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Ebookmobile: Delivering Subject-Specific Ebooks to Your Inbox

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Ebookmobile: Delivering Subject-Specific Ebooks to Your Inbox

Kathryn Lybarger, University of Kentucky
ELUNA
May 10, 2012

Abundance and Austerity

- An abundance of information is available
- Scarcity of resources needed to identify and process it
- True for both libraries and their patrons

Patrons are busy

- They need **library resources**
- They need **very specific** library resources
- They need to know about **new ones** as they become available

Selective Dissemination of Information

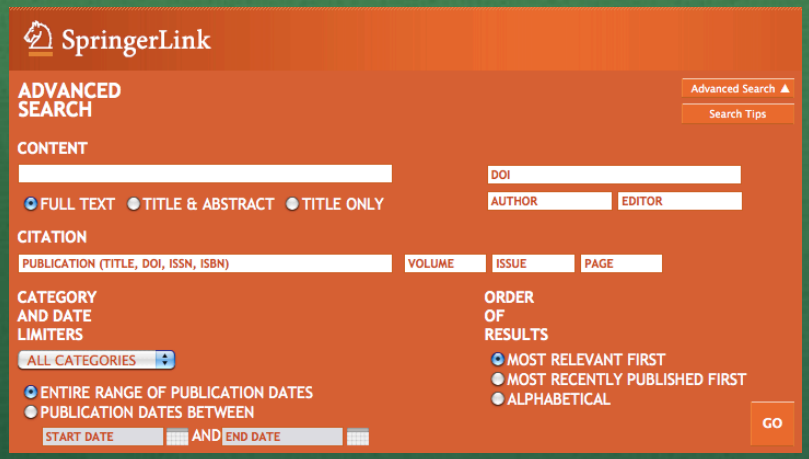
- Concept formalized in the 1950's
- On an ongoing basis:
  - Find new resources based on an interest profile
  - Alert the patron
- Alerts may be email, RSS, text messaging

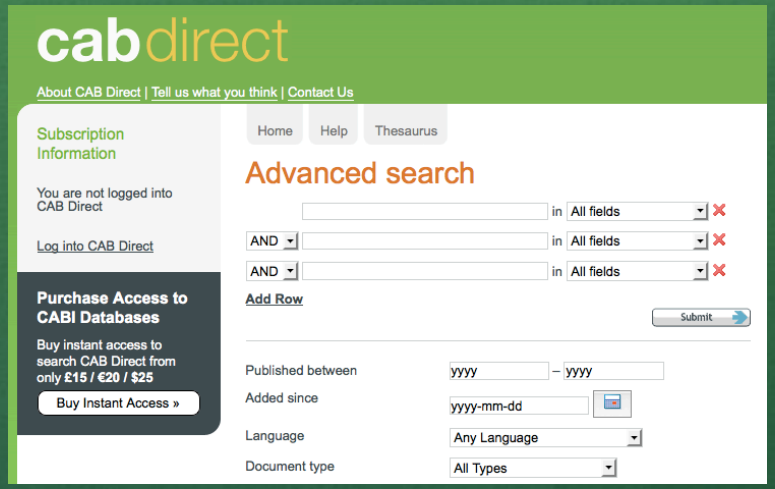
New book shelf

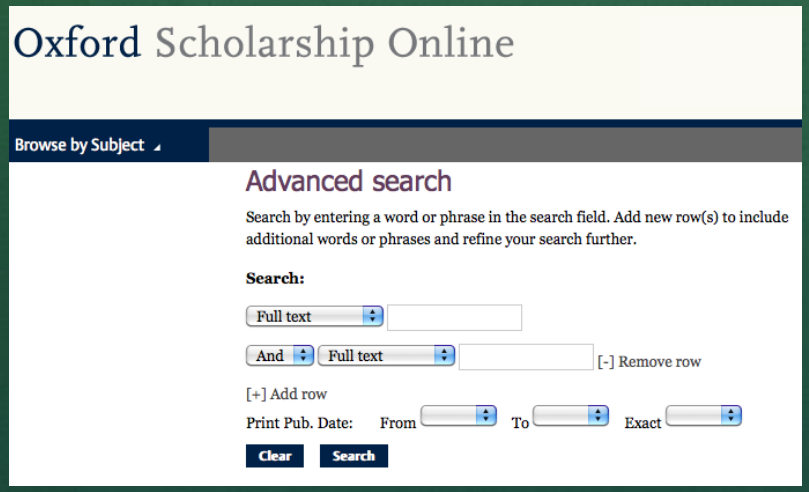
Ebooks don't fit on a shelf

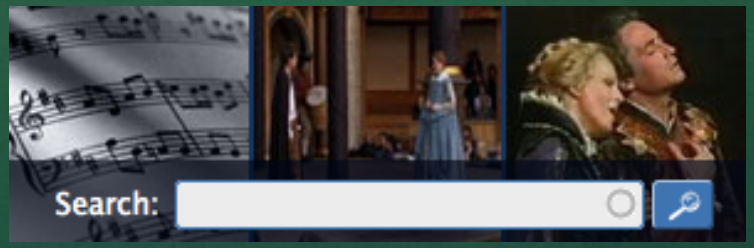
- Not physical, visible, browseable objects
- Ebooks selected hundreds (or thousands) at a time
- Lengthy title lists are not useful
- Related items may not be collocated

Vendor sites are searchable

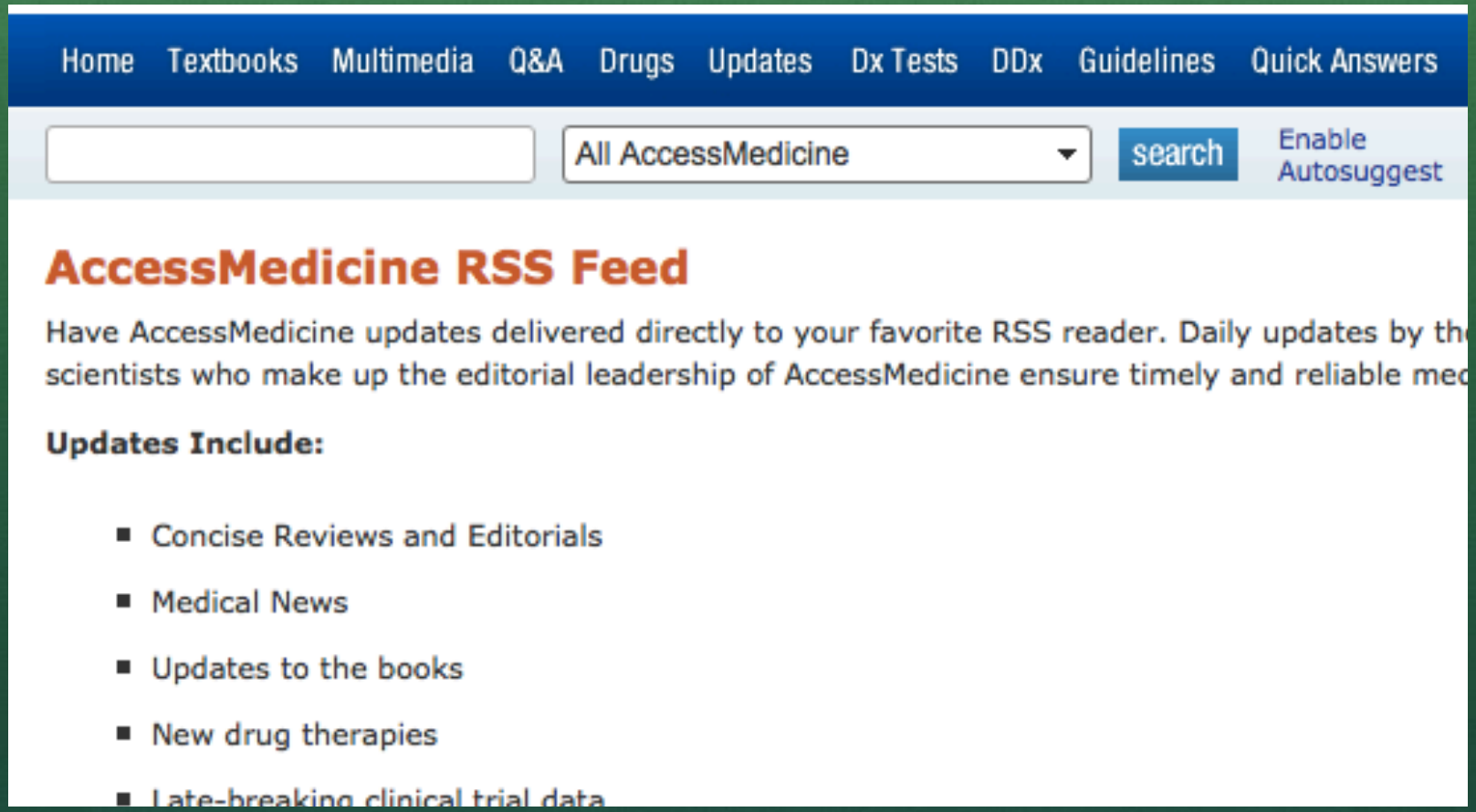








Some vendors have alerts



…but that's not sufficient

- That's a lot of places to check!
- We may not subscribe to all of a vendor's content
- Patrons may only care about narrow subjects

Catalog ebooks

- Ebooks from all vendors gathered in one place
- Catalog records have useful information indexed for searching
- Links proxied for use off-campus

Keywords?

Subject headings?

- May work somewhat:
  - Fruit trade
    - Fruit trade—History
    - Fruit trade—Ohio

- Broad interests may not find narrower subjects:
  - Algebra
    - Matrices
      - Eigenvalues

Classification!

- QA150-255 – Algebra
  - QA188-196 – Matrices
    - QA193 – Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

- Specifying a broad range will find books on specific narrow subjects as well

Do/Should ebooks have call numbers?

- They aren't actually shelved in the stacks
- Patrons may look at the shelf anyway

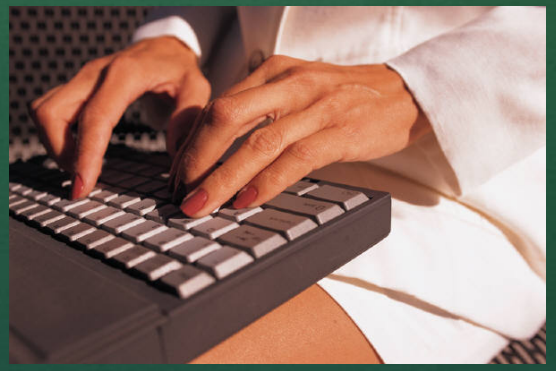
- Extra work to assign classification

Classification is often available

- Ebook records are often based on print records
- May appear in bibliographic record, not holdings
- Without call number indexed, searching difficult

Difficult, but…

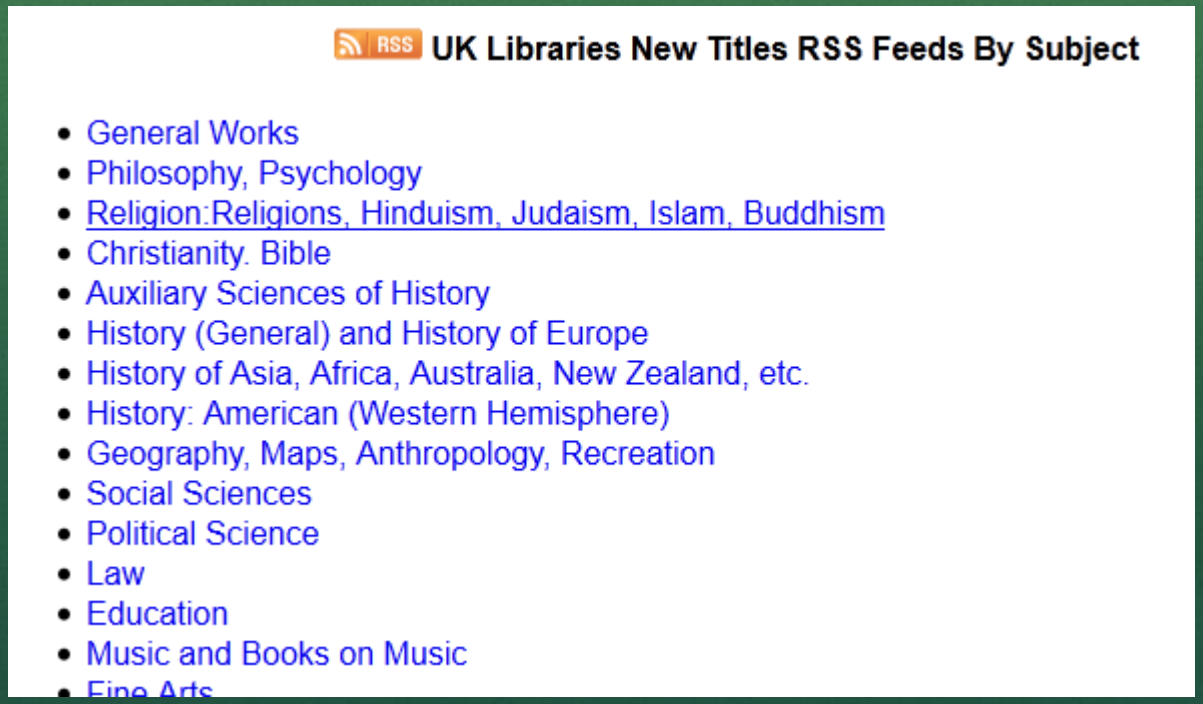
- Database (blob) searches can be done
- Same searches to be repeated often
- Update results of old search



Ebookmobile

- Software developed at the University of Kentucky
- Finds new ebooks in Voyager based on classification in bibliographic record
- Sends alerts via Atom feed

New titles list for print



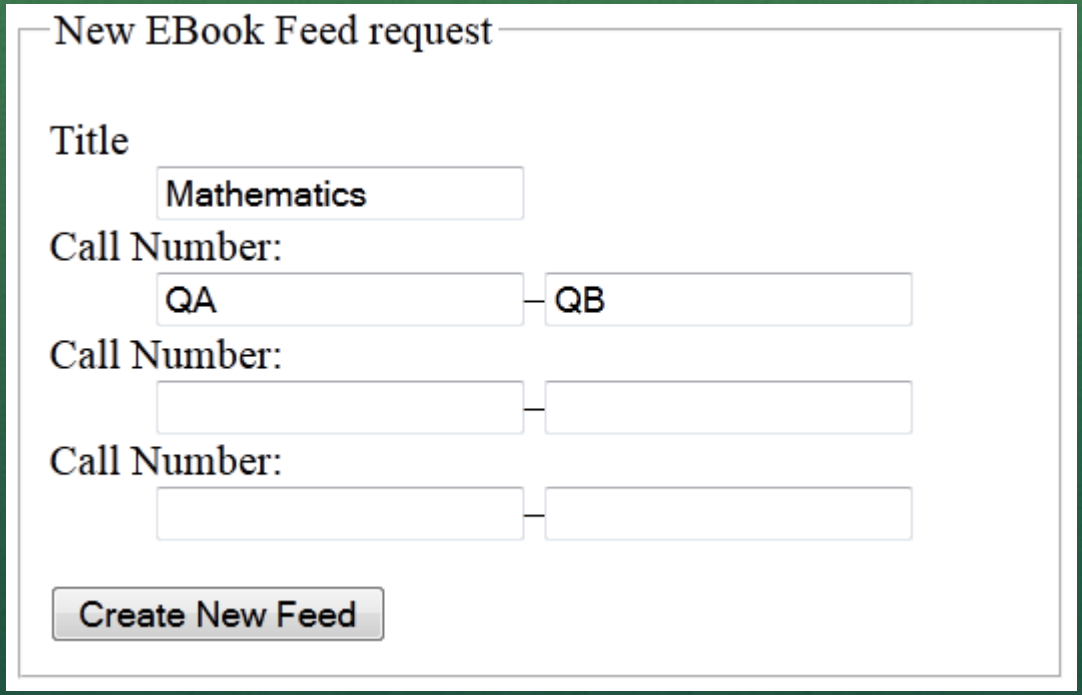
Why re-invent the wheel?

- We don't classify our ebooks in our holdings
- No labeling / processing delay
- When licensing allows, multiple patrons can use simultaneously

Multiple classifications

- A title about SQL may be classified:
  - QA76.73.S67
    - Mathematics—Instruments and machines—Calculating machines—Electronic computers. Computer science—Digital computers—Programming languages—Individual languages, A-Z—SQL. MySQL
  - HF5548.5.S65
    - Commerce—Business—Data processing—Computer program languages or markup languages, A-Z—SQL/ORACLE

Create new feeds



Atom feed (rendered by Safari)

Math

Definitive guide to GCC EbookMobile Today, 10:21 PM

Definitive guide to GCC [electronic resource] / William von Hagen.

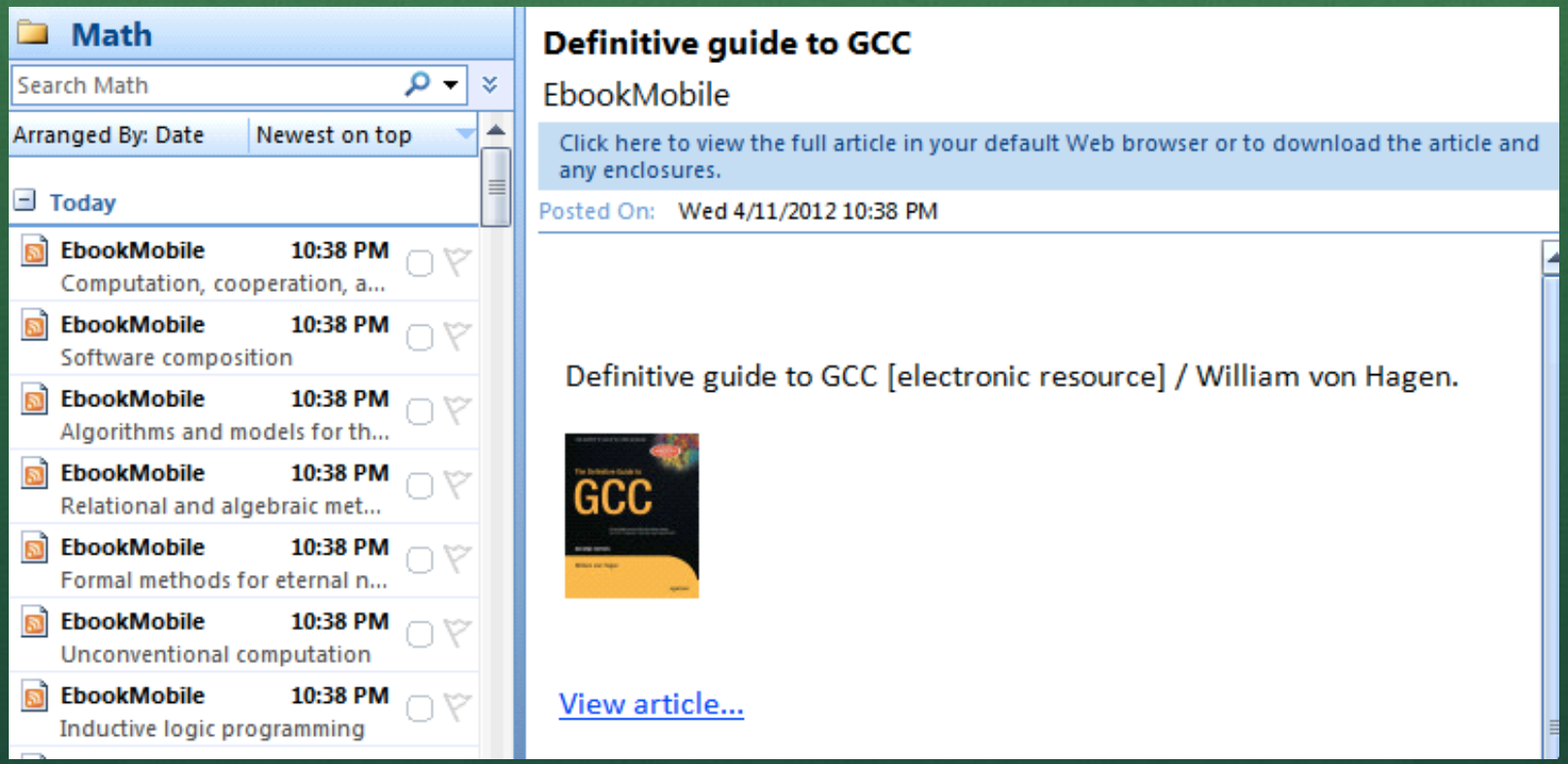
Read more…

Human-Computer Interaction: Design and Development Approaches EbookMobile Today, 10:21 PM

Human-Computer Interaction: Design and Development Approaches [electronic resource] : 14th International Conference, HCI International 2011, Orla
/ Julie A. Jacko (ed.)

Read more…

Feeds in your email: Outlook

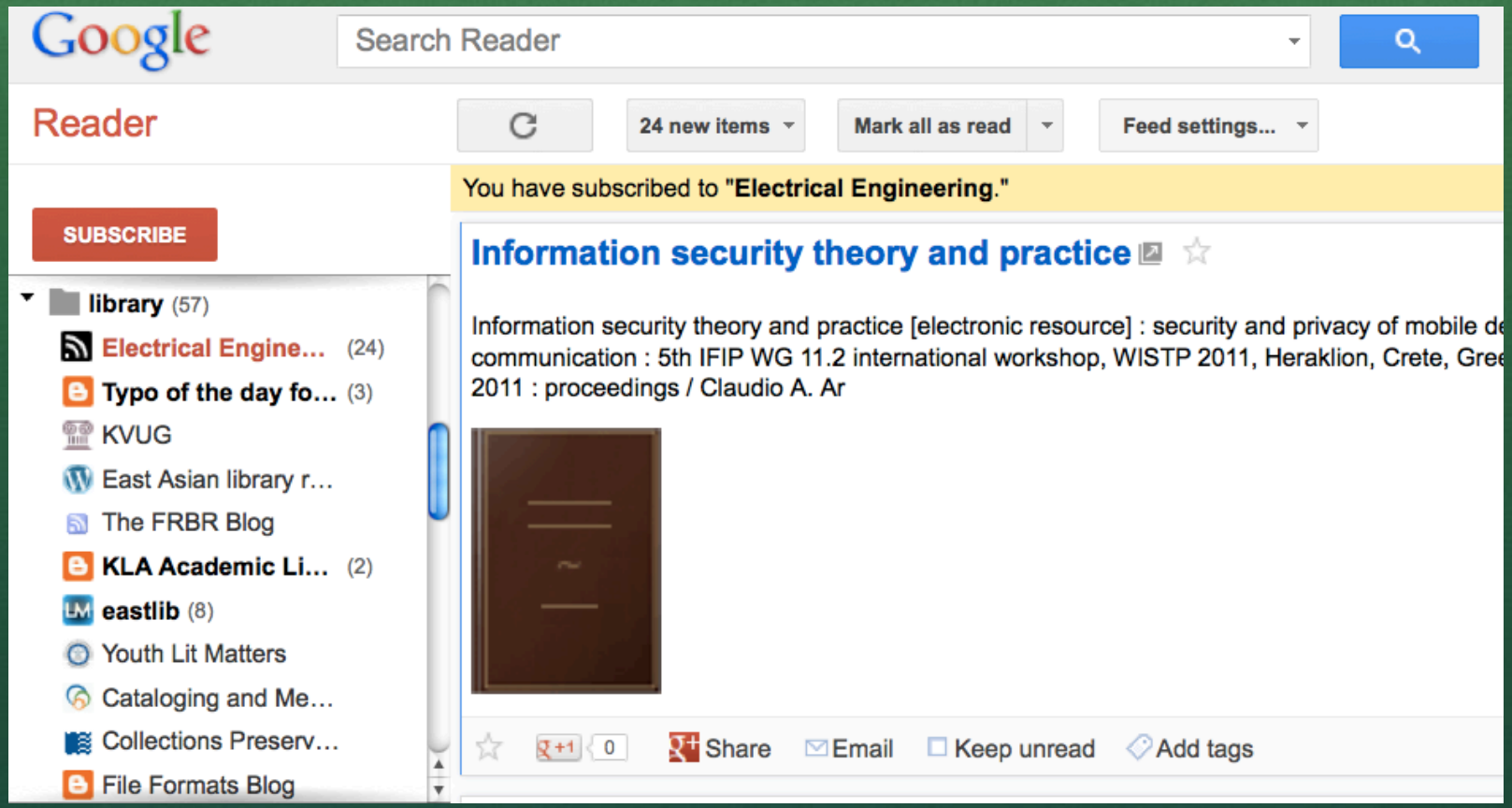


Click through to catalog

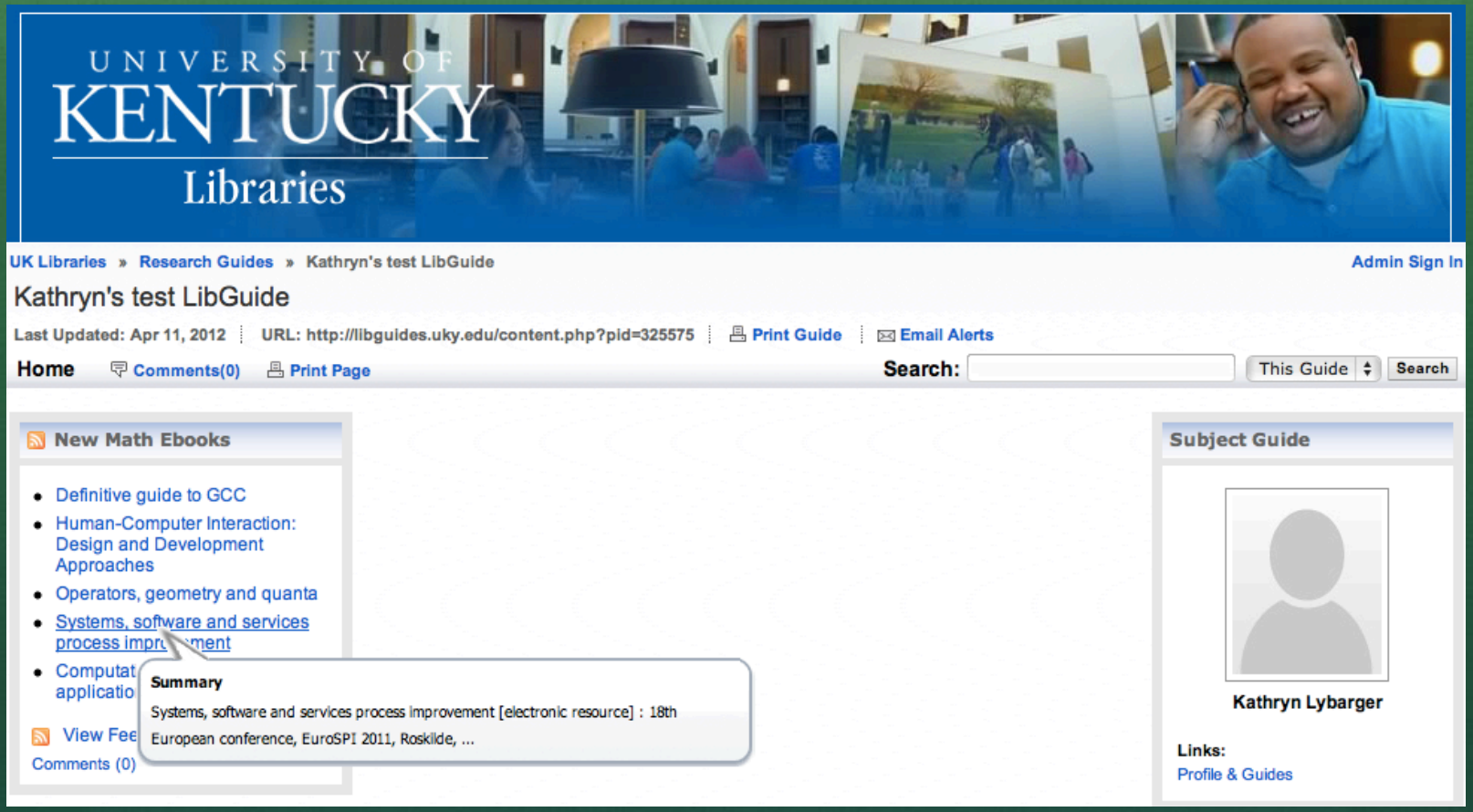
The definitive guide to GCC

Title:	The definitive guide to GCC [electronic resource] / William von Hagen.
Author:	Von Hagen, William.
Other Author(s):	SpringerLink (Online service)
Publisher:	Berkeley, CA : Apress, c2006.
ISBN:	9781430202196 (electronic bk.) 143020219X (electronic bk.)
Description:	2nd ed. xxix, 550 p. : ill.
Format:	Book
Subjects:	Compilers (Computer programs)
Internet Access:	SpringerLink -- CLICK HERE for Internet access to title
Notes:	Includes index. Electronic reproduction.

Subscribe to feeds: Feed readers



Share feeds: LibGuides



Under the hood

- Feeds are Atom 1.0 (similar to RSS)

- Code written in PHP / Javascript
  - Running on separate server (not Voyager)
- A MySQL database stores:
  - Feed specifications
  - Cached information about ebooks, updated daily
- Google Books API for covers

Decisions, decisions

- What makes an ebook new?
  - Only when newly cataloged?
  - When modified?
  - When certain fields (classification) modified?

- How far back to show in feed?
  - Two weeks? One month?
  - Different per feed?

Status/Future plans

- Currently testing with just a few feeds/patrons at UK
- Open more broadly to University of Kentucky library patrons (June 2012)
- Open more broadly to other Voyager customers (Fall 2012)

My questions

- Is EBM more useful as open-source software or as a service?
- Should Patron-Driven Acquisitions discovery records appear on feeds?

Any other questions?