

MIT's experience: Upgrading the Web OPAC to No-Frames

NAAUG 2003, prepared by Tracy Gabridge, MIT, tag@mit.edu

On June 11th, MIT will complete its journey to a no-frames OPAC. Take a look at what has changed with patch 5 and the new features we've added for our users.

The Good Changes from 14.2.4 to 14.2.5

<p>Frames!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -800 files to customize -Slow page downloads -Browsers rendered the frames differently 	<p>No-frames! (Duh!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Less than 400 files to customize -Faster page downloads -More consistent display across browsers.
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The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with 'Barton MIT Libraries' Catalog on the left and 'MIT Libraries' on the right. Below the bar, there are several search options: 'Search Full Catalog' with links for 'Basic' and 'Advanced'; 'Search only for:' with links for 'Journals', 'Conferences', 'MIT Theses', and 'Reserves'; and user account links for 'Your Account', 'Your Bookshelf', and 'Previous Searches'. A yellow 'Ask Us!' button is visible. Below this is the 'Basic Search of Full Catalog' section with a 'Search Tips' link. The search form includes a 'Search type:' dropdown menu set to 'Keyword', a 'Search for:' text input field, and a 'Search' button. An example search string is provided: 'darwin origin (wom!n or female) and scien*'. The footer contains the MIT Libraries logo, contact information (webopac-feedback@mit.edu, Contact Us, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307 USA), and a 'Quick Links' dropdown menu.

<p>Lots of javascript necessary to customize the OPAC well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Search screens not very robust -Every pop up window required javascript 	<p>Not so much javascript required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More functionality available in search and display screens -Not so many popup windows
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<p>Brief Display List View has very little of the functionality of the Table View</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Couldn't sort -Small numbers of fields could be included -Couldn't link from fields like in the full display 	<p>Brief Display List View is more robust than the Table View</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can sort in many different ways, including secondary sorting -Can include up to 27 fields in the brief display (more than you would want!) -Can link from fields just like in the full display
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Brief Results Display from Full Catalog

Results for W-all keywords= (organic print*); sorted by : Year

[Add to Bookshelf](#) [Save/Email](#) [View Selected](#)

Records 1 - 10 of 11

[Limit by Date](#) [Limit to Available Items](#)

Jump to # [Prev page](#) [Next page](#)

[Select All](#) [Deselect](#)

Sort options : | [Year](#) | [Year\(ascending\)](#) | [Author](#) | [Title](#)

1

[[Display full record](#)]

Title [Materials development for direct write technologies : symposium held April 24-26, 2000, San Francisco, California, U.S.A. / editors, Douglas B. Chrisey ... \[et al.\]](#).

Series [Materials Research Society symposia proceedings ; v. 624](#).

Published Warrendale, Pa. : Materials Research Society, c2001.

Format Book

Subject [Electronics -- Materials -- Congresses](#).
[Microlithography -- Materials -- Congresses](#).
[Integrated circuits -- Materials -- Congresses](#).
[Masks \(Electronics\) -- Materials -- Congresses](#).
[Microfabrication -- Congresses](#).
[Lasers -- Industrial applications -- Congresses](#).

Availability Click [All items](#) to check current status

Location [Science Library - Stacks | TK7871.M37 2001](#)

<p>Minimal flexibility in constructing URL's to link into the OPAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When changing logical bases always had to link to start-3 -Couldn't construct an external link to a browse list 	<p>URL structure more flexible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can link to any search page when changing logical bases -Can construct an external link to a browse list: http://walter.mit.edu/F/?func=scan&scan_code=LOC&scan_start=TD1
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<p>Pre-limiting searches was not possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Necessary to use javascript to implement pre-search limits 	<p>Pre-limiting searches possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can customize and include many pre-limits on any search screen.
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Advanced Search of Full Catalog



Keyword Searches

[Browse an Alphabetical List](#)

[Search by Physical Format \(e.g. CD-ROMs, Maps, ...\)](#)

AND
 AND

Search as: Words Phrases

Limit search to:

Year:
 Language:

Location:
 Collection:

Shutting off copyright screens hard -Had to put a \$4 field in URLs to turn off the copyright screen	Shutting off copyright screens easy -Now is an option in www-server-defaults
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Couldn't put a useful URL in the Availability/Holdings page	Can put a URL in the Availability/Holdings page
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Availability/Holdings Display

[Results List](#) | [Copy Options](#)

Knudsen, Jonathan. Wireless Java[electronic resource] :developing with Java 2, micro edition /Jonathan Knudsen [i. e., Knudsen]. Berkeley, Calif. : Apress, c2001 (Norwood, Mass. : Books24x7.com [generator])

Internet Resource **See URL(s) - MIT Access Only

- [Click here for the electronic version.](#)

Style sheet loaded with every page in the browser	Style sheet implemented so that it no longer loads with every page
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Error messages always pop up	Error messages always appear in the same place at the top of the page.
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The GOTCHAs from 14.2.4 to 14.2.5

Before	After
Address info used to appear on the bor-info page (the page linked to from the User link)	Address info now appears behind an "Update Addresses" link on bor-info. Implication: If you use the address info to populate other library service request forms, some changes will be necessary.
On the Availability/Holdings page the Limits (Year, Volume, Library) could be disabled one by one.	Now you must either delete all at once or not at all.
Most of the time you could replace a .gif button with a text link	Some .gif buttons are hard coded and have to be replaced with .gifs in order to customize (e.g. Brief Results display and Previous Searches)
URLs on the full display used a target attribute to open a new window.	URLs in any display use a javascript to open a new window.

New Features for MIT Users

- Your Account!
- Service Request forms like ILB, auto-populated in Your Account
- Incorporation of quick links menu at bottom of screen

Search Full Catalog:

- [Basic](#)
- [Advanced](#)

Search only for:

- [Journals](#)
- [Conferences](#)
- [MIT Theses](#)
- [Reserves](#)

- [Your Account](#)
- [Sign Out](#)

- [Your Bookshelf](#)
- [Previous Searches](#)

Protect your privacy. Remember to [sign out!](#)

Ask Us!

[Other Catalogs](#)

[Help](#) [FAQ](#)

[Modify your results displays](#) | [Change your password](#)

Account Summary for GABRIDGE, TRACY A

[View items on loan/Renew items](#) 2
[View holds & RSC requests](#) 2
[View information about fines](#) -20.00

Other Library Services

[Suggest a Purchase](#)

[Deliver books from one MIT Library to another - **Bookpage Delivery**](#)

[Borrow Materials from non-MIT Libraries - **Interlibrary Borrowing**](#)



webopac-feedback@mit.edu | [Contact Us](#)
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307 USA

-- Quick Links --

- Notification in the brief results display for storage request forms

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[[Display full record](#)]

Author [Prime, Samuel Irenæus, 1812-1885.](#)

Title [The life of Samuel F. B. Morse, LL.D., inventor of the electro-magnetic recording telegraph. By Samuel Irenaus Prime.](#)

Published New York, D. Appleton, 1875.

Format Book

Subject [Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872.](#)

Availability Click [All items](#) to check current status

Location [RetroSpective Collection - Harvard Depository Collection | TK5243.M7.P8x](#)
 [[Request this from the RetroSpective Collection](#)]

- Different forms display for Hold Request versus Closed Stacks retrieval requests
- Noscript sections on every page that has javascript