to get the actual book title to appear.

direct-head-***

Similar, but use

```
func=direct&local_base=$0300&doc_number=$0100
```

Note that these instructions have been superseded by the improved version at <http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/Aleph/AddThis+bookmarking+from+Aleph+full+record>

The improved version obtains the title from the page and passes it on to the bookmarking service.

full-set-head-***

... continued:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
  var dunBookmark = "Dundee statistical ID" to allow us to
  track usage in the Apache server logs
  dunBookmark +=
    "/F/?func=direct&local_base=$0900&doc_number=$0600&dunsid=
addthis";
  dunTitle = "Title";
</script>
<!-- END: AddThis.com button -->
```

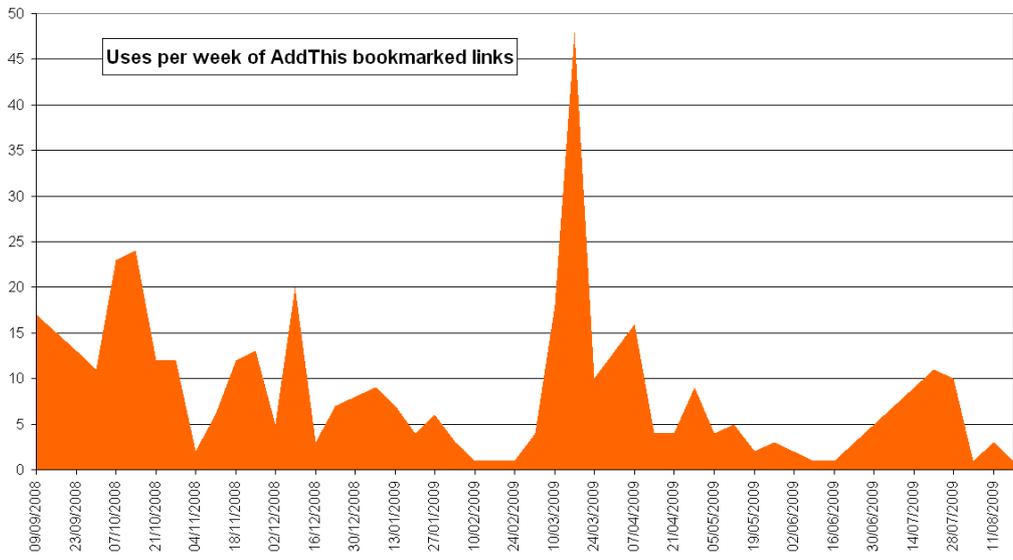
direct-head-***

Similar, but use

```
func=direct&local_base=$0300&doc_number=$0100
```

The “dunsid” parameter is ignored by Aleph but allows us to track usage of the facility via our Apache logs.

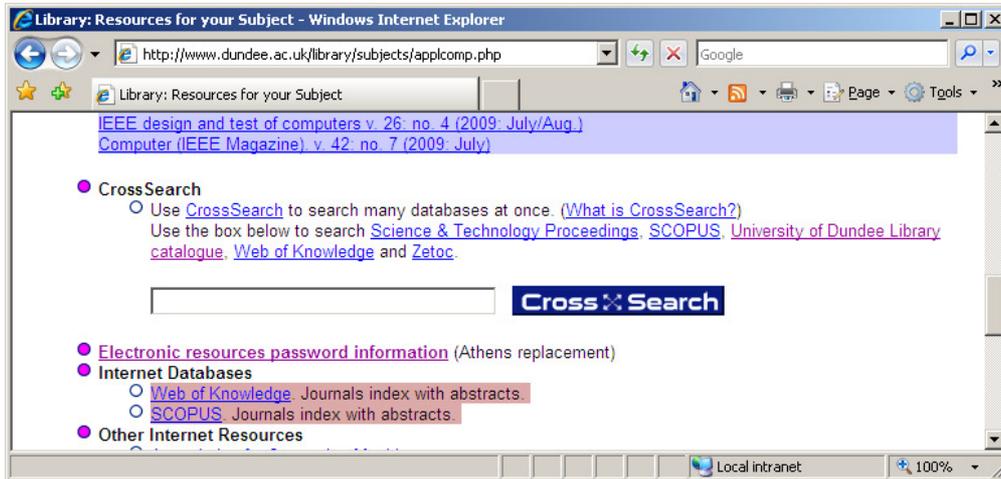
Note that these instructions have been superseded by the improved version at <http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/Aleph/AddThis+bookmarking+from+Aleph+full+record>



The usage of links bookmarked via this service at Dundee. Not really very well used. Sadly you cannot really predict which features are going to be popular until you have released them!

Embedding search boxes

- MetaLib deep linking guide



It is easy to embed search boxes for MetaLib in other web pages. Consult the Deep Linking Guide which forms part of the MetaLib documentation.

University of Dundee - Library

Text only

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Library

Opening hours, site library locations and services to all users

about your library

electronic resources

Databases, electronic reference works, e-books and e-journals

Library catalogue, e-books, e-journals and using other libraries

search your library

resources for your subject

High quality resources, subject gateways, subject librarian contacts

Guides and leaflets, study skills, internet tutorials and blackboard link

library guides & training

what's new?

New initiatives and projects, library projects

What's New

Search Catalogue

Accounting, Finance + Economics

Cross Search

A to Z Index The Learning Centre University Homepage

Comments or queries to: library@dundee.ac.uk. Last updated: Monday 11 August 2008, 10:36 am [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Valid XHTML 1.0](#)

We have added it to our Library home page (see the boxes at the bottom). We have an embedded box for the catalogue also.

Embedding search boxes

- Code for an Aleph search box:

```
<form method="get" action="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/">  
<input type="hidden" name="func" value="find-e" />  
<input type="hidden" name="adjacent" value="n" />  
<input type="text" name="request" value="" size="13" />  
<input type="hidden" name="find_scan_code" value="FIND_WRD" />  
<input type="hidden" name="dunsid" value="libweb" />  
<input type="submit" value="Search Catalogue" />  
</form>
```

This is all you need for an embedded catalogue search box.

Embedding search boxes

- Code for an Aleph search box:

```
<form method="get" action="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/">  
<input type="hidden" name="func" value="find-e" />  
<input type="hidden" name="adjacent" value="n" />  
<input type="text" name="request" value="" size="13" />  
<input type="hidden" name="find_scan_code" value="FIND_WRD" />  
<input type="hidden" name="dunsid" value="libweb" />  
<input type="submit" value="Search Catalogue" />  
</form>
```

We're using find-e: you
could use find-b

You may wish to change the search method here.

Embedding search boxes

- Code for an Aleph search box:

```
<form method="get" action="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/">  
<input type="hidden" name="func" value="find-e" />  
<input type="hidden" name="adjacent" value="n" />  
<input type="text" name="request" value="" size="13" />  
<input type="hidden" name="find_scan_code" value="FIND_WRD" />  
<input type="hidden" name="dunsid" value="libweb" />  
<input type="submit" value="Search Catalogue" />  
</form>
```

Defines which index to search.
Or you could have a <select>
drop-down menu of indexes.

If you use “find-b” the indexes are expressed differently.

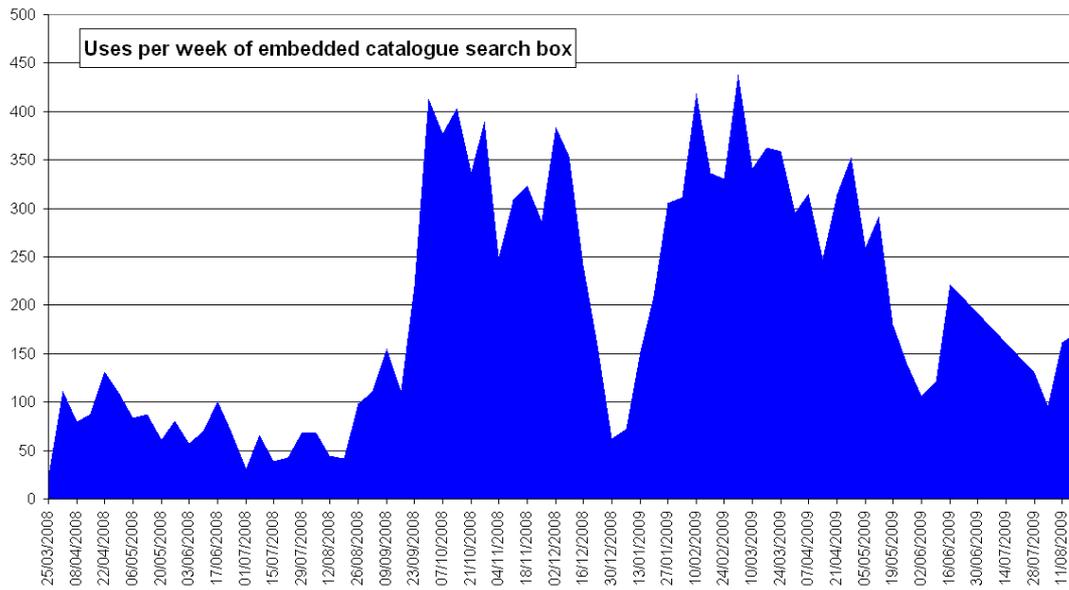
Embedding search boxes

- Code for an Aleph search box:

```
<form method="get" action="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/">  
<input type="hidden" name="func" value="find-e" />  
<input type="hidden" name="adjacent" value="n" />  
<input type="text" name="request" value="" size="13" />  
<input type="hidden" name="find_scan_code" value="FIND_WRD" />  
<input type="hidden" name="dunsid" value="libweb" />  
<input type="submit" value="Search Catalogue" />  
</form>
```

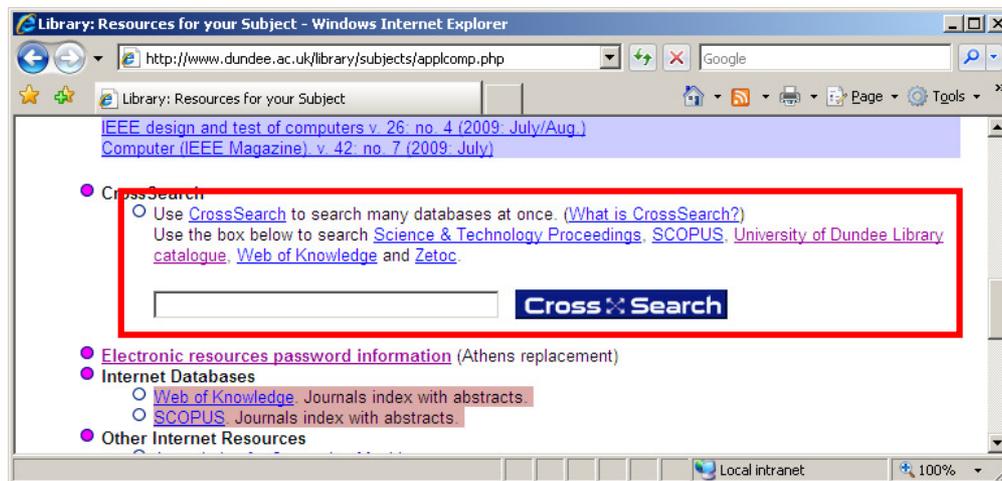
I use the “dunsid” hidden field to track usage of the feature via the Apache logs

Again, we use a “dunsid” parameter which Aleph ignores to track the usage of the feature via the Apache logs.



This is the usage of the embedded catalogue search box on our home page. It is very popular. Notice how the usage increased markedly at the start of the new academic year in September 2008. This is clearly because the habits of our new users are different. People who have been at the university longer take a while to change their habits and how they access the catalogue.

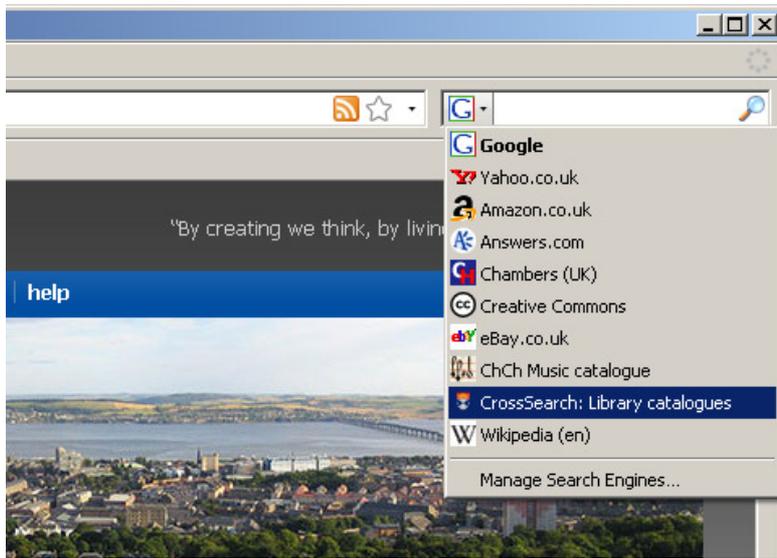
Embedding search boxes



You can export quickset details and links to resources from MetaLib and include in dynamic web pages to save maintenance effort.

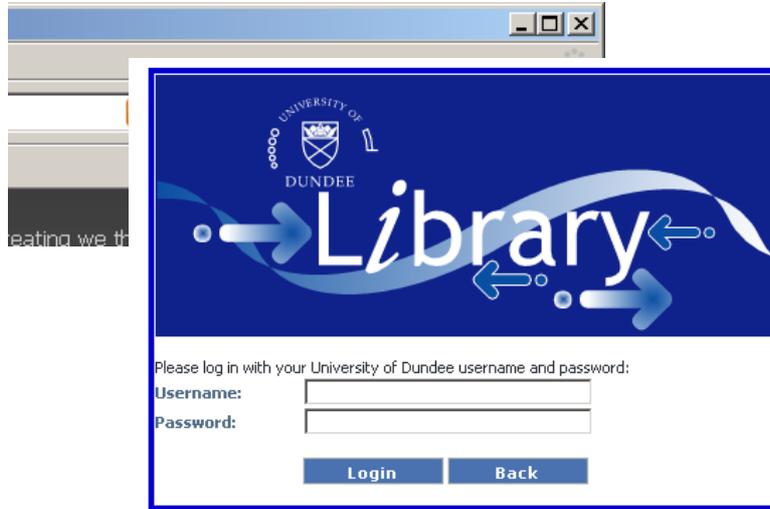
Although this might look like a straightforward embedded MetaLib search box, the page is written in PHP and pulls the quickset information (the names of the databases and the links to their native interfaces) direct from our MetaLib server on the fly. This is not an easy enhancement, but it saves a lot of work maintaining web pages.

Browser search plugins

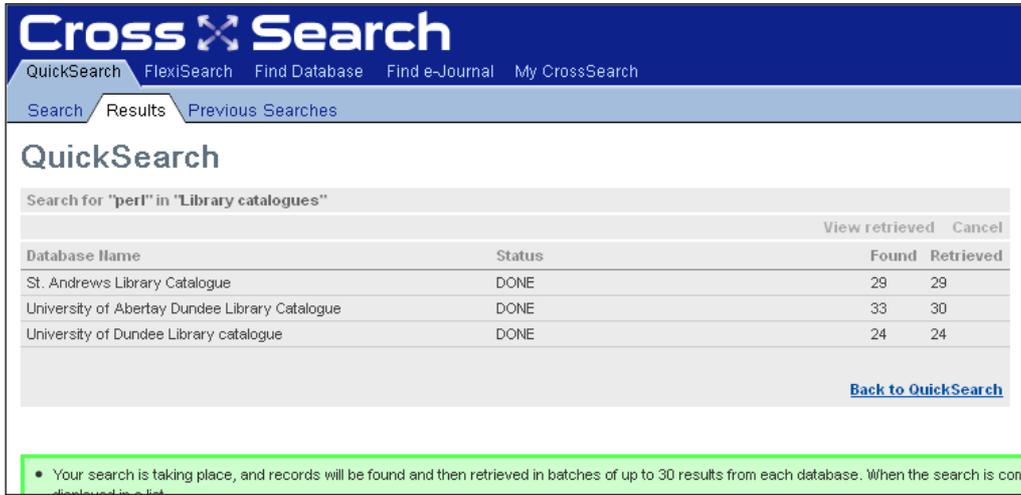


CrossSearch is our branding for MetaLib. Here is an example of a MetaLib quickest being available on the browser search menu.

Browser search plugins



Browser search plugins



The screenshot shows the Cross Search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: QuickSearch, FlexiSearch, Find Database, Find e-Journal, and My CrossSearch. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for Search, Results, and Previous Searches. The main content area is titled "QuickSearch" and displays the search query "Search for 'perl' in 'Library catalogues'". A table shows the search progress across three databases. The table has columns for Database Name, Status, Found, and Retrieved. The status for all databases is "DONE". The number of records found and retrieved are: St. Andrews Library Catalogue (29 found, 29 retrieved), University of Abertay Dundee Library Catalogue (33 found, 30 retrieved), and University of Dundee Library catalogue (24 found, 24 retrieved). A "View retrieved" link and a "Cancel" link are present at the top right of the table. A "Back to QuickSearch" link is located at the bottom right of the table. A green banner at the bottom of the page contains a message: "Your search is taking place, and records will be found and then retrieved in batches of up to 30 results from each database. When the search is complete, the results will be displayed in a list."

Cross Search

QuickSearch FlexiSearch Find Database Find e-Journal My CrossSearch

Search Results Previous Searches

QuickSearch

Search for "perl" in "Library catalogues"

View retrieved Cancel

Database Name	Status	Found	Retrieved
St. Andrews Library Catalogue	DONE	29	29
University of Abertay Dundee Library Catalogue	DONE	33	30
University of Dundee Library catalogue	DONE	24	24

[Back to QuickSearch](#)

• Your search is taking place, and records will be found and then retrieved in batches of up to 30 results from each database. When the search is complete, the results will be displayed in a list.

Browser search plugins

- First create XML describing service:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<OpenSearchDescription xmlns="http://a9.com/-
  /spec/opensearch/1.1/">
<ShortName>UoD Library catalogue</ShortName>
<LongName>University of Dundee Library catalogue</LongName>
<Description>Performs a keyword search on the University of Dundee
  Library catalogue</Description>
<InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
<Tags>university dundee library catalogue</Tags>
<Developer>IT Support, University Library, Dundee</Developer>
```

continued ...

To create a browser search plugin, you first need an XML file describing the search service. Here is the first half.

Browser search plugins

- First create XML describing service:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<OpenSearchDescription xmlns="http://a9.com/-
/spec/opensearch/1.1/">
<ShortName>UoD Library catalogue</ShortName>
<LongName>University of Dundee Library catalogue</LongName>
<Description>Performs a keyword search on the University of Dundee
Library catalogue</Description>
<InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
<Tags>universi
<Developer>IT
continued ...
```

Descriptive stuff for humans.
ShortName limited to 16 characters.

The first half of the description is just stuff for humans. Adjust as required for your search service.

Browser search plugins

... continued

```
<Url type="text/html"
  template="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/?func=find-
  e&adjacent=N&request={searchTerms}&find_s
  can_code=FIND_WRD&dunsid=IE7search"/>
<Image height="16" width="16" type="image/x-
  icon">http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/graphics/dundee-shield-
  16.ico</Image>
</OpenSearchDescription>
```

The second half of the file describes the service to the browser.

Browser search plugins

... continued

16 x 16 pixel icon for the service

```
<Url type="text/html"
  template="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/?func=find-
  e&adjacent=N&request={searchTerms}&find_s
  can_code=FINN_WRD&dunsid=IE7search"/>
<Image height="16" width="16" type="image/x-
  icon">http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/graphics/dundee-shield-
  16.ico</Image>
</OpenSearchDescription>
```

Browser search plugins

... continued

```
<Url type="text/html"
  template="http://library.dundee.ac.uk/F/?func=find-
  e&amp;adjacent=N&amp;request={searchTerms}&amp;find_s
  can_code=FINN WRD&amp;dunsid=IE7search"/>
```

```
<Image height="16" width="16" type="image/x-
  icon">http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/graphics/dundee-shield
```

- URL for performing the search
- Encode all ampersands (change & to &)
- {searchTerms} is a placeholder for the user's search terms
- For Aleph and MetaLib, strip out the session ID after /V/ or /F/
- We can track usage using our fake form element, "dunsid".

Browser search plugins

- Save your XML service definition on a web server
- Offering the search service to users via a web page:



You then need to make the XML file available on a web server, and provide links to the public to allow users to install it. Of course you may be able to persuade your computer services department to install it on all university PCs. This example is from one of our web pages: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/search/search-tools.php>

Browser search plugins

- Offering the search service to users via a web page:

```
<a href="#"  
onclick="window.external.AddSearchProvider('http://  
www.dundee.ac.uk/library/itsupport/ie7search.xml')"  
>  
Install Library catalogue search provider  
</a>
```

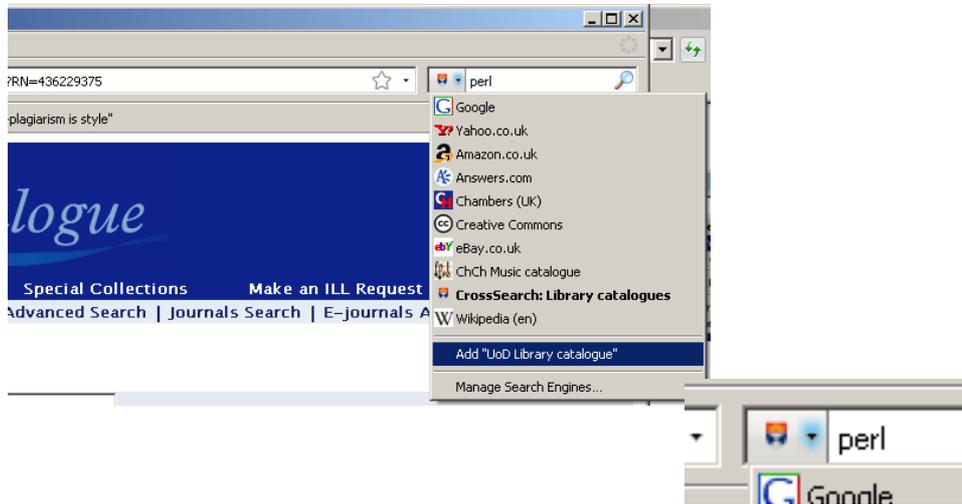


URL of the XML file describing your
service

You need a little JavaScript for the links which install the search plugin.

Browser search plugins

- Autodiscovery



It's also possible to make the browser aware of the search plugin when the user visits your catalogue. In this example the browser has detected that there is a search plugin for our library catalogue available.

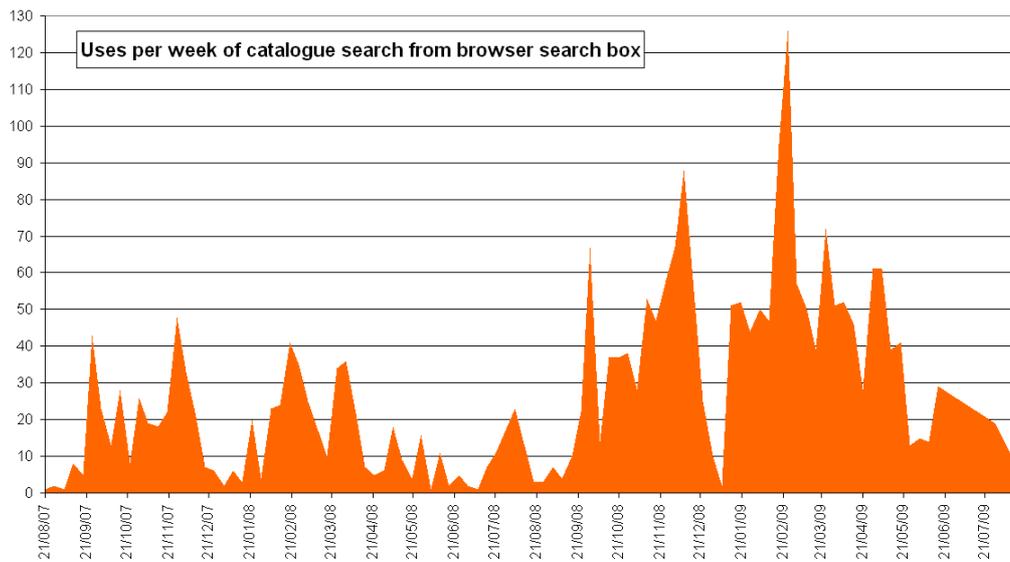
Browser search plugins

- Autodiscovery:

meta-tags:

```
<link
  title="UoD Library catalogue"
  rel="search"
  href="http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/itsupport/ie7se
  arch.xml"
  type="application/opensearchdescription+xml"
/>
```

All you have to do is add a special `<link>` tag to the `<head>` section of the page, for example by modifying your meta-tags file in the Aleph OPAC.



- Low take-up in 2007/8 academic year
- Greatly increased usage in 2008/9
- Does this reflect the habits of the new intake / user education?

Browser search plugins for MetaLib

- Just as easy to define manually as for Aleph
- Consult the Deep Linking Guide
- Scripts available on EL Commons so you can allow users to install plugins for their own quicksets

<http://www.exlibrisgroup.org/display/MetaLib/Search+provider+browser+plugins+for+MetaLib+quicksets>

Accounting, Finance + Economics
 Architecture + Interior design
 Art, Design + Media
 Art, Design + Media images
 Engineering + Physical Sciences
 Law
 Medicine + Dentistry
 Psychology

Accounting, Finance + Economics
 Architecture + Interior design
 Art, Design + Media
 Art, Design + Media images
 Engineering + Physical Sciences
 Law
 Medicine + Dentistry
 Psychology

• To search, select one group of resources
 • To see which resources are included in a QuickSet
 • QuickSets do not include all the resources
 • Use ? as a truncation character, e.g. South? will find Scotland, and Scottish.
 • You can add any of the above sets to your browser's search provider menu if you use Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox: [Install search providers](#) (requires Javascript).

[Turn Off Auto Refresh](#) | [Accessibility Statement and Disclaimer](#)

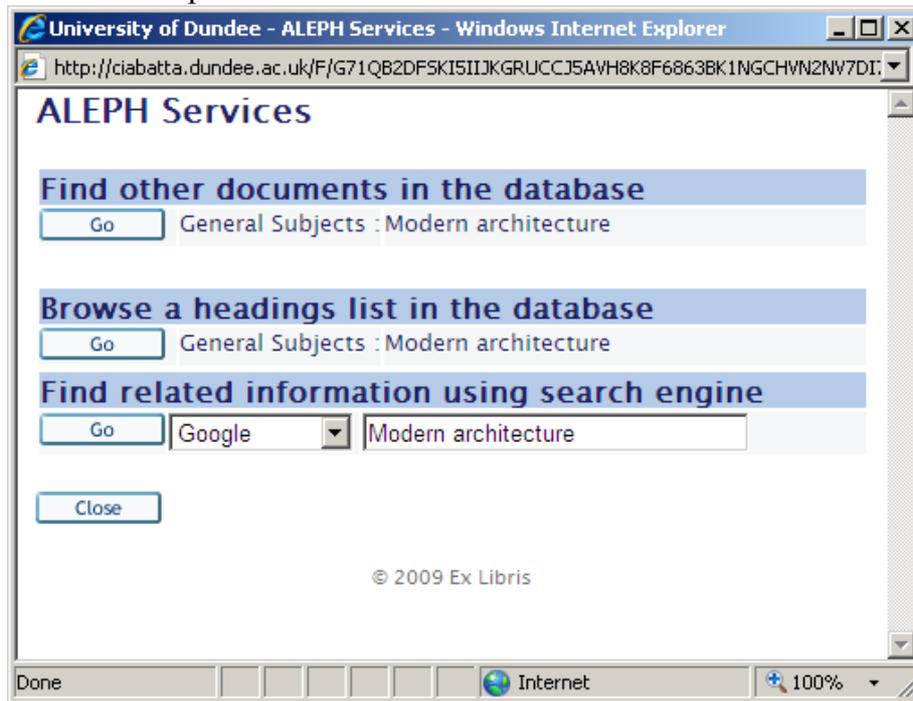
Local intranet 100%

Pushing searches from Aleph to MetaLib

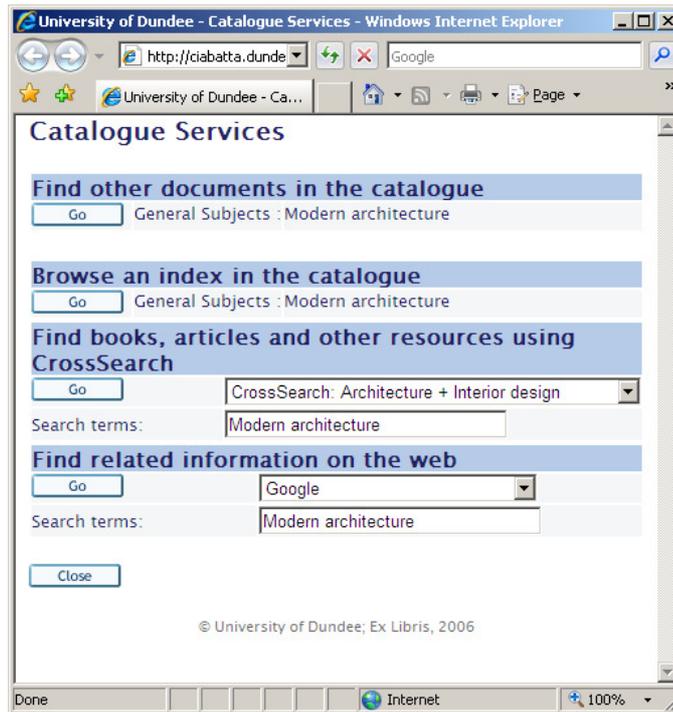


Here is an example of a link from a subject heading in the catalogue.

Standard Aleph services menu



The standard Aleph services menu will open, offering searching and browsing within Aleph, or searching via Google or other services.



Aleph services menu with MetaLib quicksets added

We have added our MetaLib quicksets to the screen.

Search for "Modern architecture" in "Architecture + Interior design"

[Searchin](#) [View retrieved](#) [Cancel](#)

Database Name	Status	Found	Retrieved
Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals(CSA)	SEARCHING		
SCOPUS	DONE	44603	30
Intute: Arts and Humanities	DONE	148	30
Design and Applied Arts (CSA)	SEARCHING		
Google Image Search	Search and link	522000	Jump
Art Museum Image Gallery (Wilson)	DONE	200	30
University of Dundee Library catalogue	DONE	1000	30

[Back to QuickSearch](#)

Here is the search being performed in MetaLib.

Pushing search terms to MetaLib

tab_z121:

GOOGLE [http://www.google.com/search?q=\\$0100&meta=lr%3D%26hl%3Den](http://www.google.com/search?q=$0100&meta=lr%3D%26hl%3Den)

QS000000271 [http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=\\$0100&group_number=000000271&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph](http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=$0100&group_number=000000271&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph)

QS000000456 [http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=\\$0100&group_number=000000456&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph](http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=$0100&group_number=000000456&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph)

Just add the quicksets to tab_z121 in Aleph, using the Deep Linking Guide to help you with the syntax.

We have given them rather cryptic names based on the quick set IDs in MetaLib, but you could give them meaningful names. We have used cryptic names because we have a script which automates the process, but that falls outside the scope of “easy OPAC enhancements”! If you don’t change your quicksets often you don’t really need a script.

Pushing search terms to MetaLib

tab_z121:

GOOGLE [http://www.google.com/search?q=\\$0100&meta=lr%3D%26hl%3Den](http://www.google.com/search?q=$0100&meta=lr%3D%26hl%3Den)

QS000000271 [http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=\\$0100&group_number=000000271&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph](http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=$0100&group_number=000000271&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph)

QS000000456 [http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=\\$0100&group_number=000000456&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph](http://cross-search.dundee.ac.uk/V/?func=quick-1-check1&mode=simple&find_request_1=$0100&group_number=000000456&force_login=Y&dunsid=aleph)

Placeholder for user's search terms

Pushing search terms to MetaLib

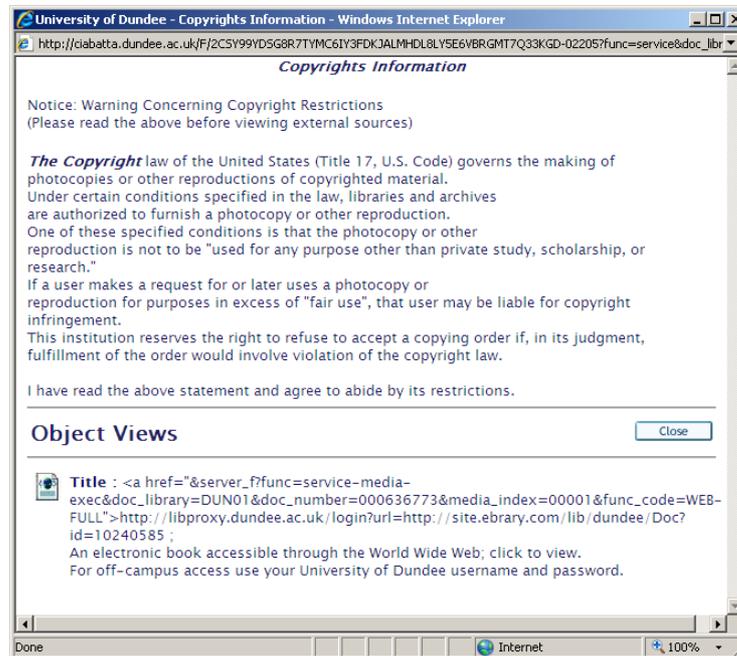
service-engine:

```
<td class=td1 id=bold width=17%>  
  <select name="engine">  
    <option value=google>Google</option>  
    <option value=QS000000271>MetaLib</option>  
  </select>  
</td>
```

Add quicksets to existing menu, or add a separate menu if you wish.

Then add them to service-engine.

External links simplified



This is what you get by default when following an external link in Aleph. Obviously in the UK we want to cut out the US copyright warning!

External links simplified

media-permission

- Can strip out most of the stuff from this file
- Still left with one more page than is really needed



- N.B. this page is possibly needed if you are using ADAM

External links simplified

```
<!-- filename: media-permission -->
<html>
<head>
<title>External link</title>
<script language="Javascript">
<!--
function goToLink() {
  // Get the placeholder into a string.
  // Fortunately it never contains single quotes.
  var s = '$0100';

  // Extract the part of the placeholder between
  // the first pair of double quotes. This happens
  // to be the destination URL.
  s = s.substring(s.indexOf('"')+1);
  s = s.substring(0,s.indexOf('"'));

```

continued...

Here is how we have altered media-permission to remove the unnecessary intermediate page. And it works for users without JavaScript too.

External links simplified

... continued:

```
// Move to this URL.
window.location.href = s;
}
-->
</script>
</head>
<body onload="javascript:goToLink()">
<noscript>$0100 Please click the icon to access the external
site.</noscript>
</body>
</html>
```

External links simplified

media-display-exec:

```
<!-- filename: media-display-exec-->
<html>
<head>
<title>&f-base - External Link</title>
<include>meta-tags
<meta http-equiv="REFRESH" content="0; URL=$0100">
</head>
<body onload=window.location="$0100">
</body>
</html>
```



To ensure it works for users without JavaScript, you should add the highlighted section to media-display-exec.

EndNote download fix

- Try downloading a batch of records in ISI ResearchSoft Tagged Output Format

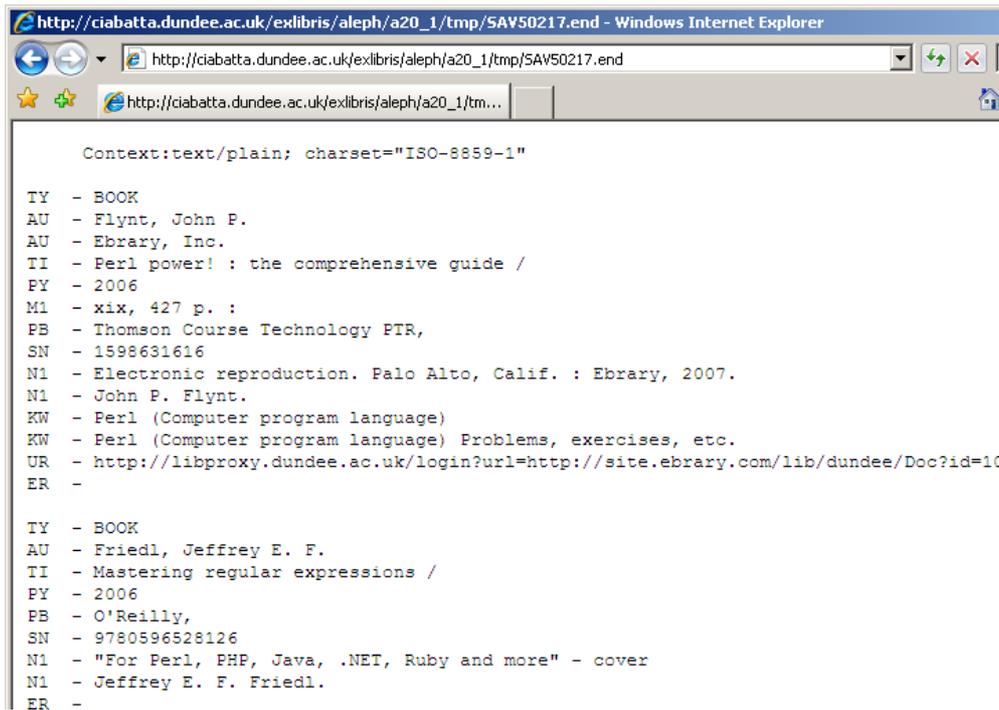
E-Mail or Save Selected Records

You have 2 options:

- Send the records by e-mail (by entering an e-mail address)
- Save the records locally on your PC (by leaving the e-mail address blank)

The records will be formatted according to your choice.

Records:	
<input type="radio"/> All	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Selected	
<input type="radio"/> Range	<input type="text"/>
<hr/>	
Record format	
Select predefined format:	<input type="text" value="ISI ResearchSoft Tagged Output Format (for EndNote)"/>



The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar contains the URL `http://ciabatta.dundee.ac.uk/exlibris/aleph/a20_1/tmp/5AV50217.end`. The main content area displays the following text:

```
Context:text/plain; charset="ISO-8859-1"

TY - BOOK
AU - Flynt, John P.
AU - Ebrary, Inc.
TI - Perl power! : the comprehensive guide /
PY - 2006
M1 - xix, 427 p. :
PB - Thomson Course Technology PTR,
SN - 1598631616
N1 - Electronic reproduction. Palo Alto, Calif. : Ebrary, 2007.
N1 - John P. Flynt.
KW - Perl (Computer program language)
KW - Perl (Computer program language) Problems, exercises, etc.
UR - http://libproxy.dundee.ac.uk/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/dundee/Doc?id=10
ER -

TY - BOOK
AU - Friedl, Jeffrey E. F.
TI - Mastering regular expressions /
PY - 2006
PB - O'Reilly,
SN - 9780596528126
N1 - "For Perl, PHP, Java, .NET, Ruby and more" - cover
N1 - Jeffrey E. F. Friedl.
ER -
```

Unfortunately the user will get a text file appearing in the browser!

EndNote download fix

- Add to `$httpd_root/conf/mime.types` :
`application/x-research-info-systems end`
- Alter `$httpd_root/conf/httpd.conf` :

```
# Added "end" for EndNote files; MEP 8/06/2009
<Files ~ "\.(gif|jpe?g|png|css|sav|end)$">
    Header unset Cache-Control
    Header unset Expires
    Header unset Pragma
</Files>
```

It is easily fixed by altering the Apache configuration.



Once that is done you get the file downloading direct into EndNote, as it ought to.

EndNote 9 - Kirsty.enl

File Edit References Tools Window Help

Plain Font Plain Size B I U P A¹ A₁ Σ

Author	Year	Title	URL
Brown	2001	Perl : the complete reference	http://libproxy.dunde...
Hanegan	2001	Custom CGI scripting with Perl	http://libproxy.dunde...
Holzner	2001	Perl black book	http://libproxy.dunde...
Lee	2001	Malcolm X	
Conway	2000	Object oriented Perl : [a comprehensive guide to ...	
Sebesta	2000	A little book on Perl	
Wall	2000	Programming Perl	
Perl	1999	Louisa Matthiasdottir	
Schilli	1999	Perl power! A jumpstart guide to programming in...	
Quigley	1998	Perl by example	
Deep	1996	Developing CGI applications with Perl	
Till	1996	Teach yourself PERL 5 in twenty-one days	
Vromans	1996	Perl 5 desktop reference	

No References Selected

Showing 24 out of 94 references. Hide Preview

Questions?

Ideas?

OPAC scripting enhancement

- IGeLU enhancement request no. 1764 –
Server-side scripting support for OPAC
- Not for easy OPAC enhancements ...
- ... but makes the hard things possible
- Please vote!

Record 18 out of 480

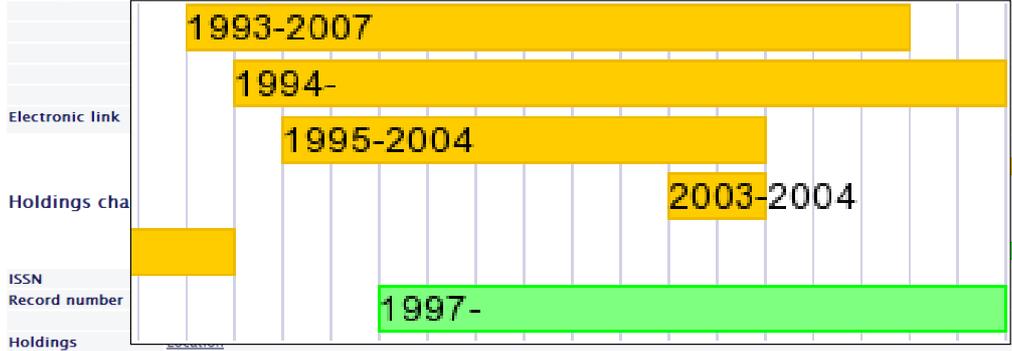
[Previous Record](#) [Next Rec](#)

Format	Periodical Electronic resource Text														
Holdings	Location														
Main Entry	Great Britain. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys														
Title	Population Trends.														
Imprint	Stationery Office.														
General note	Main Library copies Not for loan														
Subject	Population statistics Social Sciences General Journal collection – School of Nursing and Midwifery Registrar-General's Quarterly Return for England and Wales														
Continues															
Holdings summary	SNM (Kirkcaldy) Library, Reference, Statistics 613. 71(1993)-129(2007) Main Library, Periodicals, 613 POP. no.75(1994)- Ninewells Library, Periodicals. 1995-2004 SNM (Perth) Library, Periodicals. 2003-2004 Remote Store 2, Periodicals, 613 POP. no.1(1975)-74(1993) Electronic Resource. no.90(1997:Winter)-														
Electronic link	 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=6303 ;														
Holdings chart	 <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Location</th><th>Years</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>SNM (Kirkcaldy) Library, Reference</td><td>1993-2007</td></tr><tr><td>Main Library</td><td>1994-</td></tr><tr><td>Ninewells Library</td><td>1995-2004</td></tr><tr><td>SNM (Perth) Library</td><td>2003-2004</td></tr><tr><td>Remote Store 2</td><td>1975-1993</td></tr><tr><td>Electronic Resource</td><td>1997-</td></tr></tbody></table>	Location	Years	SNM (Kirkcaldy) Library, Reference	1993-2007	Main Library	1994-	Ninewells Library	1995-2004	SNM (Perth) Library	2003-2004	Remote Store 2	1975-1993	Electronic Resource	1997-
Location	Years														
SNM (Kirkcaldy) Library, Reference	1993-2007														
Main Library	1994-														
Ninewells Library	1995-2004														
SNM (Perth) Library	2003-2004														
Remote Store 2	1975-1993														
Electronic Resource	1997-														
ISSN	0307-4463														
Record number	000026041														
Holdings	Location														

Here is an example of a **difficult** OPAC enhancement! See it live for our periodical holdings at <http://library.dundee.ac.uk/>

Format	Periodical Electronic resource Text
Holdings	Location
Main Entry	● Great Britain. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
Title	● Population Trends.
Imprint	Stationery Office.
General note	Main Library copies Not for loan
Subject	● Population statistics ● Social Sciences General ● Journal collection - School of Nursing and Midwifery
Continues	● Registrar-General's Quarterly Return for England and Wales

Holdings summary SNM (Kirkcaldy) Library, Reference, Statistics 613. 71(1993)-129(2007)



Holdings