

Running head: UC MERCED AND CSU STANISLAUS
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The UC Merced Library OPAC and CSU Stanislaus Library OPAC:

An Evaluation and Comparison

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Introduction

Although University of California Merced (UC Merced) and California State University Stanislaus (CSU Stanislaus) are in different California state university systems, evaluating each university's library catalog (or OPAC) has merit for several reasons. First, the universities are housed in adjoining counties in California's Central Valley, approximately 30 to 40 minutes from each other. Second, they are the only two state universities between Fresno and Sacramento, which is a considerable distance. Only one other university, a private institution in Stockton, and three community colleges are located within the tri-county region made up of Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties. Third, although the emphasis of the universities and student population size are different, it is interesting to note that both institutions' student bodies reflect the relatively large populations of Hispanics and Caucasians in the Central Valley region. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's *State and County QuickFacts* for Stanislaus County, 49.6 percent of the population is made up of "White persons not Hispanic" and "Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin" make up 39.6 percent of the population (2008). Merced County's population is 52.9 percent "Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin" and 34.9 percent "White persons not Hispanic" ("State and County QuickFacts: Merced County," 2008). Many of the students are also locals to the area. As such, this makes UC Merced and CSU Stanislaus competitors. Since there are not many other options for seeking out academic books in the region, their collections and library catalogs are particularly important for their students' research needs. A catalog that is difficult to use may place a burden on students who do not have access to many academic libraries.

CSU Stanislaus

According to CSU Stanislaus' website, the campus is located on a 228-acre lot in Turlock, California ("At a Glance," 2010). Its permanent location was opened for study in 1965

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("At a Glance," 2010). The University currently "offers over 100 majors, minors, concentrations and teaching credentials, 24 master's degree programs and six graduate certificate programs as well as an Executive MBA and a doctoral degree program in Education Leadership" ("Quick Facts," 2009). Some of the most popular undergraduate programs include Business Administration, Liberal Studies, Nursing, Biology, Psychology, and Criminal Justice. Although Nursing and Biology are top programs, the University is more characterized as a liberal arts rather than a hard science institution. Its most popular graduate programs include Education, Social Work, Business Administration, Public Administration, Psychology, and English ("Quick Facts," 2009).

According to figures from the Fall 2009 term, "the diverse student body includes many first generation college students and working parents. The student body of 8,586 includes 7,086 undergraduate students and 1,500 graduate students" ("Quick Facts," 2009). The University also reflects the racial diversity of the area, as nearly 39 percent of students are White and almost 31 percent are Hispanic or Latino. CSU Stanislaus' student body is 70% female ("Quick Facts," 2009).

CSU Stanislaus' Library

The CSU Stanislaus Library is located on the second and third floors of the Vasche Library building. The first floor of the building is devoted to a computer lab, the library administration office, various department offices, and tutoring facilities. According to the Library's *Collections* webpage, the CSU Stanislaus Library offers two floors worth of open stacks (n.d.). The Library subscribes to 600 print journals, and it "also houses older issues of an additional 1500 titles in print and/or microfilm" ("Collections," n.d.). The Library "provide[s] access to over 30,000 periodicals online, including 12,000 titles (mostly peer-reviewed journals) from scholarly collections, as well as an additional 20,000+ magazines, newspapers, newsletters,

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and other non-scholarly periodical titles” (Ibid). Print reference materials are also available, but many article and research indexes are online (Ibid).

Because the University has a large teacher education program, the Library "has a representative collection of literature written for children, primarily preschool to Grade 6" (Ibid). This collection is included in the Library OPAC but is housed separately from the rest of the collection and is classified under the Dewey Decimal Classification system (Ibid). The rest of the collection follows the Library of Congress Classification system.

The Library also has a few meeting rooms, a reading room, and several study nooks in various parts of the Library, ensuring that quiet study areas are available. Designated quiet study areas are for individual use and are mapped out on the library floor plan. Areas for group study include two rooms on the "south side of the 2nd floor Book Stacks," three rooms on the "west side of the 2nd floor Book Stacks," and the Galloway Room ("Study Space," 2009).

Students at CSU Stanislaus have access to a computer lab on the ground floor of the library building as well as another lab in the Library itself on the second floor. According to the *Library Computer Facilities* webpage,

The Library offers a combination of multi-function computers that include productivity software (i.e., word processing, spreadsheet and PowerPoint software) and research computers that enable access to databases and the Internet but do not include productivity software... Stand-alone terminals are also available in the Library catalog area and on the third floor and provide access to the Library Catalog. (2008)

Wireless computer access is also available in some parts of the Library; "[c]onfiguration information is available at the Reference Desk" (Ibid). Interestingly, in early May 2010, the University Library announced its own e-reader pilot program; students can check out an Amazon Kindle, SONY Daily Edition, or Barnes and Noble Nook (E-book Reader Pilot Project, 2010).

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Since many of the students do not come from academic backgrounds and/or also work and have children, it is crucial that the library catalog is easy to use in order to encourage scholarship and research. Not every student receives training in how to use CSU Stanislaus' library resources. According to the Library's *Research Skills Instruction* webpage, a library instruction session can be requested by instructors, but only two courses are offered in library research skills (2008). These courses are primarily aimed at Social Sciences and History majors—although this section is open to others—and Honors Program students (Ibid).

UC Merced

UC Merced is located in Merced, California, one hour north of Fresno and two hours south of Sacramento ("About UC Merced," 2010). The campus was opened in 2005, with a School of Engineering, School of Natural Sciences, and a School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts. UC Merced, however, is still in its growing stages; the University plans to open a School of Management and School of Medicine in the future (Ibid).

According to statistics from the Fall 2009 term, there are 3,190 undergraduate students and 224 graduate students. 34.7 percent of students are in majors under the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts field, 32.7 percent are in the School of Natural Sciences, and 17.9 percent are engineering students ("Fast Facts," 2009) <http://www.ucmerced.edu/fastfacts/>. Although Social Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts is the most popular school, it should be noted that this school has ten majors, while the other two schools each have five science-based majors. Combined, the natural science and engineering majors account for 50.6 percent of the student population. While CSU Stanislaus is described as a liberal arts college with some popular science programs, like Nursing, both schools cater to the same geographic locale. At UC Merced, 31 percent of the students are Hispanic, 22.7 percent are White, and a statistically significant 31.3 percent are Asian. (According to the U.S. Census Bureau's *State and County*

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QuickFacts, both Merced and Stanislaus's Asian population is between 5 to 6 percent [2008]).

CSU Stanislaus draws a much smaller percent of Asian students, at 10.2 percent

("QuickFacts,"2009), but the Central Valley is characterized as largely White and Hispanic, and the schools reflect these demographics. In contrast to CSU Stanislaus and higher education in general, "Merced is one of the few college campuses where more men are enrolled as students than women" ("Fast Facts," 2009). Men account for 51.7 percent of the student body, and women comprise 47.9 percent of the student body (Ibid).

UC Merced Library

UC Merced's library, located in the Leo and Dottie Kolligian Library building, in terms of space, is vastly different from CSU Stanislaus' library, but UC Merced has the benefit of being built in the 21st Century (the building itself was built "green.") While UC Merced's library is much bigger in size—180,000 square feet on four floors—it is how the space is used that is more unique. According to *The Story of the Library* (2009) webpage, the first floor is more like a student lounge. The print collection is not as large as many resources are digital, so much of the other three floors are devoted to study areas or study group rooms. The second floor looks "more like a traditional library." There is a service desk, "bookstacks, traditional library tables, clusters of soft seating, and group study rooms...[t]he third and fourth floors...are very similar to the second floor, though the floors tend to be quieter the higher up you go" (Ibid). According to the *Library Facts* (2009) webpage, there are 24 group meeting rooms. The McFadden-Willis Reading Room, located on the fourth floor, is used as dedicated study space, and the Gonella Discovery Room, located on the second floor, is used for library instruction.

The UC Merced Library also does not have desktop computers. Students either use their own laptops or check out laptops from the Library. The Library does, however, have eight "public workstations that visitors can use to access library information online," and there are

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three self-check out stations ("Library Facts," 2009). *The Story of the Library* (2009) webpage reads, "We see the physical library of the Twenty-First Century as a space that must be flexible enough to serve a variety of emerging, somewhat unpredictable needs and believe that the Kolligian Library building is just such a space."

To list just a few of the resources UC Merced provides to its students, faculty, and staff, there are 85,000 print books; 31,000 electronic full text periodicals; 616,000 e-books; and 300 databases. The University also has access to the other nine University of California campus collections, 36,000,000 print books and 1,675,000 digitized print books ("The Story of the Library," 2009). Besides providing these resources, the instructional and research-assistance services provided by the Library are also important:

From the opening of campus in Fall 2005 through the end of 2008, UC Merced librarians taught 304 class or group sessions that involved the participation of 7,111 members of the UC Merced community, primarily students. UC Merced librarians frequently provide individual research assistance to students, faculty, and staff via email, Web pages, text messaging, chat services, and face-to-face consultations. In 2009 the Library began offering 24-7 reference assistance through its participation in a nationwide web-chat-based reference service. While the Library's ultimate aim is to make access to its information resources so intuitive that no instruction or assistance is necessary, until that time the Library will provide accessible human instructors and guides to help our users negotiate the vast universe of information resources. (*The Story of the Library*, 2009)

To access these resources, students and faculty can look at either the UC Merced catalog or the UC union catalog.

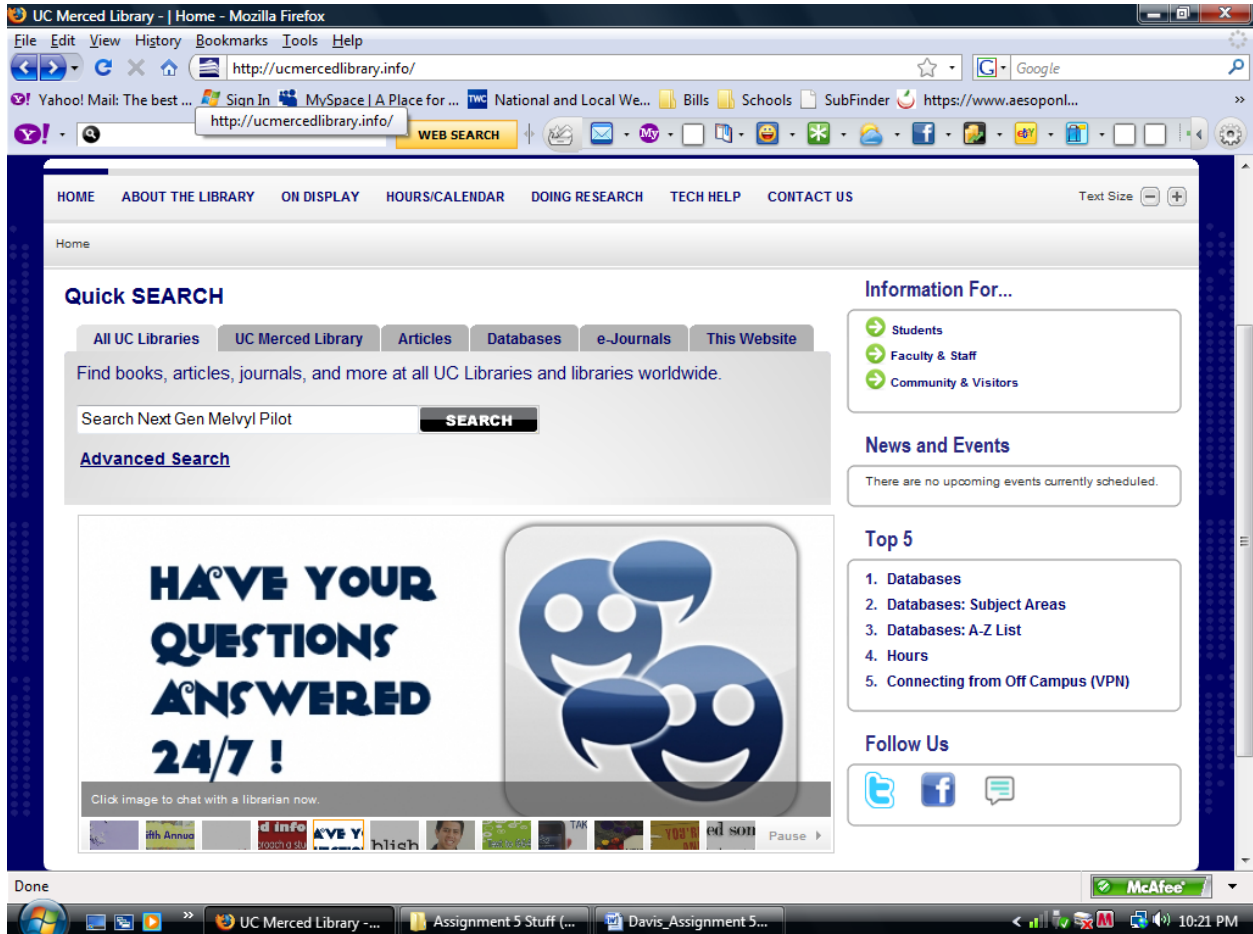
OPAC Descriptions

UC Merced's Library Homepage

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The UC Merced Library homepage (see the screenshot on the next page) has a series of horizontal links on the top of the webpage regarding library hours and the calendar, history, current displays, technical support, and contact information. The default quick search is set at the tab for the "All UC Libraries" catalog. The next tab is that pertaining to the "UC Merced Library" collection, followed by tabs for "Articles," "Databases," "e-Journals," and "This Website." Some users may not at first notice that the default is set at "All UCs," which features the Next Generation Melvyl catalog, but it is possible to set limits just for UC Merced. The UC Merced Library tab is the current Melvyl version. A user may not know quite where to go at first.



Background on UC Merced's Catalogs

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As previously stated, UC Merced students and faculty can access both the UC Merced catalog and the UC union catalog. "As part of the University of California, UC Merced Library shares resources with other campuses and has developed much of its electronic collection in conjunction with the California Digital Library (CDL)" ("Library Facts," 2009). According to the CDL website:

The CDL was founded by the University of California in 1997 to take advantage of emerging technologies that were transforming the way digital information was being published and accessed. Since then, in collaboration with the UC libraries and other partners, we assembled one of the world's largest digital research libraries and changed the ways that faculty, students, and researchers discover and access information. ("About CDL," 2010)

Jim Dooley, the Head of Collection Services at UC Merced, writes:

The UC Merced catalog runs on the Innovative Interfaces Millennium platform. We have implemented the cataloging, acquisitions and circ modules. We haven't implemented serials because we don't have print serials and we haven't implemented electronic resources management because we have so few locally licensed electronic resources.

The current UC union catalog (Melvyl) runs on the Ex Libris Aleph platform. The pilot Next Generation Melvyl runs on the OCLC WorldCat Local platform. All of our bib records are in our catalog as well as in both versions of Melvyl, but the OPACs are different systems. We may retire our local OPAC and only use Next Gen Melvyl when that goes into production. (personal email correspondence, May 7, 2010)

Dooley notes that the catalog uses MARC records, but I noticed that finding the MARC record in the Next Generation Melvyl version of the catalog is not clear. However, the screenshot on the

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next page shows the MARC record for *Little women; little men; Jo's boys* by Louisa May Alcott

in the current UC Merced Melvyl catalog.

UC Merced /View Coll. - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://ucm1200-aslib.ucmerced.edu/search-S1?Xt:(Little Women, Little men)&searchscope=1&Da=&Db

UCM Catalog | Doing Research

Home > Library Catalog

Regular Display New Search More Like This (Search History)

```

LEADER 00000pam 2200361 a 4500
001 55877571
003 DLC
005 20050411140424.0
008 040629#2005 nyu 000 1 eng
010 2004048828
020 1931082731 (alk. paper)
040 DLC|cDLC|dDLC
043 n-usn--
050 10 PS1016|b2005
082 00 813/.4|222
100 1 Alcott, Louisa May, |d1832-1888.
240 10 Novels.|kSelections
245 10 Little women ; little men ; Jo's boys /|cLouisa May
Alcott.
260 New York :|bLibrary of America :|bDistributed to the trade
in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam, |cc2005.
300 1092 p. ;|c21 cm.
440 4 The Library of America ;|v157
650 0 March family (Fictitious characters)|vFiction.
650 0 Autobiographical fiction, American.
650 0 Boarding schools|vFiction.
650 0 Domestic fiction, American.
651 0 New England|xSocial life and customs|vFiction.
651 0 New England|vFiction.
740 02 Little women.
740 02 Little men.
740 02 Jo's boys.

```

Location	Call No.	Status
Done		McAfee

Assignment 5 Stuff (...)

UC Merced /View C...

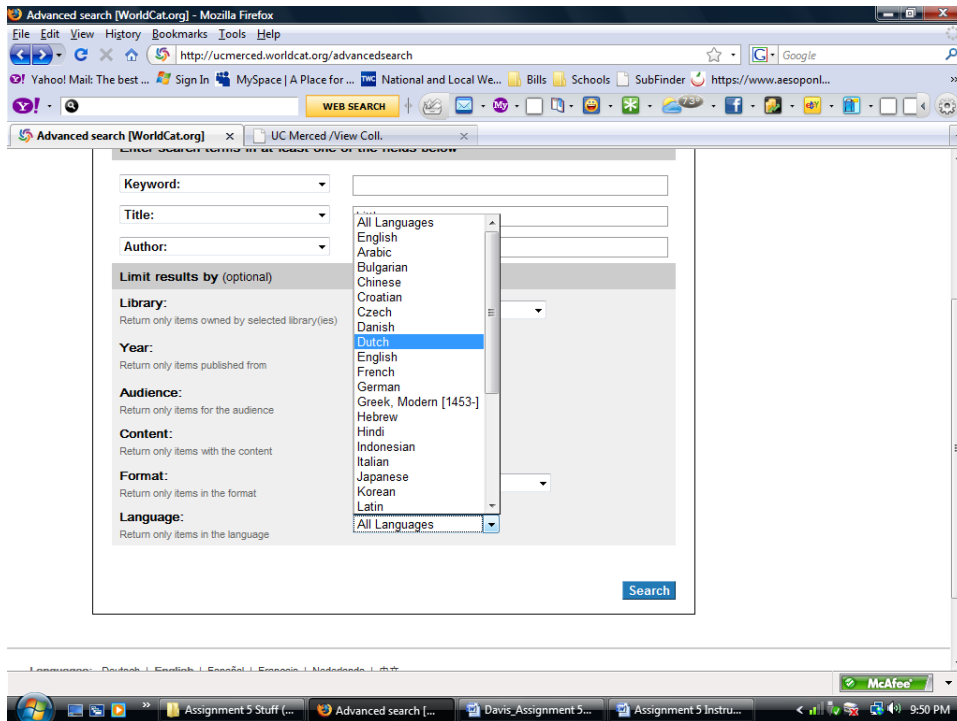
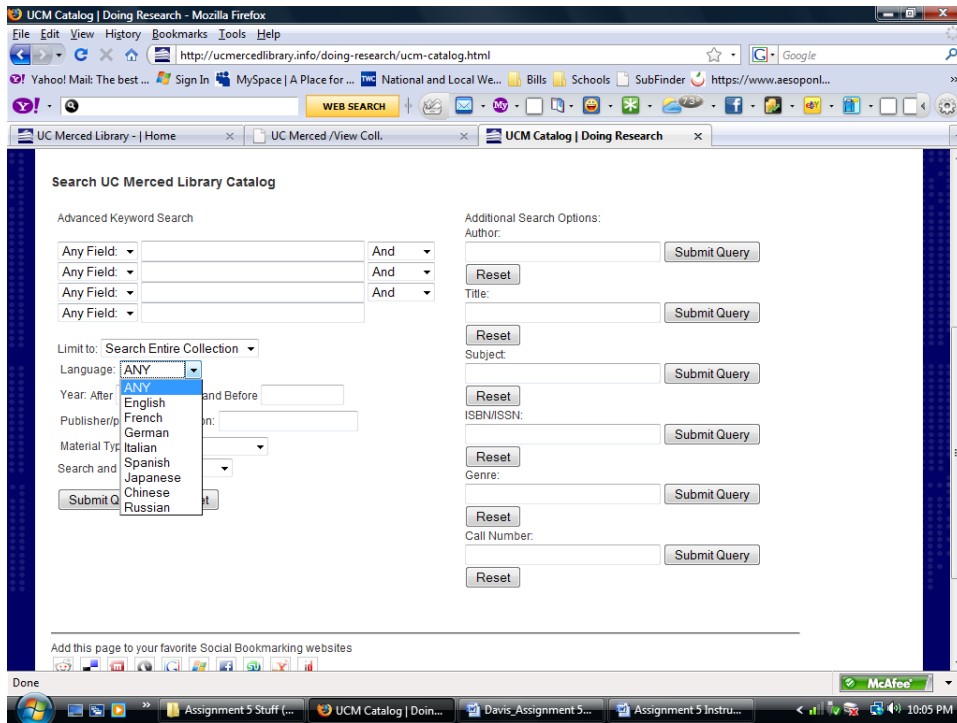
Davis_Assignment 5...

Assignment 5 Instru...

9:38 PM

Both the current UC Merced Melvyl catalog and the Next Generation Melvyl catalog display non-Roman characters (J. Dooley, personal email communication, May 7, 2010). There are many languages to set limits for, but the Next Generation offers significantly more, as the screenshots on the next page suggest.

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An interesting feature of the Next Generation Melvyl catalog is that "book records [are] enriched with searchable tables of contents" (personal email correspondence, May 7, 2010). The following screenshot is the table of contents for *Little women; little men; Jo's boys* by Louisa May Alcott.

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The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the WorldCat record for the book "Little women ; Little men ; Jo's boys". The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/title/little-women-little-men-jos-boys/oclc/55877571/viewport>. The browser's search bar contains the text "WEB SEARCH". The browser's tabs show "Preview of Little women ; Little ..." and "UC Merced /View Coll.". The browser's status bar shows "Done" and "McAfee".

The WorldCat record page displays the following information:

- Title:** Little women ; Little men ; Jo's boys
- Type:** Book; English
- Publisher:** New York, N.Y. : Library of America : Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam, ©2005.

The record also includes a **Contents** section with the following entries:

Item	Page Number
Little Women; or Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy	1
Little Women; or Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, Part Second	247
Little Men: Life at Plumfield with Jo's Boys	519
Jo's Boys, and How They Turned Out	801
Chronology	1067
Note on the Texts	1078
Notes	1081

Dooley also writes, "Remote access to all electronic resources including the catalog is available to UC Merced students, faculty and staff through a Virtual Private Network (we don't use a proxy server)" [personal email communication, May 7, 2010]. The Library also has a disabled students' policy. According to the *Services for Persons with Disabilities* webpage (n.d.),

The UC Merced Library is committed to providing access to library materials, programs and services for all users. All staff working in public service areas of the Library will make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests from library users with disabilities. If your disability is invisible, please identify yourself as having a disability when you seek assistance.

There is "[a] wheelchair accessible public workstation...available on the second floor of the

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library near the services desk" ("Services for Persons with Disabilities," n.d.). Upon request, the staff will help students look for information in the catalog and assist in retrieving items. "Print items from our library collection can be digitized for students with documented disabilities" (Ibid).

While a user survey of the Library was conducted in March 2009, it was not specific to the Integrated Library System (ILS). However, according to the *Assessing Library Services, Resources, and Space* webpage (n.d.), one of the findings was, "Though we are providing an excellent collection, some students commented on the difficulty of finding information." The Library acted by "... [tagging] recommended databases with a star icon in an effort to explicitly highlight some of the databases that may be of most interest to our library users and have included links to subsets of some databases" ("Assessing Library Services, Resources, and Space," n.d.) The Library also

...included links to subsets of databases based on assignment requirements. These subset options limit a search to a specific number of resources within a database and can direct students to a group of acceptable resources for a specific course or assignment. (Ibid)

UC Merced's Current Catalog Evaluation

The advanced search catalog interface, shown on the next page, offers keyword search options in a pull-down menu for author keyword, title keyword, subject keyword, and note keyword that can be used in conjunction with a pull-down menu for Boolean operators (AND, AND NOT, OR). The default interface is set at using the operator "AND," searching the entire collection, in any language, and in any material type. There is an option to limit searches to "Online Resources Only." One can also search by publisher and publication place, and there are limits to set a date or date range. Next to the year field is a query box for "after" a specific year and "before" a specific year. For example, one could set a search for "after" 2001, but "before"

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2008. One could also search for "after" 2000 or simply anything "before" 1900. However, it would be much easier and clearer to be able to set a date range, such as searching for items published from "2001" to "2008." The current format is somewhat awkward.

Search UC Merced Library Catalog

Advanced Keyword Search

Any Field: And

Any Field: And

Any Field: And

Any Field: And

Limit to:

Language:

Year: After and Before

Publisher/place of publication:

Material Type:

Search and Sort:

Additional Search Options:

Author:

Title:

Subject:

ISBN/ISSN:

Genre:

Call Number:

My Accounts

[Melvyl@University of California](#)

[Melvyl@UC Merced](#)

There are also options for searching author, title, subject, ISBN/ISSN, genre, and call number, which is useful for students looking up specific sources. While these options are not labeled as "exact" searches, these additional options operate as author exact, title exact, and subject exact searches. The catalog set up in this way offers both an opportunity for high recall as well as high precision depending on what and how a user is searching. Either many sources can be listed from a more basic search using a keyword, or a specific title can be brought up by using the title exact option. Although the left side is labeled "Advanced Keyword Search," a flaw in the

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way the catalog is designed is that it might not be clear to the user that the right side refers to

"exact" searches as it is only marked "Additional Search Options."

Another feature that is helpful is that a thesaurus is provided when a non-preferred term is entered into the subject exact field under the "Additional Search Options" choices. For example, when "native americans" (in lowercase) is entered into the subject search, the term "Indians of North America" is suggested both in text as well as hypertext, which allows one to quickly go to results rather than go back to enter in the preferred term (see the following two screenshots; the second one is on the next page).

The screenshot displays the UC Merced Library Catalog search interface. The browser window shows the URL <http://ucm1200-aslib.ucmerced.edu/search/X>. The page header includes the text "LIBRARY Not what other research libraries are, what they will be." and a navigation link "Home > Library Catalog".

The main search area is titled "Search UC Merced Library Catalog" and is divided into two sections:

- Advanced Keyword Search:** This section contains three rows of search fields, each with a dropdown menu for the field type and a dropdown for the operator (And, Or, Not). The fields are labeled "Subject", "Any Field:", "Any Field:", and "Any Field:". Below these are filters for "Limit to: Online Resources Only", "Language: ANY", "Year: After [] and Before []", "Publisher/place of publication: []", "Material Type: ANY", and "Search and Sort: Date". There are "Search" and "Clear" buttons at the bottom of this section.
- Additional Search Options:** This section provides more specific search criteria with "Search" and "Clear" buttons for each field:
 - Author: []
 - Title: []
 - Subject: native americans
 - ISBN/ISSN: []
 - Genre: []
 - Call Number: []

At the bottom of the search area, there is a "My Accounts" section with links for "Melvyl@University of California" and "Melvyl@UC Merced".

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: "Advanced search [...]", "Millennium Web Ca...", "Assignment 5 Stuff (...)", and "Davis_Assignment 5...". The system clock indicates the time is 11:01 PM.

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The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the UC Merced Library Catalog search results. The address bar shows the URL: <http://ucm1200-aslib.ucmerced.edu/search/d?SEARCH=native+americans>. The page header features the UC Merced Library logo and the tagline "Not what other research libraries are, what they will be." Below the header, the breadcrumb "Home > Library Catalog" is visible. The search interface includes a "MARC Display" button, a "Limit/Sort Search" button, and a search history dropdown menu. The search results show a "SUBJECT" dropdown set to "native americans" and a "Search" button. A message states: "Native Americans is not used in this library's catalog. **Indians of North America** is used instead." Below this, a link is provided: "Search for [Indians of North America](#)". At the bottom, there are navigation links: "Site Index | Hours | FAQs | Contact Us | UC Merced Home" and contact information: "UC Merced Library | 5200 North Lake Rd. Merced, CA | (209) 228-4444 | © UC Merced Library | [Privacy/Legal Notice](#)".

The screenshot shows the Windows taskbar at the bottom of the page. It includes the Start button, several open application windows such as "Advanced search [...]", "UC Merced /View C...", "Assignment 5 Stuff (...)", and "Davis_Assignment 5...", and the system tray on the right showing the time as 10:48 PM and various system icons.

All UC Libraries Catalog: Next Generation Melvyl Pilot Evaluation

The first impression of this catalog is that it appears much more streamlined than the current UC Merced Melvyl catalog (see the screenshot on next page).

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The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' page on the WorldCat.org website. The browser is Mozilla Firefox, and the URL is <http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/advancedsearch>. The page has two tabs: 'UC Merced Library - | Home' and 'Advanced search [WorldCat.org]'. The search interface includes a 'Search' button at the top right. Below it, a grey box prompts the user to 'Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below'. There are three search fields: 'Keyword:', 'Title:', and 'Author:', each with a dropdown menu and an adjacent text input box. Below these is a 'Limit results by (optional)' section with several filters: 'Library:' (set to 'UC Merced Library'), 'Year:' (with 'to:' and examples 'e.g. 1971' and 'e.g. 1977'), 'Audience:' (set to 'Any Audience'), 'Content:' (set to 'Any Content'), 'Format:' (set to 'All Formats'), and 'Language:' (set to 'All Languages'). A second 'Search' button is located at the bottom right of the filter section. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the 'Done' status, a McAfee security icon, and open applications including 'Advanced search [...]' and 'Davis_Assignment 5...'. The system clock shows 10:15 PM.

Each of the three drop-down menus on the left have the same choices for search limits (Author, ISBN, ISSN, Journal Source, Keyword, Subject, and Title), although the default setting is keyword, author, and title (see the screenshot on the next page).

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The default setting for the "Library" limit is set to "Libraries Worldwide," but the drop-down menu allows a user to limit to "UC Merced Library" or "University of California Libraries." Year is in the simple yyyy to yyyy format or can be left blank. Audience can be set to "Any Audience," "Juvenile," or "Not Juvenile." There are a wide variety of formats from which to choose, such as sound recordings, visual material, or books in Braille. As previously mentioned, there are far more language settings than in the other catalog. Compared to the current UC Merced Melvyl catalog, this appears easier to use.

One problem with the Next Generation Melvyl catalog is the lack of a thesaurus in order to trace an exact subject. For example, one can enter in "native americans" (in lowercase) and, in

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this case, 580 results are given (see the screenshot below).

Results for 'su:native americans' [UC Merced Library] - Mozilla Firefox

http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3Anative+americans&qt=advanced&dblist=638

WorldCat (Sign in)

elvy@ UC Merced

Pilot

su:native americans

Libraries to search UC Merced Library

Search results for 'su:native americans' limited to UC Merced Library

Results 1-10 of about 580 (.31 seconds)

Refine Your Search

Author

- Col E-Scholarship... (157)
- Banks K M (10)
- Phillips E (3)
- Ghere David L (3)
- Patterson Lotsee (3)
- Show more...

Format

- Article (416)
- Internet Resource (160)
- Book (4)

Year

- 2009 (51)
- 2008 (36)
- 2007 (28)
- 1999 (32)
- 1997 (28)

1. **Nominations : hearing before the Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate, One Hundred Seventh Congress, second session on nominations of Phillip Hogen to serve as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission and Quanaah Crossland Stamps to serve as Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans, September 25, 2002, Washington, DC.**
by United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Indian Affairs (1993-)
Book : National government publication
Language: English
Publisher: Washington : U.S. G.P.O. : For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O. [Congressional Sales Office], 2003.
Libraries that own this item: **UC Merced Library**

2. **ANA messenger**
by United States. Administration for Native Americans.
eJournal / eMagazine : Document : Periodical : National government publication
Language: English

In the current UC Merced Melvyl catalog, a user is prompted to use Indians of North America instead of "native americans." When using "Indians of North America" rather than "native americans" as a search in the Next Generation Melvyl catalog, 3,923 are given (see the screenshot on the next page).

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Results for 'su:Indians of North America' [UC Merced Library] - Mozilla Firefox

http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3AIndians+of+North+America&qt=advanced&dblist=638

WorldCat (Sign in)

Home Search UC Merced Library

elvy@ UC Merced Pilot

su:Indians of North America Search

Libraries to search UC Merced Library Advanced Search

Print Share Ask a Librarian

Chat with a librarian

Search results for 'su:Indians of North America' limited to UC Merced Library

Refine Your Search

Author

- United States (495)
- Cdi E-Scholarship... (482)
- Readex (52)
- Robert F. Heizer (14)
- George Bird Grinnell (11)
- Show more ...

Format

- Internet Resource (1902)
- Book (1406)
 - Large print (1)
 - Article (605)
 - Journal / Magazine / Newspaper (80)
 - Visual material (5)
 - Show more ...

Results 1-10 of about 3,923 (.37 seconds) << First < Prev 1 2 3 Next >

Select All Clear All Save to: [New List] Save Sort by: Relevance Only Save Search

- Our savage neighbors : how Indian war transformed early America**
by Peter Rhoads Silver
Book
Language: English
Publisher: New York : W.W. Norton, ©2008.
Libraries that own this item: **UC Merced Library**
[View all editions and formats](#)
- Mayflower : a story of courage, community, and war**
by Nathaniel Philbrick
Book : Biography
Language: English
Publisher: New York : Viking, 2006.
Libraries that own this item: **UC Merced Library**
[View all editions and formats](#)

Done

Streamtheworld Liv... ANGEL Learning - ... Results for 'su:India... Davis_Assignment 5...

McAfee

10:13 PM

Since most academic libraries, including UC Merced, use the Library of Congress Classification system, it would make sense to be able to link up to other books classified as "Indians of North America" than do a search on a term that is not the preferred term; there is quite a difference between 580 and 3,923 records.

Using the results from the "native americans" search as an example, it is not clear how a user might search for a subject heading in a given record (see the screenshot on the next page).

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LIBR 202-16

Results for 'su:native americans' [UC Merced Library] - Mozilla Firefox

http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3Anative+americans&qt=advanced&dblist=638

WorldCat (Sign in)

Home Search UC Merced Library

elvgl@ UC Merced Pilot

su:native americans Search

Libraries to search UC Merced Library | Advanced Search

Print Share Ask a Librarian

Search results for 'su:native americans' limited to UC Merced Library

Chat with a librarian

Refine Your Search

Author

- CdJ E-Scholarship... (157)
- Banks K M (10)
- Phillips E (3)
- Ghere David L (3)
- Patterson Lotsee (3)
- Show more...

Format

- Article (416)
- Internet Resource (160)
- Book (4)

Year

- 2009 (51)
- 2008 (36)
- 2007 (28)
- 1999 (32)

Results 1-10 of about 580 (.31 seconds) << First < Prev 1 2 3 Next >

Select All Clear All Save to: [New List] Save Sort by: Relevance Only Save Search

1. **Nominations : hearing before the Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate, One Hundred Seventh Congress, second session on nominations of Phillip Hogen to serve as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission and Quannah Crossland Stamps to serve as Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans, September 25, 2002, Washington, DC.**
by United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Indian Affairs (1993-)
Book : National government publication
Language: English
Publisher: Washington : U.S. G.P.O. : For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O. [Congressional Sales Office], 2003.
Libraries that own this item: **UC Merced Library**

2. **ANA messenger**
by United States. Administration for Native Americans.
eJournal / eMagazine : Document : Periodical : National government publication
Language: English

Done

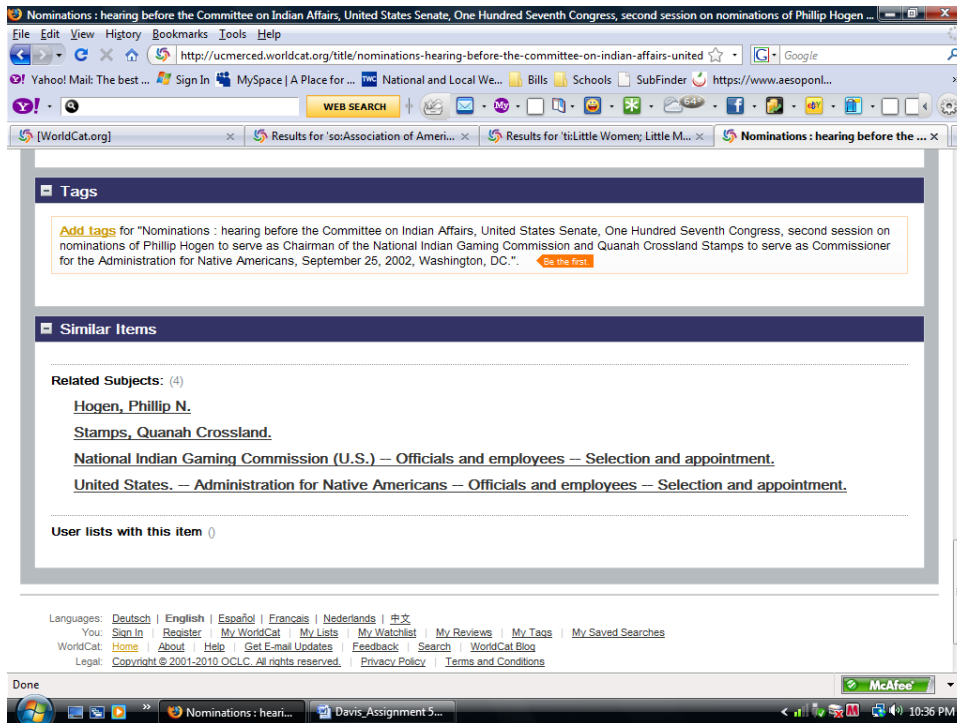
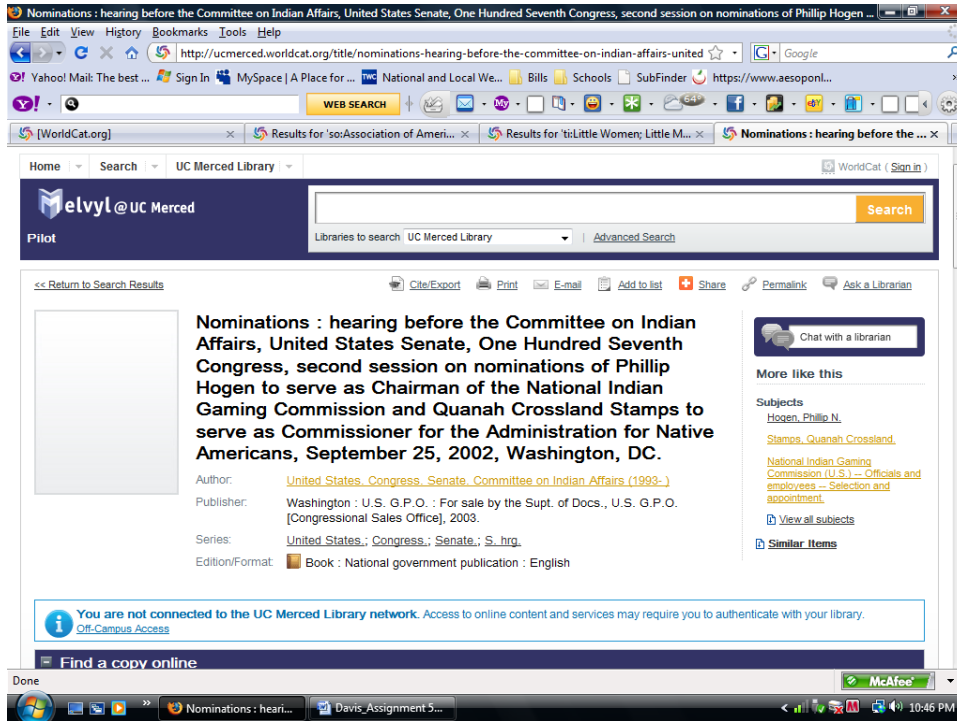
McAfee

Results for 'su:nativ...' Davis_Assignment 5...

10:34 PM

Using the first entry on the above screenshot as an example, when a user clicks on the title, a user is prompted to scroll downward for the information (see the next two screenshots on the next page for the following discussion). I missed the subject feature at the very far-right of the screen as well as the related subjects feature at the very end of the record. I could not locate the subject headings until I scrolled back up and looked at the far right-hand side of the screen. For this title, subject headings (in small letters) include Hogen, Phillip N., Stamps, Quannah Crossland., and National Indian Gaming Commission (U.S.) -- Officials and employees -- Selection and appointment. The subjects should be much more prominent in order to be useful; I was distracted by how much other information was available.

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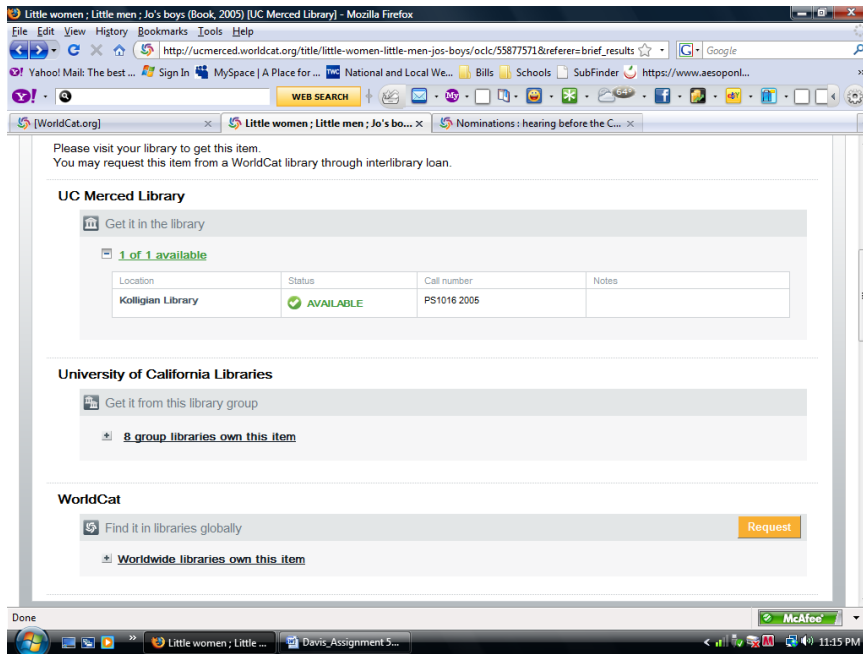


Using the Louisa May Alcott example again, a wonderful feature is that although the limits were set to find *Little women; little men; Jo's boys* in the UC Merced Library, users also

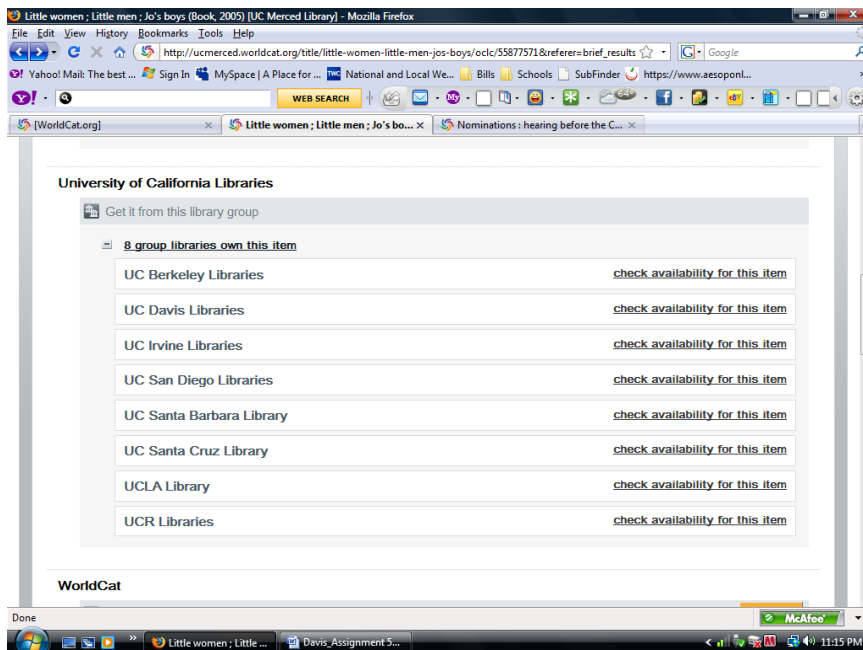
Lindsay Davis

LIBR 202-16

are provided with the number of University of California Libraries that own the item and can see the libraries around the world that also own the title (see the screenshot below).



Interestingly, when a user clicks on the other UC Libraries link, users can also check the availability of the item at each listed UC (see second screenshot on the page).



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As previously mentioned, a unique feature of the catalog is that tables of contents can be accessed. Although this feature can prove to be very useful to determine whether academic works are relevant for a specific project a student may be working on, it is not very clear how the table of contents can be retrieved within a record; if I had not know this feature was available, I would not have known to look for it. I only found it when it occurred to me to click on the "preview this item" icon underneath the book's cover (see the next two screenshots). The icon then produced another icon marked "Google preview." Clicking on that button produced the table of contents, but, like with my experience looking for an item's subject headings, I had to scroll down to find it.

Little women ; Little men ; Jo's boys (Book, 2005) [UC Merced Library] - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/title/little-women-little-men-jos-boys/oclc/55877571&referer=brief_results

Yahoo! Mail: The best ... Sign In MySpace | A Place for ... National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesopon...

WEB SEARCH

Home Search UC Merced Library WorldCat (Sign in)

elvy@UC Merced

Pilot

Search

Libraries to search UC Merced Library | Advanced Search

<< Return to Search Results Cite/Export Print E-mail Add to list Share Permalink Ask a Librarian

Little women ; Little men ; Jo's boys

Author: [Louisa May Alcott](#); [Elaine Showalter](#)

Publisher: New York, N.Y. : Library of America : Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam, ©2005.

Series: [Library of America](#), 156.

Edition/Format: Book : Fiction : English [View all editions and formats](#)

Summary: Here, in one authoritative Library of America volume, are all three of the beloved "Little Woman" books as Louisa May Alcott wrote them, with original engravings.

Preview this item

Google Preview

Preview this item

You are not connected to the UC Merced Library network. Access to online content and services may require you to authenticate with your library. [Off-Campus Access](#)

Find a copy in the library

Please visit your library to get this item.

Done

ANGEL Learning - ... Little women ; Little ... Assignment 5 Stuff (... Davis_Assignment 5...

McAfee

8:03 PM

Lindsay Davis

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Preview of Little women ; Little men ; Jo's boys [UC Merced Library] - Mozilla Firefox

http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/title/little-women-little-men-jos-boys/oclc/55877571/viewport

Home Search UC Merced Library WorldCat (Sign in)

elvy@ UC Merced Pilot

Libraries to search UC Merced Library Advanced Search

<< Return to Detailed Record

Little women ; Little men ; Jo's boys

Type: Book; English

Publisher: New York, N.Y. : Library of America : Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam, ©2005.

Contents

Little Women; or Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy	I
Little Women; or Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy,	
Part Second	247
Little Men: Life at Plumfield with Jo's Boys	519
Jo's Boys, and How They Turned Out	801
Chronology	1067
Note on the Texts	1078
Notes	1081

Done

ANGEL Learning - ... Preview of Little wo... Assignment 5 Stuff (... Davis_Assignment 5...

McAfee 8:12 PM

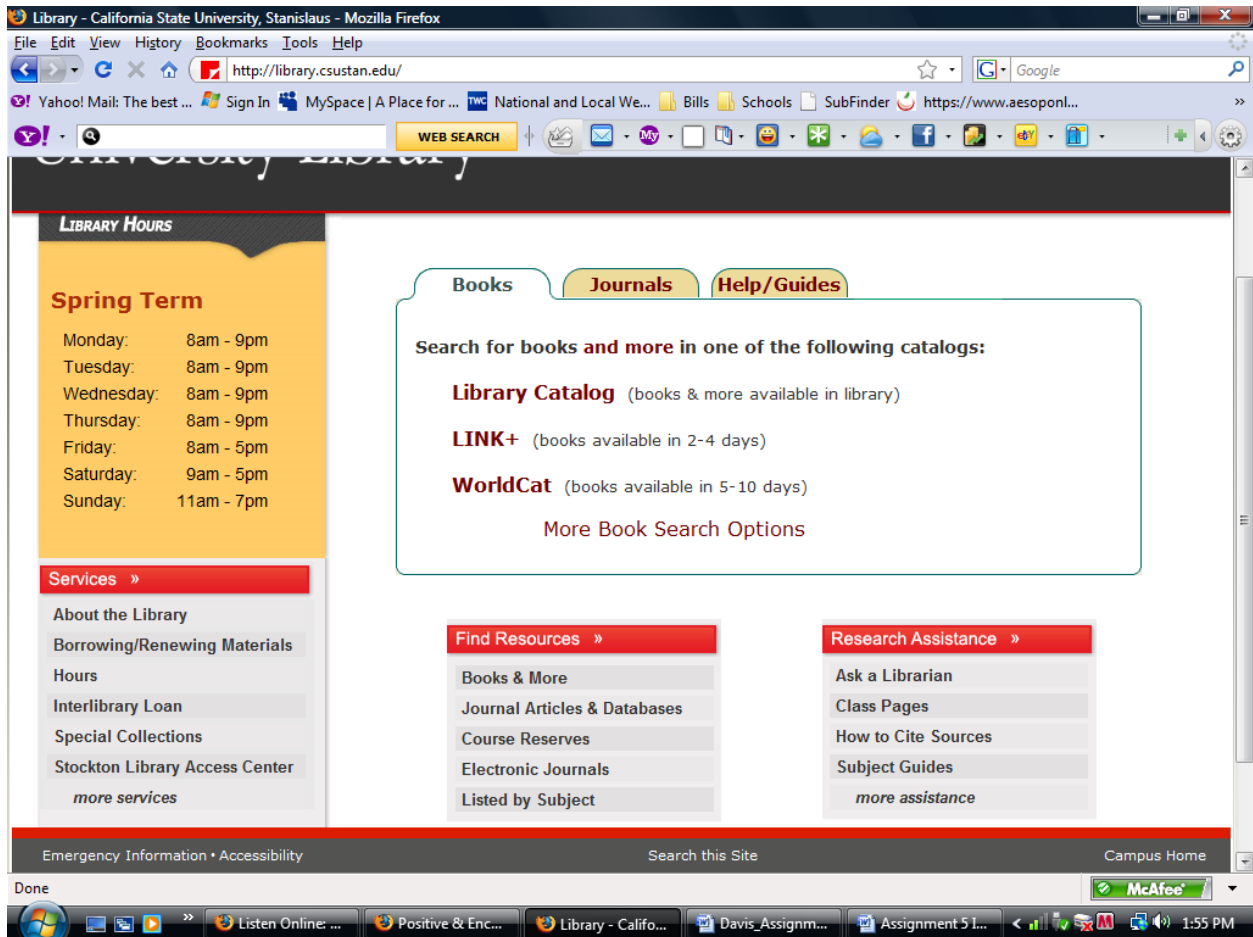
Both the current and new catalogs have strengths and weaknesses. Next Generation Melvyl is more streamlined, has a searchable table of contents feature, and allows users to see the other libraries own the item within the UC Merced record for the item. Rather than spending valuable time tracking down one item across many retrieval systems, students and faculty can find all copies in one place, which allows more time to be devoted to other research. A major flaw is that there is not a thesaurus. The current Melvyl catalog does have a thesaurus, which I feel is important to include if libraries, like the UC Merced Library, use the Library of Congress Subject Headings to classify materials. The newer interface also requires a lot scrolling, which many users may not be inclined to do.

CSU Stanislaus' Library Homepage

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The CSU Stanislaus Library Homepage is much more streamlined than UC Merced's Library homepage.



The top left side of the screen alternates between an ad displaying the library's hours, reference services, and the new eReader pilot program. Having the banner on the side, rather than in the middle of the screen, like UC Merced's Library homepage, is much less distracting. Beneath that, there is a box that provides links to various services and other information about the Library. However, when a user clicks on "more services" an almost dizzying array of links appear.

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Library Services - California State University, Stanislaus - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://library.csustan.edu/services/

Yahoo! Mail: The best ... Sign In MySpace | A Place for ... TWC National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesoponl...

WEB SEARCH

About the Library

- Address & Contact Information
- Collections
- Directions/Maps to the Library
- Display Cases
- Employment
- Food & Drink
- Gifts and Donations
- Hours of Operation
- Internal Information (staff only)
- Layout / Floor Plan
- Librarian Liaisons
- Library Faculty & Staff
- Library Newsletter
- Mission Statement
- Overview (University Catalog)
- Photo Tour
- Stockton Library Services
- Strategic Plan & Unit Review
- Suggestions for Purchase
- Warrior Book Contest
- What's New

Library Services

Services for...

- Alumni
- Disability Support Services
- Faculty
- General Public / Local Community
- Graduate Students
- Students & Faculty from Other Institutions
- Students with Disabilities
- Undergraduates

Emergency Information • Accessibility Search this Site Campus Home

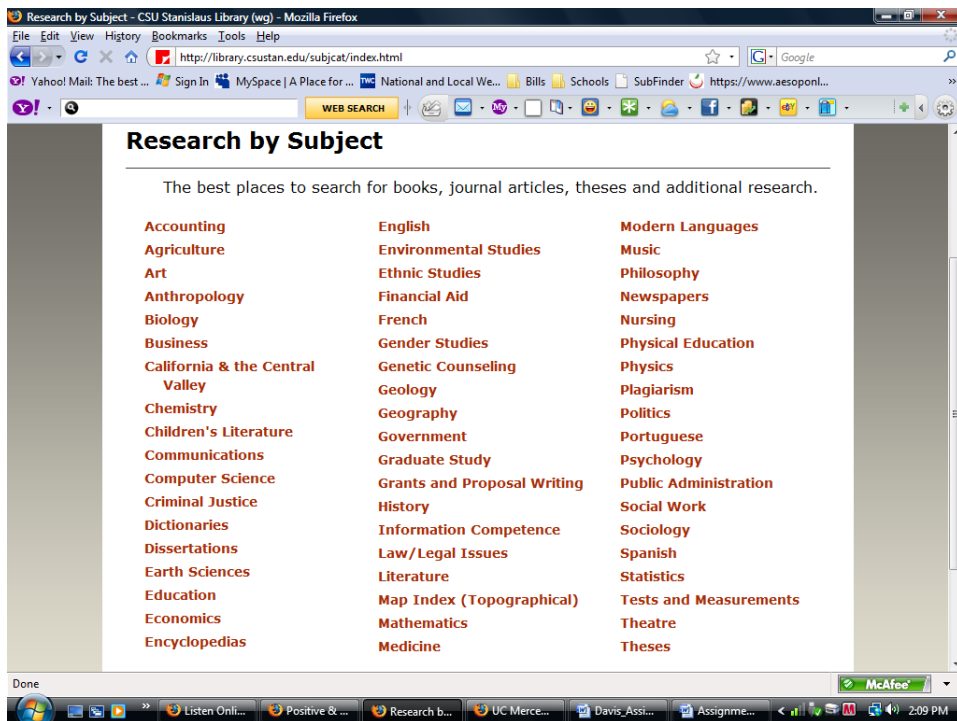
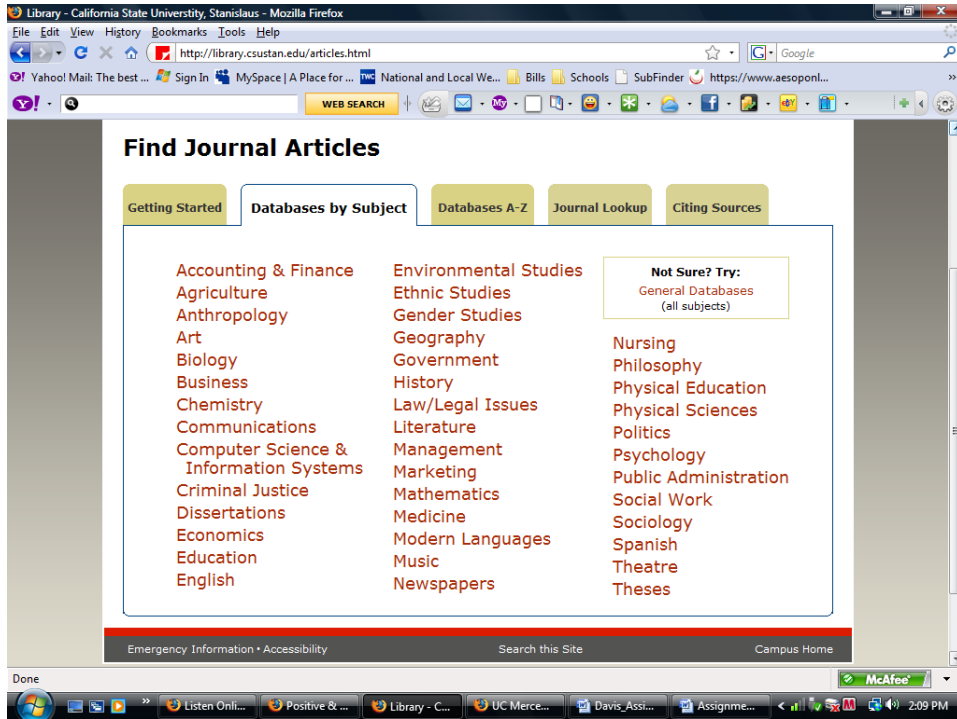
Done Listen Onli... Positive & ... Library Ser... UC Merce... Davis_Assi... Assignme... 2:01 PM

Some of the links could be combined to make for better organization. For example, address and contact information could be combined with directions/maps. It might also be better to alphabetize the choices.

At the bottom of the homepage (see the screenshot on p. 30), in the middle, there is a box that lists links for "Find Resources." On the right to that box, is a box with links for "Research Assistance." Some of these links are redundant, which is little perplexing. For example, "Journals Articles & Databases" and "Listed by Subject" are essentially the same (see the screenshots on the next page).

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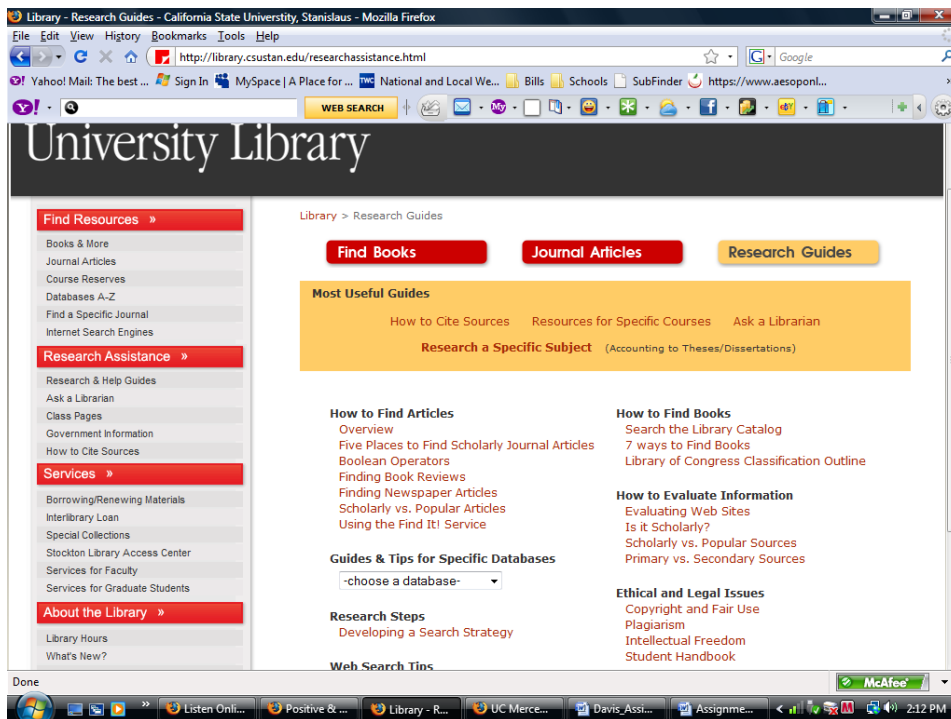
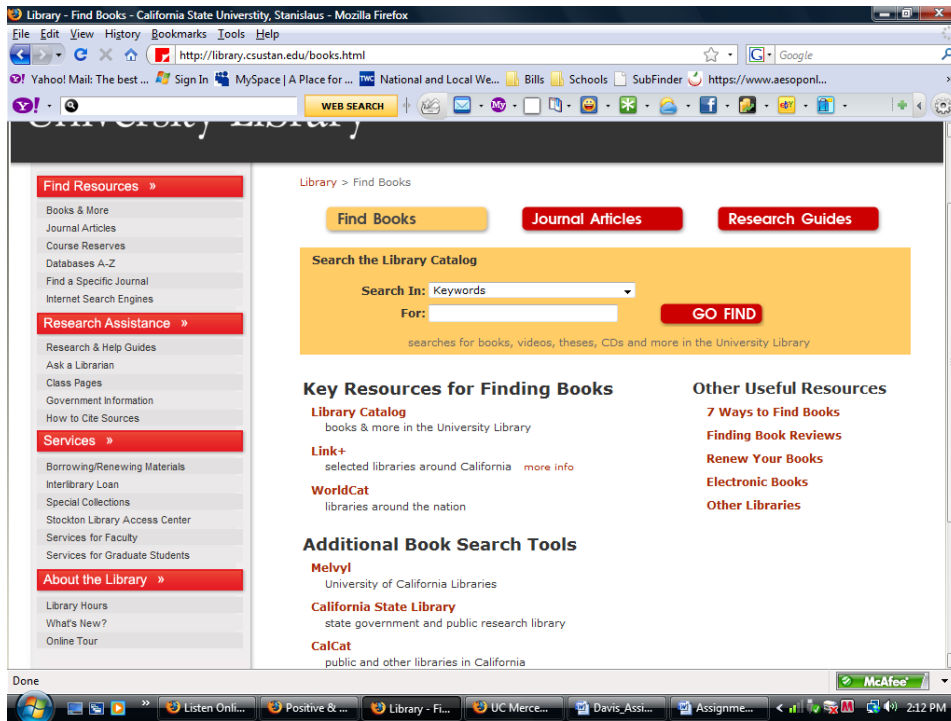
LIBR 202-16



The "Books & More" link and link for "more assistance" is the same (see the following two screenshots). While there seem to be many choices for getting to the information, the redundancy does not seem necessary.

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Although there is room for improvement with the links, I find that the interface to get to the catalog itself is very clear (see the next screenshot). The first tab is set for books, journals are set the second tab, and help/guides is the third. Under the default book tab, there are three links:

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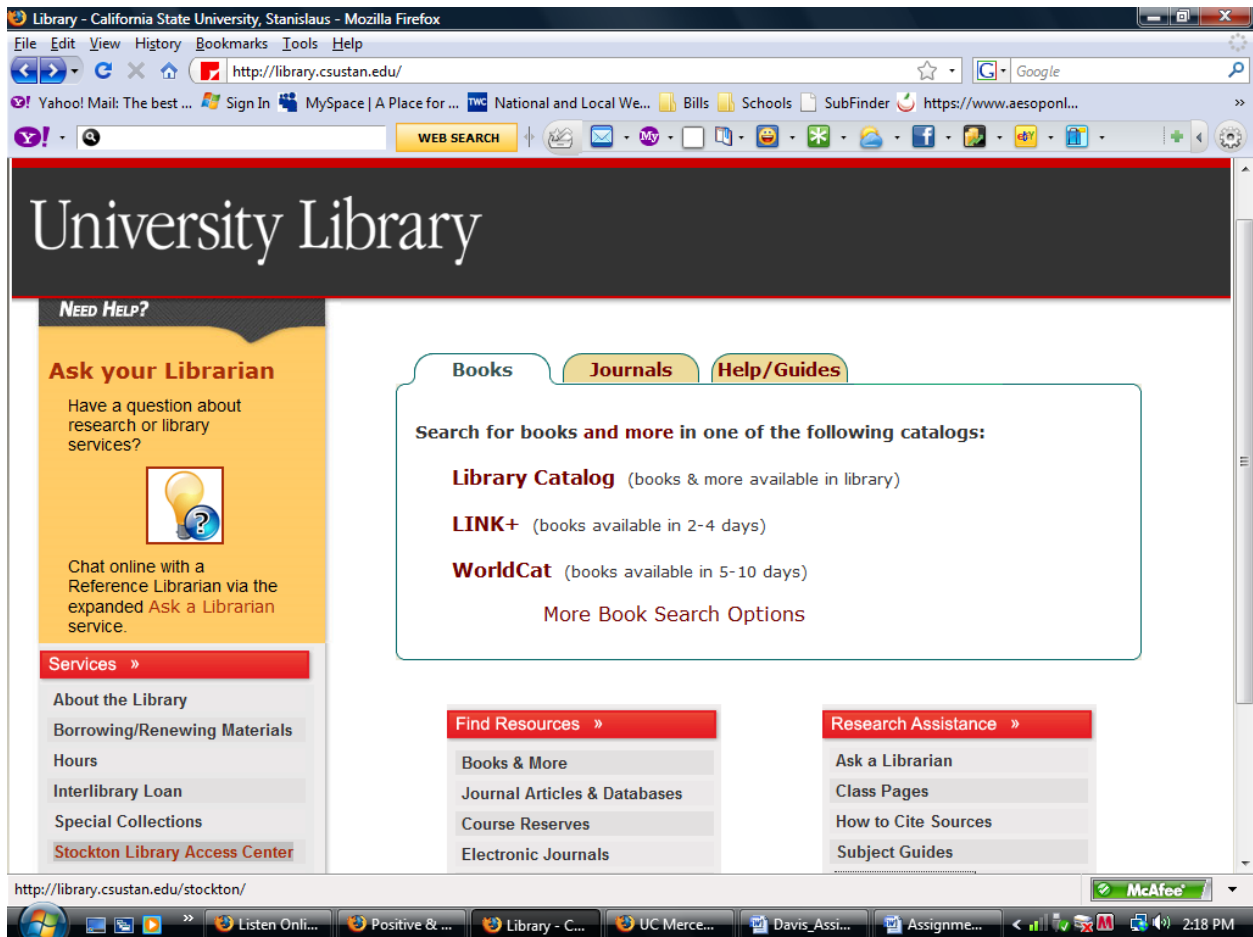
Library Catalog, LINK+, and WorldCat. Next to each link is information about availability,

which is very efficient. The notes explain that the Library Catalog refers to records for books and

other items available in the library. LINK+ items are available in 2 to 4 days, and WorldCat

items arrive in 5 to 10 days. For someone with less experience using catalogs, the "signage" is

helpful.



Background on CSU Stanislaus' Catalog

The systems librarian at CSU Stanislaus, Priscilla Peters, writes:

Stanislaus' OPAC is a Millennium system from Innovative Interfaces.¹ We have the cataloging, acquisitions, serials, circulation, WebPAC (OPAC) and administrative

¹ This is the same platform as that used by the current UC Merced Melvyl OPAC, but the UC Merced Library also uses the pilot Next Generation Melvyl which runs on the OCLC WorldCat Local platform; UC Merced plans to retire the local catalog and use Next Generation Melvyl when it is released. The UC union catalog, (also Melvyl) runs on the Ex Libris Aleph platform.

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modules. The ILS serves just the Stanislaus campus (which includes a branch at the Stockton campus). The system uses MARC records (which you can actually see from the OPAC by selecting the “MARC display” button that appears at the top of individual record screens in the OPAC). The library offers remote access (for instance, to licensed databases), but we are not using Millennium for that purpose. Our utility is EZ Proxy. (personal email communication, May 12, 2010)

The following screenshots show the result for *Little women; little men; Jo's boys* by Louisa May Alcott; the first shows the MARC display button at the top of the screen, and the second screenshot is the MARC record itself.

California State University, Stanislaus / All Locations - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://millennium.csustan.edu/search-S17/xt:(Little women%2C little men%2C jo's boys)&SORT=D/Xt:L

Yahoo! Mail: The best... Sign In MySpace | A Place for... National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesopon...

WEB SEARCH

Start Over Save Records MARC Display Return to List Modify Search Move Like This Another Search

(Search History)

Keyword t:(Little women, little men, jo's View Entire Collection Search

Limit search to available items

2 results found, sorted by date.

Result page: Next

Author [Alcott, Louisa May, 1832-1888.](#)

Uniform Title [Novels, Selections](#)

Title **Little women ; little men ; Jo's boys / Louisa May Alcott.**

Imprint New York : Library of America : Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam, c2005.

Location Main Stacks (Turlock)

Call No. [PS1016 2005](#)

Status DUE 05-23-10

Description 1092 p. ; 21 cm.

Series The library of America ; 157
[Library of America : 157.](#)

Bibliography Includes bibliographical references (p. 1081-1092).

Subject [March family \(Fictitious characters\) -- Fiction.](#)
[Autobiographical fiction, American.](#)
[Boarding schools -- Fiction.](#)

Repeat search in:
LINK+
Borrow From Other Libs

Done

Listen Online... Positive & Enc... California Stat... Assignment 5... Davis_Assignm...

McAfee

12:45 PM

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California State University, Stanislaus / All Locations - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://millennium.csustan.edu/search-S17/Xt:Little%20women%20little%20men%20jo%20boys&SORT=D/Xt:L

LEADER 00000cam 2200385 a 4500
 003 CTurS
 005 20051214159249.0
 008 6406292005 nyu b 000 1 eng
 010 2004048828
 020 1931082731 (alk. paper)
 035 (OCoLC)55877571
 040 DLC|cDLC|dOCL|dCTU
 043 n-usm--
 050 10 PS1016:b2005
 082 00 S13/.4:222
 090 PS1016:b2005
 100 1 Alcott, Louisa May,|d1832-1888.
 240 10 *Novels.*|kSelections
 245 10 *Little women ; little men ; Jo's boys* /|cLouisa May Alcott.
 260 New York :|bLibrary of America :|bDistributed to the trade in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam,|cc2005.
 300 1092 p. ;|c21 cm.
 490 1 The library of America ;|v157
 504 Includes bibliographical references (p. 1081-1092).
 650 0 March family (Fictitious characters)|vFiction.
 650 0 Autobiographical fiction, American.
 650 0 Boarding schools|vFiction.
 650 0 Domestic fiction, American.
 651 0 New England|sSocial life and customs|vFiction.
 651 0 New England|vFiction.
 740 02 Little women.
 740 02 Little men.
 740 02 Jo's boys.
 830 0 Library of America ;|v157.
 910 lcl/cl 081202
 938 10359669
 994 CO|bCTU

Location	Call No.	Status
Main Stacks (Turlock)	PS1016 2005	DUE 05-23-10

Done McAfee

Listen Online... Positive & Enc... California Stat... Assignment 9... Davis_Assignm... 12:46 PM

Although the catalog only serves the CSU Stanislaus campus community (including the Stanislaus-Stockton facility used for many university night classes), the Library belongs to the LINK+ consortium, “which enables unmediated borrowing of books from other participant libraries” (Peters, personal email communication, May 12, 2010). LINK+ “is a union catalog of contributed holdings from participating libraries in California and Nevada. Patrons from member libraries electronically request an item not available in their own library and it is delivered to them for check-out” (“What is LINK+?” n.d.). Books usually arrive in two to four days (Ibid). Peters shares that while the Library has done usability studies of its website, it has not done such a study for the Integrated Library System (ILS) (personal email communication, May 12, 2010).

The catalog displays non-Roman characters as it has records of books and other items that are written in other languages. The following screenshot (on the right side near the bottom of the screen) shows the different languages that can be selected, one of which is Chinese. UC Merced's New Generation Melvyl pilot catalog offers significantly more languages.

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LIBR 202-16

Library Catalog Advanced Search - California State University, Stanislaus - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://millennium.csustan.edu/search/X

Yahoo! Mail: The Best ... Sign In MySpace | A Place for ... TWC National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesoponl...

WEB SEARCH

Basic Advanced Course Reserves Journals & Articles

anywhere

And anywhere

And anywhere

And anywhere

Submit

Sort Results by: relevance

Exclude items that are not available (checked out)

Location: ANY
Main Book Collection (Main Stacks - Turlock)
Compact Discs (Music/Sound Recordings)
Government Documents (Turlock)
Internet and E-Resources

Year Published: After and Before

Material Type: Music Recording (CDs, etc.)
Music Score
Projected Medium (Videos, Films, Slides)
Sound Recording (non-Music)
Other (Kits, Mixed, Artifacts, Art)

Language: ANY
Chinese
English
French
German

Publisher:

Clear Form

Submit

Done

McAfee

Listen Online ... Positive & Enc... Library Catalo... Assignment 5 ... Davis_Assignm...

12:24 PM

An interesting feature of the catalog is that it includes “book covers and information about the book” (Peters, personal email communication, May 12, 2010). Using the *Little women; little men; Jo's boys* by Louisa May Alcott example again, the following screenshot shows the search results for the title, which includes the book cover. It would significantly more useful to have access to a table of contents, such as that provided by UC Merced's the Next Generation Melvyl pilot catalog. I also noticed that a user can repeat their search in LINK+ by clicking on the LINK+ icon on the right (also see the next screenshot). This is a very convenient design.

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California State University, Stanislaus / All Locations - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://millennium.csustan.edu/search/X?SEARCH=t:(Little women%2C little men%2C jo's boys)&SORT=D

Yahoo! Mail: The best ... Sign In MySpace | A Place for ... TWC National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesoponl...

WEB SEARCH

(Search History)

Start Over Modify Search Another Search

Keyword t:(Little women, little men, jo's boys) View Entire Collection Search

Limit search to available items

2 results found. sorted by date.

Save All On Page

Keywords (1-2 of 2)

1 **Little women ; little men ; Jo's boys**
Alcott, Louisa May, 1832-1888.
New York : Library of America : Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by Penguin Putnam, c2005.

Location	Call No.	Status
Main Stacks (Turlock)	PS1016 2005	DUE 05-23-10

Repeat search in:
LINK+
Borrow From Other Libs.

2 **Little men : life at Plumfield with Jo's boys; a sequel to "Little women"**
Alcott, Louisa May, 1832-1888.
Boston : Little, Brown, and Company, c1901.

Location	Call No.	Status
Juvenile Collection (Turlock Main Stacks-Third Floor)	Fiction A355 lm	AVAILABLE

(Search History)

Done

Listen Online ... Positive & Enc... California Stat... Assignment 5 ... Davis_Assignm... 12:40 PM

Like UC Merced, the CSU Stanislaus Library also provides help and services for students with disabilities to access the OPAC. According to the *Library Disability Support Services* webpage (2007), "The University Library is committed to providing equal access to services and collections for all Library patrons. Library staff will assist patrons in obtaining access to the services and collections if they have difficulty helping themselves." The Library staff can retrieve items, make copies, and help students with accessing databases or the catalog. Another interesting feature is the provision of assistive technology, including a

Kurzweil 1000 Scanner, a print-to-speech program that scans printed text and reads it aloud; ClearView Optelec Reader, a CCTV that enlarges printed text onto a television screen; Jaws Screen Reader, a screen reader program; Dragon Naturally Speaking, a

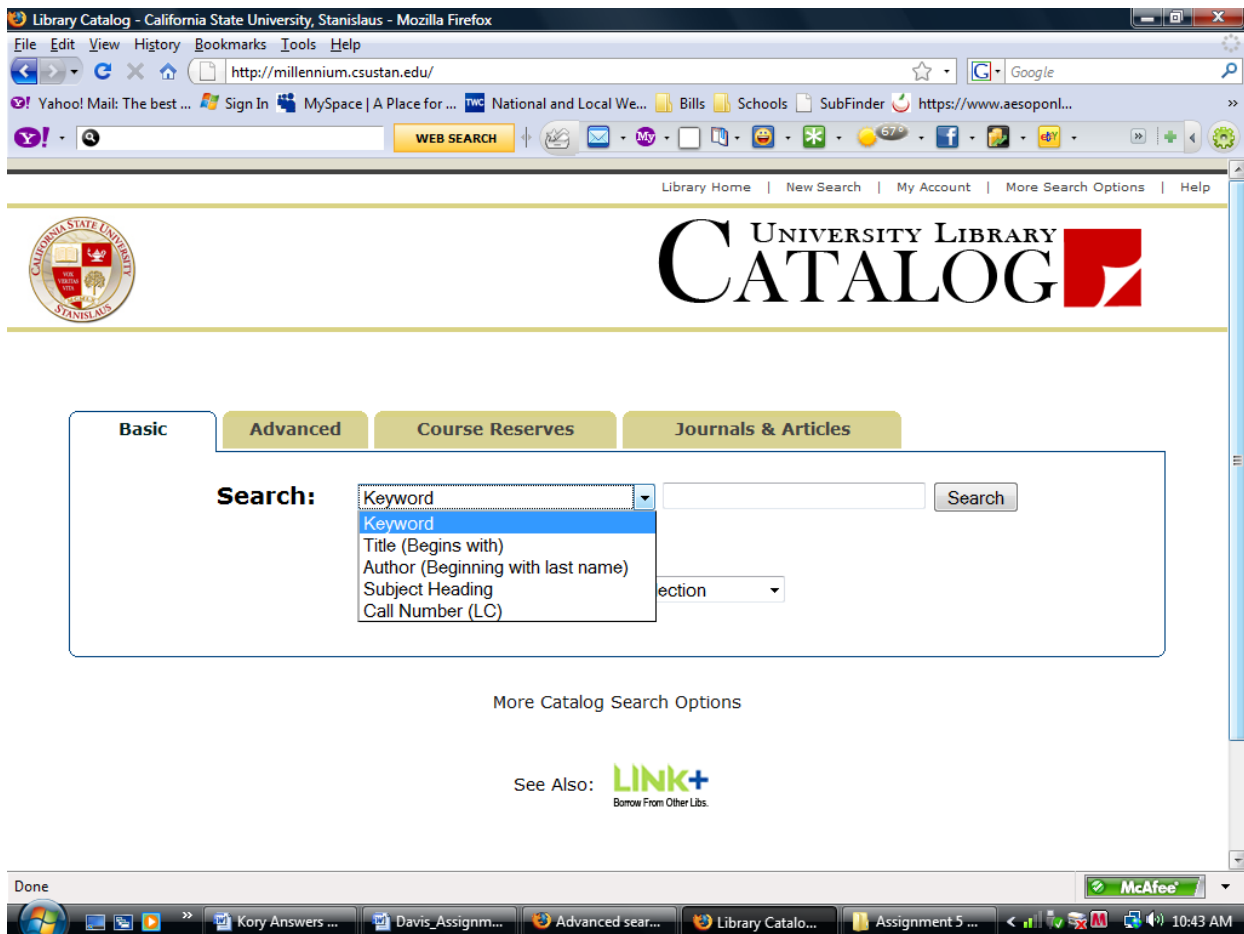
Lindsay Davis

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voice-recognition program...; [and] MAGic Screen Reader and Magnifier, a screen magnification program. ("Library Disability Support Services," 2007)

CSU Stanislaus' Catalog Evaluation

When the catalog is accessed from the homepage, it opens to the basic search setting (see the screenshot on the next page). Users can choose to search by "keyword," "title (begins with)," "author (beginning by last name)," "subject heading," or "call number (LC)."

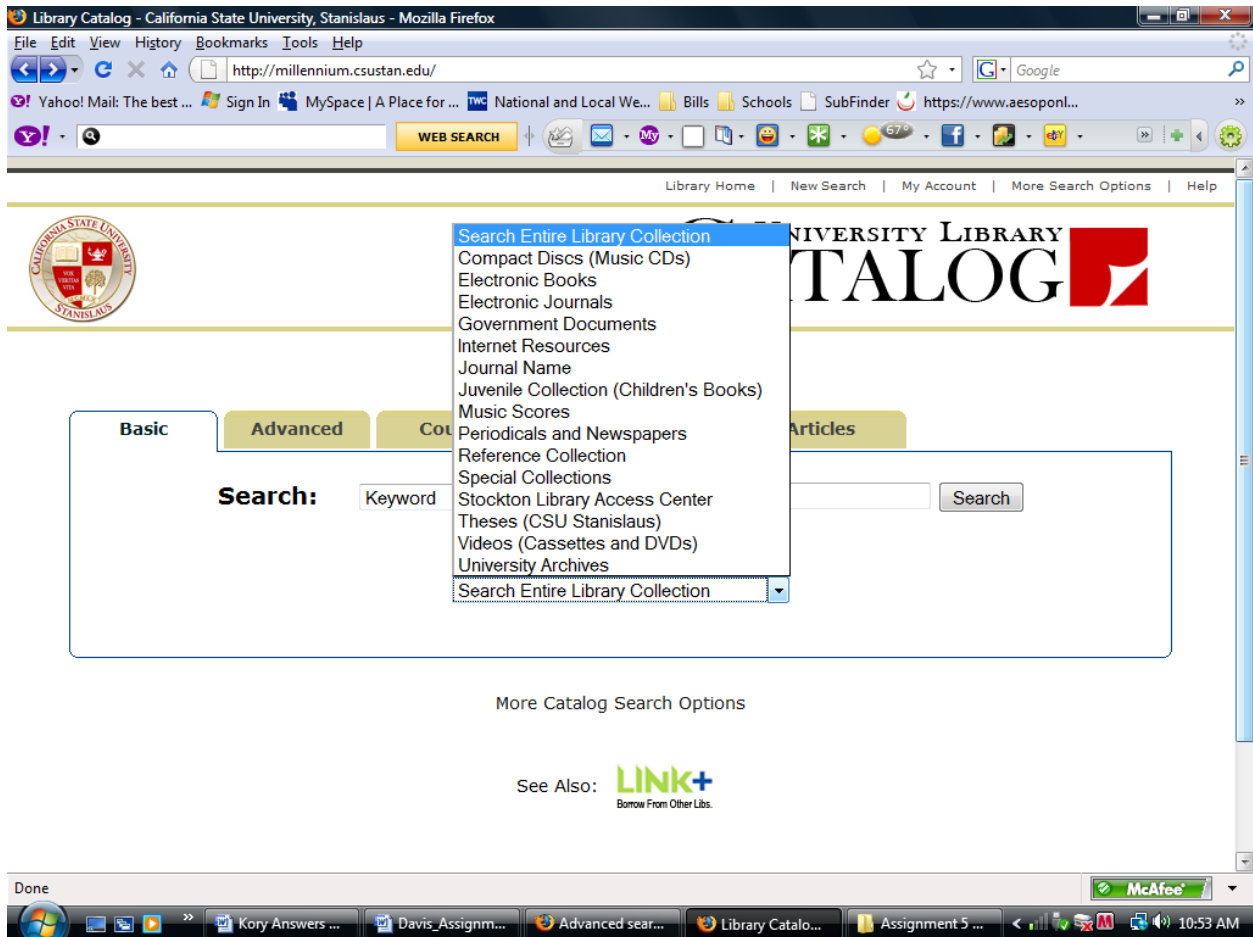


Users can also search either the entire collection, juvenile collection (there is a large children's book section that is aimed for those in the teacher education program), reference collection, and University archives, among others (see the screenshot on the next page). Being able to specify the area one would like to find resources is very impressive. Sometimes students may be required

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LIBR 202-16

to use different types of sources (newspapers, theses, books, primary sources, etc.), so this option makes searching easier.



From the basic search screen, there are tabs to access the advanced setting, course reserves, and journals and articles. When one opens the advanced tab, there are significantly more options and limits to choose than the basic search provides (see the screenshot on the next page).

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Library Catalog Advanced Search - California State University, Stanislaus - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://millennium.csustan.edu/search/X

Yahoo! Mail: The Best ... Sign In MySpace | A Place for ... National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesoponl...

WEB SEARCH

Basic Advanced Course Reserves Journals & Articles

And anywhere

And anywhere

And anywhere

And anywhere

Submit

Sort Results by: relevance

Exclude items that are not available (checked out)

Location: ANY
Main Book Collection (Main Stacks - Turlock)
Compact Discs (Music/Sound Recordings)
Government Documents (Turlock)
Internet and E-Resources

Material Type: ANY
Printed Materials
Archival Materials
Computer File (software, data, etc.)
Electronic Books

Year Published: After and Before

Language: ANY
Chinese
English
French
German

Publisher:

Clear Form

Submit

Done

ANGEL Learning - ... Library Catalog Adv... Assignment 5 Stuff (... Davis_Assignment 5...

McAfee

8:18 PM

To enter search terms, there are three query boxes that can be used. The limits can be set to the right of the query field (see next screenshot). "Anywhere" serves as a keyword function. There is a choice for "in the author's name," "in the title," "in a subject heading," or "in a note." These limits are set in language that is far plainer than UC Merced's Next Generation catalog (UC Merced has limits for accession number and even ISBN). The plainer language makes it easier for those with less catalog experience to understand what the limits mean. The catalog also allows for the use of Boolean operators. Being able to access them from a drop-down menu serves as a reminder that these limits can be used. A publisher can be entered; there are a few languages that can be selected, including Chinese; and a year or time frame can be set. One flaw with the fields for date is that it is set to an after yyyy format and/or before yyyy format. It is

Lindsay Davis

LIBR 202-16

much easier to enter a search for 1800 to 1900 than it is to say "after 1799" and "before 1899."

Results can be sorted by date and title in the top right corner. Like UC Merced's format and content fields, users can specify where the material is coming from (main book collection, Internet and E-resources, juvenile collection, or reference collection, etc.) and its material type, whether an eBook, map, manuscript, sound recording, music recording, etc. These are useful because students may be required to use specific types of resources. Finding a map, for example, would be difficult without the "material type" field.

Library Catalog Advanced Search - California State University, Stanislaus - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://millennium.csustan.edu/search/X

Basic Advanced Course Reserves Journals & Articles

And anywhere
 And anywhere
 And in the author's name
 in the title
 in a subject heading
 in a note

Submit

Sort Results by: relevance

Exclude items that are not available (checked out)

Location: ANY
 Main Book Collection (Main Stacks - Turlock)
 Compact Discs (Music/Sound Recordings)
 Government Documents (Turlock)
 Internet and E-Resources

Material Type: ANY
 Printed Materials
 Archival Materials
 Computer File (software, data, etc.)
 Electronic Books

Year Published: After
 and
 Before

Language: ANY
 Chinese
 English
 French
 German

Publisher:

Clear Form

Submit

Done

ANGEL Learning - ... Library Catalog Adv... Assignment 5 Stuff (...) Davis_Assignment 5...

McAfee

8:20 PM

Testing UC Merced's Next Generation Melvyl Pilot Catalog

Questions, Rationale

Lindsay Davis
LIBR 202-16

Since UC Merced will most likely be retiring their current Melvyl catalog when Next Generation Melvyl is released, it seemed fair to test this version rather than the current UC Merced Melvyl catalog. I devised a test with the following five questions (the answers are listed in red).

1. How many sources written by Tolstoy in English and in Russian are available at UC Merced?
47 in Russian; 82 in English.

2. Locate Tolstoy's *War and Peace* that was published in 2007. Then locate the searchable table of contents. What is the title of the Appendix?
Appendix: "A Few Words Apropos of the Book *War and Peace*" by Count Leo Tolstoy.

3. Searching all UC campuses, how many theses on Russian literature have been written since 2000? Try both a subject and keyword search. Which seems more comprehensive?
5 using the subject search; 21 using keyword. Keyword since it has more.

4. Run a search on the fall of the USSR. Which book title owned by UC Merced was printed most recently and when? What is the call number of the book?
***Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire* (2009) by Victor Sebestyen. The call number is DK288 .S393 2009.**

5. How many other UC Libraries own the above title?
4 (Berkeley, Davis, San Diego, and Santa Cruz).

I wanted to create a series of questions that involved different search aspects within the catalog and that prompted testers to access some of the unique features, such as the searchable tables of contents. As someone who has used catalogs frequently in the past and who has know had a course in evaluating some aspects of OPACs, the questions did not seem to make difficult requests. While the UC Merced OPAC was newer to me, I had the advantage of studying it beforehand. For my testers, it was frustrating using an unfamiliar system, and they pointed out similar flaws that I have mentioned.

Tester Profiles

For this test, I recruited three individuals. The first is a 25-year-old male. Growing up, he struggled with school, and due to the death of a parent, attended very little of his first few years

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in high school. He received a high school diploma—a year after he should have graduated—from an alternative school aimed at high school students who have been expelled from local high schools or those who want to complete their high school coursework independently. He has been working fulltime as a truck driver for several years. Because he is home a few hours before going to sleep for the next workday, his time with the computer and Internet is limited. His experience with catalog searching is the little he has done at the local public library. As someone with little experience, his experience in using UC Merced's catalog is valuable for testing its ease of use.

The second individual is a 25-year-old female. After high school, where she was an average student, she attended a community college outside her hometown. After a year, she dropped out and moved back to her hometown. She completed a year-long paralegal certificate program through CSU Stanislaus. With no job prospects, she began attending the local community college and delved into a veterinary technician program. After some more experimenting, she opted to complete her general education in order to transfer to a four-year university. In April, she completed her general education and earned an Associate's degree in English. She will be attending UC Davis in the Fall to complete a degree in English with a minor in Portuguese Studies. Because she has used a variety of junior college libraries for a variety of subjects, I felt that she offered an experienced perspective.

For the third candidate, I chose a student who attends CSU Stanislaus. He is a 22-year-old male majoring in Liberal Studies to become a teacher. He is a traditional student, beginning his studies right after high school. He completed his general education at the local community college in two years and then transferred to CSU Stanislaus in Fall 2009. He will be graduating with his B.A. in Spring 2011. As someone with experience using an academic library at a 4-year-university, he offers a perspective different from the other testers. It is also beneficial that he is not a student at UC Merced.

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Results

My first tester was apprehensive about "doing homework;" I noticed that his self-esteem lowered while testing the OPAC. While I indicated that it was not so much the answers as it was the process that I was interested in, he was focused on "doing well." For someone who experienced ridicule for struggling with reading and schoolwork throughout elementary, middle, and high school, this is understandable. During testing he became frustrated, and I took the time to go over how to find some of the answers after he submitted his own. I also guided him in how to take screenshots; while there are only a few that he took, they show his approach and help to explain his answers.

For question 1, "*How many sources written by Tolstoy in English and in Russian are available at UC Merced,*" he retrieved 1,503 results for Tolstoy and then 505, both in English. He did not realize I wanted information for both Russian and English. I do not have screenshots of his results, but I have screenshots of how he entered in the information. The reason why he retrieved 1,503 is that he searched for Tolstoy as a keyword rather than an author in English (see the next screenshot).

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Advanced search [WorldCat.org] - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/advancedsearch

Yahoo! Mail: The best ... Sign In MySpace | A Place for ... TWC National and Local We... Bills Schools SubFinder https://www.aesoponl...

WEB SEARCH

Chat with a librarian

Advanced Search

Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below

Keyword: Tolstoy

Title:

Author:

Limit results by (optional)

Library: UC Merced Library

Year: to:

Audience: Any Audience

Content: Any Content

Format: All Formats

Language: English

Search

Search

McAfee

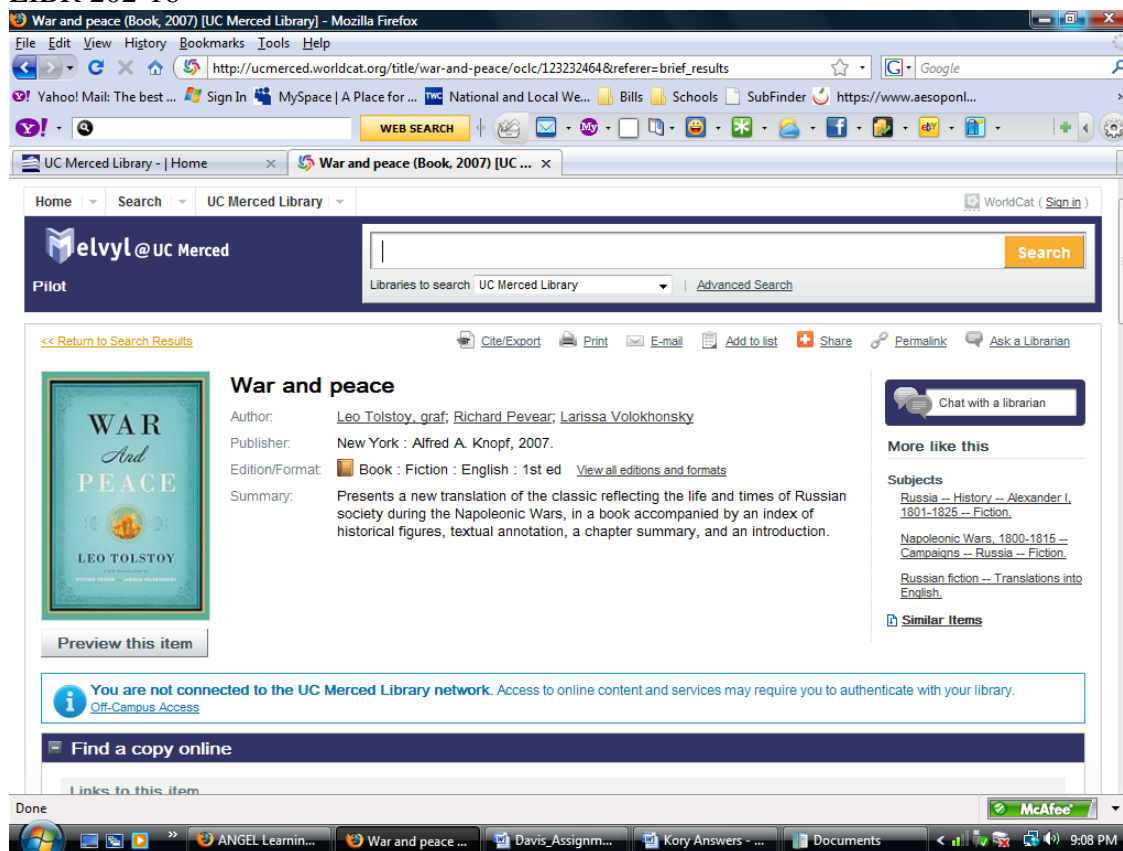
Kory Answers - Micr... Advanced search [...]

11:38 AM

The second answer he provided was after realizing that there was a search limit for author.

Another problem is that I failed to mention that I was focusing on Leo Tolstoy. In designing the question, I did not include "Leo" with Tolstoy because I have gotten used to using only last names when speaking about an author. When I created the test, I searched for "Tolstoy, Leo" as an author search in both Russian and English. The results for these should be 47 in Russian and 82 in English.

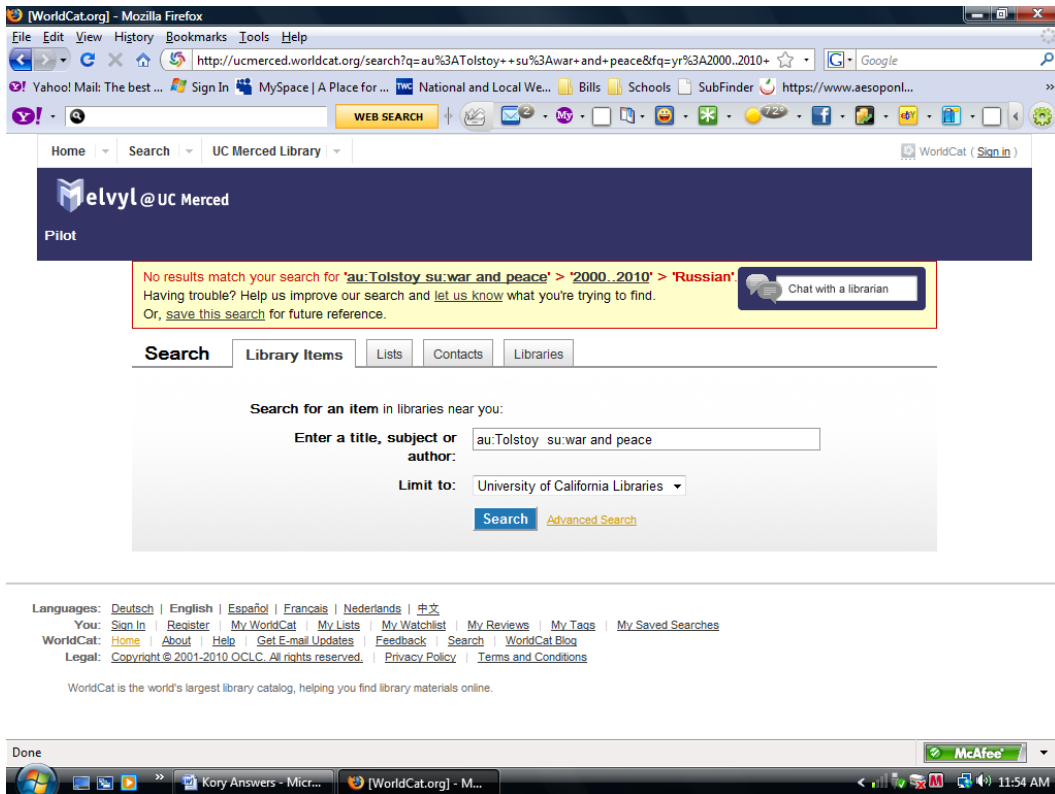
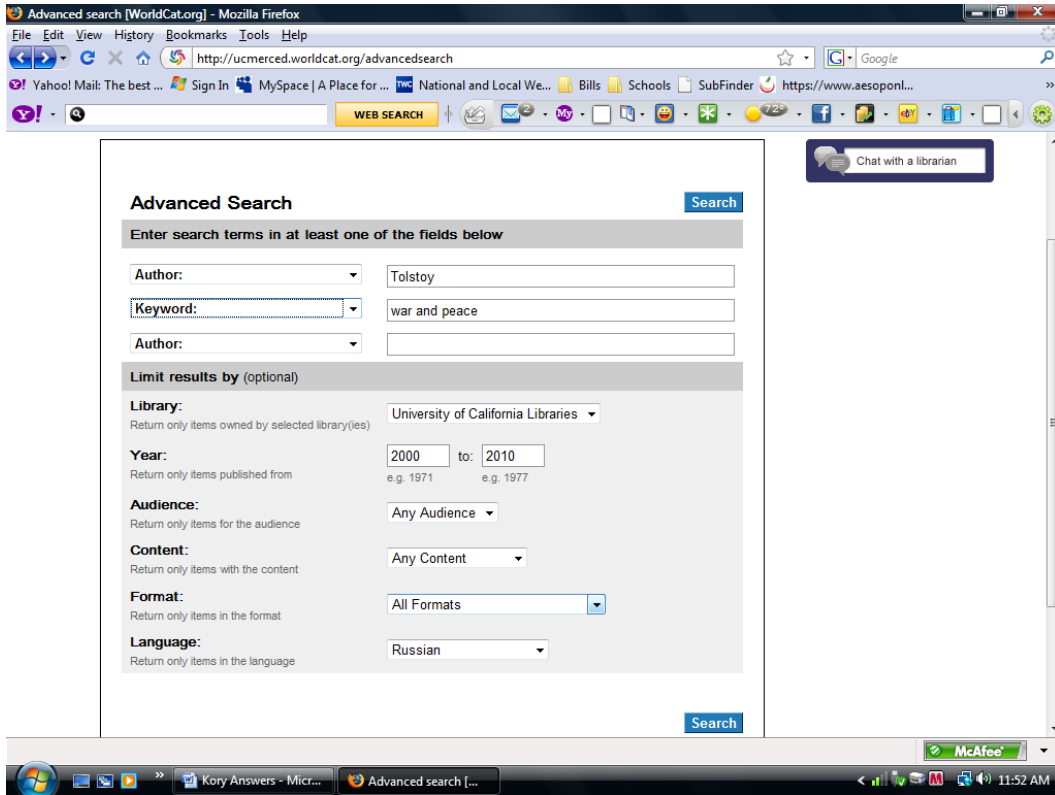
For the second question, "*Locate Tolstoy's War and Peace that was published in 2007. Then locate the searchable table of contents. What is the title of the Appendix?*," he located the right book, but he could not find the table of contents. It did not occur to him to click on the preview button (see the next screenshot).



The third question, "*Searching all UC campuses, how many theses on Russian literature have been written since 2000? Try both a subject and keyword search. Which seems more comprehensive?*," was difficult. Because of problems with reading comprehension, he thought he was continuing with Tolstoy, *War and Peace*, and now Russian Literature. He searched for Tolstoy as an author, "war and peace" as a keyword, and then chose to search all UC Libraries and entered in a date range between 2000 and 2010. He interpreted Russian literature as prompting his to enter Russian as a language. He also did not take into account "theses" as a limit. As a result he got 4 results searching for "war and peace" as a keyword and no matches when he changed keyword to subject (see the following two screenshots).

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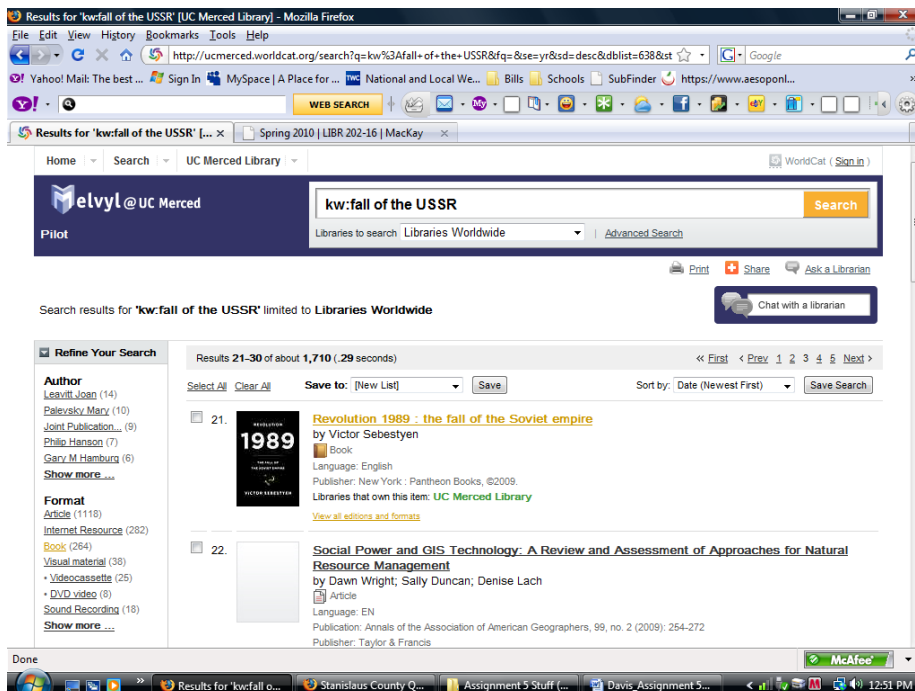
I initially searched Russian literature as both keywords and subject, limited content to

thesis/dissertation, limited the results to all UC libraries, and entered in the years 2000 to 2010.

The correct answer is 5 theses on Russian literature using the subject search, and 21 using

keyword. Keyword is more comprehensive since it has more results.

The fourth question, "*Run a search on the fall of the USSR. Which book title owned by UC Merced was printed most recently and when? What is the call number of the book?*," proved to be much easier. He entered in fall of the USSR as a keyword and chose to search only the UC Merced Library (see the next screenshot). He then saw that he could sort the results by date, and chose "newest first." While he did not know what a call number was, when I explained it, he understood what I meant; he just never knew it was called that. Because he sorted by newest date, he only had to scroll a little to find a book. The first few results were articles. While it is nice that the catalog includes icons that indicate the type of material, my tester indicated that they should be bigger (see the screenshot below). He has a point; when I first began using WorldCat, I did not notice the icons for videocassette, book, article, etc. at first.



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He correctly located *Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire* (2009) by Victor Sebestyen, and wrote down that the call number is DK288 .S393 2009. Because question 5 was a continuation of question 4, he quickly found that four other UC Libraries owned the title by scrolling down in the item's record (see the following two screenshots). All he did was click on the link beneath the University of California Libraries, "4 group libraries own this item." The list includes UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a WorldCat record for the book "Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire (Book, 2009)". The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://ucmerced.worldcat.org/title/revolution-1989-the-fall-of-the-soviet-empire/oclc/303038074&refere>. The page content is organized into sections:

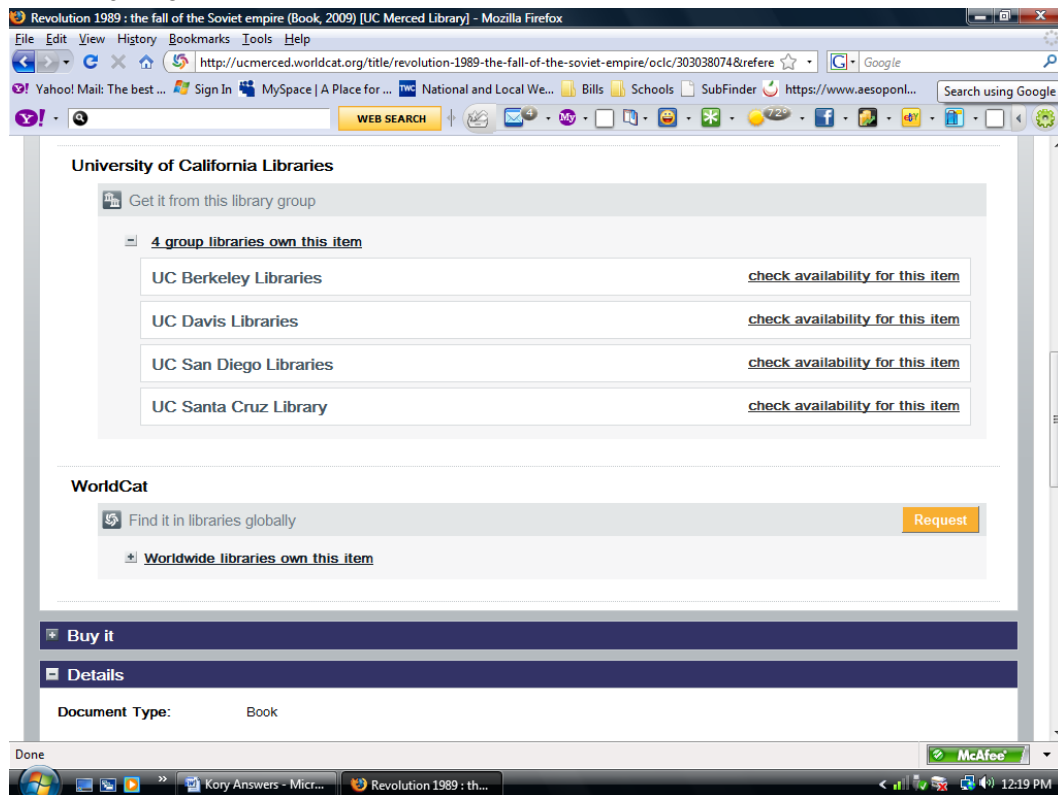
- Find a copy in the library**: Includes instructions to visit the library or request via interlibrary loan.
- UC Merced Library**: Shows "1 of 1 available" with a table listing the location and status.

Location	Status	Call number	Notes
Kolligian Library	AVAILABLE	DK288 .S393 2009	
- University of California Libraries**: Features a link that says "4 group libraries own this item".
- WorldCat**: Includes a "Request" button and a link for "Worldwide libraries own this item".

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 12:17 PM and includes icons for McAfee, Kory Answers, and the current browser window.

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The second tester, because of her experience with catalogs in the past, was much more comfortable with using the catalog. While I do not have screenshots of her work (she provided her answers via email), she indicated that she "was a little confused at times" (R. Mattos, personal email communication, May 16, 2010). Her results are as follows:

1. Search term: Leo Tolstoy 107 results at UC Merced
2. Search term: same as above Appendix: "A Few Words Apropos of the Book *War and Peace*"
3. Search term: Russian Literature 26 results for theses at all UC libraries. I found that using a keyword search yielded more relevant results.
4. Search term: fall of USSR *Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire* published in 2009 call # DK288. S393
5. I found 1 other UC library that owned the book: UC Irvine

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Her results are slightly different from mine, but not by much. Combined, I found 129 results for materials written by "Tolstoy, Leo" in English and Russian, rather than 107. As far as her search for other UC libraries that owned *Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire*, tester two and I found the link to the other UC libraries within UC Merced's record for *Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire* that indicated that four other UCs also owned the book. I asked her to tell me how she found UC Irvine, and she said that she started a new search for the title using the All UCs function. She found three results, one for the book at UC Merced and two articles. She then clicked on the "all editions and formats" link on the book record. The result for UC Merced popped up, as well as one other record marked as University of California Libraries. When she opened the UC Libraries' record, it was listed as being owned by UC Irvine.

Tester three's results were similar to tester two's results, which is indicative of his experience with catalogs. Questions 2, 3, and 4 proved to be simpler to find, and his answers match my own and tester two's answers. He ran into a problem with question 1 because, like tester one, he did not include "Leo" with Tolstoy as part of the author search (I should have included the first name as part of the question, but I failed to provide it for my testers). Only using Tolstoy, he retrieved 505 results for English works and 72 in Russian. Had he used Tolstoy, Leo, he would have retrieved results similar to mine (47 in Russian and 82 in English) and tester two's results (107 items combined). He also could not find how many UC Libraries owned the item. Like tester two, he ran a search of the title *Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet empire* using the University of California Libraries limit, but he stopped when he found three records, the title at UC Merced and the two articles. He was unsure as to how to get to the information he needed.

Conclusion

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The test I designed determined that parts of the newer UC Merced catalog are not as user friendly as they could be. After assessing some of the testers' complaints, I then looked at the layout of CSU Stanislaus' catalog and realized that some of the confusion could be reduced if UC Merced's catalog described details more clearly. For example, CSU Stanislaus' Library homepage explains that the Library Catalog refers to items owned by the Library, LINK+ delivers items in 2 to 4 days, and that WorldCat items can take between 5 to 10 days. No such information is readily available for retrieving books from other UC Libraries on the UC Merced Library homepage or Next General Melvyl Pilot catalog. Throughout the interface of Stanislaus' OPAC, there are also notes in parentheses that provide guidance. For example, the "main book collection" limit is described as "main stacks-Turlock" which means that students who select this will be searching for items on the open stacks at the Turlock campus. The juvenile collection is described as being in the "main stacks-third floor." Music recording is described as "CDs, etc." These markers are very helpful, and it gave me the idea that there should be markers to describe limits. One way to do this would be to employ help buttons that explain what a limit does or means, etc. when the help or question mark icon is clicked. I also feel that the searchable tables of contents feature should be more publicized and much more apparent within the catalog.

Furthermore, CSU Stanislaus' OPAC's interface also uses simpler language. For example, a search for a term "anywhere" sounds much less formal than UC Merced's "keyword." Not everyone knows what keyword or subject searches are until they are taught, and neither UC Merced nor CSU Stanislaus requires a library literacy class or session, so easier to understand limits is a wise design choice. I find that using "subject heading" as a description is clearer than simply "subject." Many students think of a subject search as simply a search by topic, unaware that subject refers to Library of Congress Subject Headings that are very specific. I also feel that using "in the author's name" is much better than "author." The former implies that there can be

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more than one author with a similar name or that parts of names can be searched. "Author"

seems much stricter. (In any case, neither catalog provides an indication as how names should be entered.)

At the beginning of this assignment, I felt that the UC Merced OPAC was clearly marked and easy to use. User studies definitely bring to light issues that are not obvious to programmers. In my own experience with the Next Generation Melvyl pilot catalog, I found that some of the interesting features were a bit difficult to access. It was not clear how to access the tables of contents, and it was a little awkward trying to locate subject headings or how many other UC libraries owned a particular book. Two of the three testers started new searches for a title using the All UC's limit when they could have simply scrolled down in the UC Merced record for the particular title to find the link to the other UC Libraries. While the Next Generation Melvyl pilot catalog is more streamlined in appearance, more guides are needed to direct students.

This study also shows that users really do need training in how to use academic library OPACs. For many students in the Central Valley who do not come from academic backgrounds, using the library catalog incites fear of the unknown. Academic language is not yet clear, and if students are not provided with library training, it could be quite a while before students make use of the library OPAC. It would not be a bad idea if students were required to take a tutorial on how to use the catalog and databases before beginning coursework, such as San Jose State University's SLIS requires of its Library and Information Science students (Library Online Tutorial for the School of Library and Information Science Students [L.O.T.S.S.]). Otherwise, many students may get by relying on the "easier to use" Google than the carefully selected, up-to-date, authoritative materials available at an academic institution.

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