



Designing a New Web OPAC at the MIT Libraries

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Introduction

- The catalog of the MIT Libraries is named Barton in honor of William Barton Rogers, MIT's founder
- Old Library Management system: Geac Advanced with telnet and web versions
- Fall 2000 chose Ex Libris Aleph 500



I Will Talk About...

- Design principles
- “Highly customizable”
- Search screens & search results
- “Your account” & order forms
- “Your bookshelf”, help & tutorials...
- Ask Us! vs. webopac-feedback@mit.edu
- Challenges & next steps



Design Principles

- Usability studies – old Web Barton, other Aleph sites
- We knew that users ...
 - see catalogs just another web page
 - do not understand library terminology
- Clean, simple look
- Easy to use (including vocabulary)
- Basic search & brief results display enough for most users



“Highly Customizable”

- HTML & Tables
- Frames & JavaScript
- Logical bases -- subsets of the full catalog – journals, conferences, MIT Theses, (Course Reserves)
- Learning curve for staff...



Basic & Advanced Search

- URL: <http://libraries.mit.edu/barton/>
- Default basic search is very broad keyword search
- Basic search menu includes both keyword and browse searches
- No limiting on the basic search (solved a technical problem as well)

3rd Barton -- Basic Search

Full Catalog - ALEPH main menu - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Location: .mit.edu:80/ALEPH/22876LXLKCE6M6YF1LG1634YFGCESSP7GB9GV357FURGQM7G-01391/start/MIT01PUB

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Shop Stop

MIT libraries [Ask Us!](#)

MITLibraries [Barton](#) [Sign in](#) [Your Account](#) [Your Bookshelf](#) [Your Previous Searches](#) [Help Tutorials](#) [Other Catalogs](#)

Full Catalog:
[Basic search](#)
[Advanced Search](#)

Search for:
[Journals](#)
[Conferences](#)
[MIT Theses](#)

Search type: Keyword
Keyword
Title begins with...
Title Keyword
Author (last name first)
Author Keyword
Subject begins with...
Subject Keyword
Call Number begins with...

Search for: Search

Example(s): **darwin origin (wom!n or female) and scien***

Document: Done

Advanced Keyword Searches

Full Catalog - ALEPH main menu - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Location: .mit.edu:80/ALEPH/22876LXLKCE6M6YF1LG1634YFGCESSP7GB9GV357FURGQMQV7G-00169/start/MIT01ADV

Back Forward Reload Home

Keyword Anywhere

- Author Words
- Title Words
- Subject Words
- Series Words
- URL
-
- Abbreviated Journal Title
- Personal Name
- Conference Name
- Corporate Author
- Notes
- Contents
-
- Publisher
- Place of Publication
-
- ISSN/ISBN
- SuDocs/Item Number
- Series Number

MIT Libraries

[Barton](#)
MIT Libraries'
Catalog

Full Catalog:

[Basic search](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Search for:

[Journals](#)

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Advanced Search

Keyword

Keyword Anywhere

AND Keyword Anywhere

AND Keyword Anywhere

Search for: Search as: Words

Words

Words

Search Clear

Limit Search to:

Document: Done

Advanced Browse Searches

Full Catalog - ALEPH main menu - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Location: .mit.edu:80/ALEPH/22876LXLKCE6M6YF1LG1634YFGCESSP7GB9GV357FURGQMQV7G-00169/start/MIT01ADV

Back Forward

Security Shop Stop

MITLibraries

- [Interlibrary Borrowing](#)
- [BookPage](#)
- [Suggested Purchase](#)
- [Copy Services](#)

Ask Us!

[Your Previous Searches](#) [Help Tutorials](#) [Other Catalogs](#)

Search for:

Search

Limit search to LIBRARY (e.g. Science or Music) or to PHYSICAL FORMAT (e.g. DVD, Government Documents, internet resources)

Search hints:

Lower-case letters will find matches of capitalized words also. For example, *computer* will find matches for *computer*, *Computer* and *COMPUTER*.

Boolean AND is assumed between words. You may use the Boolean operators AND, OR and

Limit Search

Full Catalog - ALEPH main menu - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Location: .mit.edu:80/ALEPH/22876LXLKCE6M6YF1LG1634YFGCESSP7GB9GV357FURGQMQV7G-00169/start/MIT01ADV

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Full Catalog:

[Basic search](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Search for:

[Journals](#)

[Conferences](#)

[MIT Theses](#)

[Course Reserves](#)

Limit your search by:

Location	Physical Format
Divisional and Branch Libraries	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aeronautics and Astronautics Library<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Reference Collection◦ Journals◦ Stacks• Barker Engineering Library<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Reference Collection◦ Journals◦ Stacks• Dewey Library<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Reference Collection◦ Journals◦ Stacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Books• CD-ROMs• Electronic Resources• Government Documents• Journals• Maps• Microforms• MIT Theses• Serials • Audio Visual and Music<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ All Music Sound recordings◦ All Video Recordings

Document: Done

Start m... E... M... F... b... g... lo... re... tu... y... S... 1... 12:21 PM



“Logical Bases”

- Subset of the full catalog
- Journals
- Conferences
- MIT Theses
- Special case: Course Reserves
- Choosing Basic or Advanced Search will get you back to full catalog



Search for Journals

- Keyword anywhere as default
- Journal title (keyword & browse)
- Abbreviated journal title
- Organization name
- Subject
- ISSN, CODEN
- Call Number begins with ...



Search for Conferences

- Just a box – enter whatever you know
- Examples:
 - To find "Materials Research Society symposia proceedings; v. 416" try "Materials Research Symposia 416"
 - To find "Proceedings of the 11th ARC/CIB/IEEE/IFR International Symposium on Automation and Robotics in Construction. 11th ISARC 1994. Brighton, UK." try "symposium automation robotics Brighton"

The logo consists of a vertical line on the left, with an orange square above it and a teal square below it. A horizontal line crosses the vertical line, extending across the slide.

MIT Theses

- Keyword
- Thesis supervisor
- Thesis department (not working fully)
- Thesis title
- Thesis Author
- Thesis subject pre 1986



Course Reserves

- Instructor name
- Course name
- Course Number
- Author name
- Title
- Department
- Period (term)

Brief Results - Monographs

Full Catalog - ALEPH main menu - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Bookmarks Location: it.edu:80/ALEPH/5N74GCKED57SQMGU35P65SQ9H8T5Q4M6FPV95RP6KLUQFUUBAX-02924/start/MIT01PUB

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MIT Libraries' Catalog

Order forms:

- [RetroSpective Collection \(RSC\)](#)
- [Interlibrary Borrowing](#)
- [BookPage](#)
- [Suggested Purchase](#)
- [Copy Services](#)

2 [[Display full record](#)]

Author: Berry, R. Stephen, 1931-
Title: Physical chemistry.
Series: Topics in physical chemistry
Published: New York : Oxford University Press, 2000.
Format: Book
Subjects: [Chemistry, Physical and theoretical.](#)
Availability: [Science Library - Stacks | QD453.2.B48 2000](#)

3 [[Display full record](#)]

Author: Whittaker, A. G.
Title: Physical chemistry
Series: Instant notes series
Published: Oxford : BIOS Scientific ; New York : Springer-Verlag, 2000.
Format: Book
Subjects: [Chemistry, Physical and theoretical.](#)
Availability: [Science Library - Stacks | QD453.2.W45 2000](#)

Document: Done

Brief Results -- Journals

Full Catalog - ALEPH main menu - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Bookmarks Location: .mit.edu:80/ALEPH/22876LXLKCE6M6YF1LG1634YFGCESSP7GB9GV357FURGQMQV7G-00464/start/MIT01PUB

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[Conferences](#)

[MIT Theses](#)

[Course Reserves](#)
Coming soon!

Order forms:

- [RetroSpective Collection \(RSC\)](#)
- [Interlibrary Borrowing](#)
- [BookPage](#)

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

1 [[Display full record](#)]

Title: Journal of organic chemistry.
Published: [Washington, D.C., etc.] American Chemical Society [etc.]
Format: Serial
Subjects: [Chemistry, Organic -- Periodicals.](#)
Holdings: Click on Library Name below to see range of years owned in each location

Availability: [Internet Resource - Electronic Journal](#) | [**See URL\(s\)](#)
[RetroSpective Collection - Microforms](#) | [MFILM QD.J85](#)
[Science Library - Journal Collection](#) | [QD.J85](#)
[Science Library - Journal Collection](#) | [QD.J85](#)
[Science Library - Journal Collection](#) | [QD.J85](#)
More Locations

URL: <http://pubs.acs.org/journals/joceah/index.html>

2 [[Display full record](#)]

Document: Done



Your Account

- Place holds items checked out by other users
- Request items from remote storage(s)
- Renew your books
- View your own account (fines, books on loan, requests pending)

Your Account – Sign In

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Title Bar:** MIT Theses only - ALEPH main menu - Netscape
- Address Bar:** Location: ry.mit.edu:443/ALEPH/5N74GCKED57SQMGU35P65SQ9H8T5Q4M6FPV95RP6KLUQFUUBAX-17131/file/bor-id-0
- Navigation Buttons:** Back, Forward, Reload, Home, Search, Netscape, Print, Security, Shop, Stop
- Page Header:** MIT libraries (left), Ask Us! (right)
- Navigation Links:** [Barton](#) MIT Libraries' Catalog, [Sign in](#), [Your Account](#), [Your Bookshelf](#), [Your Previous Searches](#), [Help Tutorials](#), [Other Catalogs](#)
- Left Sidebar:** MIT Libraries logo, Full Catalog: [Basic search](#), [Advanced Search](#), Search for: [Journals](#), [Conferences](#), [MIT Theses](#), [Course](#)
- Main Content Area:**
 - Please sign in:**
 - MIT ID
 - Password
 - Don't forget to sign out if you're on a public or shared workstation!**
 - Please visit the circulation desk at [any library](#) to get your password.
 - If you are not a member of the MIT community or do not know your password, please use these order forms to obtain service:
 - [RSC delivery](#)
 - [ILB](#) (MIT only)
- Footer:** Document: Done

Your Account Information

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window with the title "MIT Theses only - ALEPH main menu - Netscape". The address bar contains the URL "it.edu:443/ALEPH/5N74GCKED57SQMGU35P65SQ9H8T5Q4M6FPV95RP6KLUQFUUBAX-00178/file/bor-frame-0". The browser's toolbar includes buttons for Back, Forward, Reload, Home, Search, Netscape, Print, Security, Shop, and Stop. The page content is for the MIT Libraries account information for ERJA H KAJOSALO. It features a navigation menu with links for Barton, Sign out, Your Account, Your Bookshelf, Your Previous Searches, Help, and Other Catalogs. The main content area is titled "Account Information for KAJOSALO, ERJA H" and includes sections for "Library messages for you", "Change your password", and "Your activities". The "Your activities" section lists "Items on loan" (0), "Holds/RSC requests" (0), and "Fines owed" (0.00). A message at the bottom states "Please contact any library to update your address". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Document: Done" and various system icons.

MIT Libraries [Ask Us!](#)

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MIT Libraries' Catalog

Full Catalog: [Basic search](#) [Advanced Search](#)

Search for: [Journals](#) [Conferences](#) [MIT Theses](#) [Course](#)

Account Information for KAJOSALO, ERJA H

[Back](#) | [Print](#)

Library messages for you

[Change your password](#)

Your activities
(click to view more information, renew, cancel requests, etc.)

Items on loan	0
Holds/RSC requests	0
Fines owed	0.00

Please contact any library to update your address

Personal Profile

Borrower Personal Profile - Netscape

Personal Profile

Records per page: 3 10 15 20

Cut-off for full display: 0 5 10 15

Format: Title only
 Brief view-table
 Full view
 Custom view

Select search sub-library

Select fields for custom view:

<input type="checkbox"/> Author	<input type="checkbox"/> Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Imprint
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject	<input type="checkbox"/> Edition	<input type="checkbox"/> LC number
<input type="checkbox"/> Series	<input type="checkbox"/> ISBN	



Order Forms

- RetroSpective Collection (RSC)
- Interlibrary Borrowing
- BookPage
- Suggested Purchase
- Copy Services



Your Bookshelf, Help & Tutorials

- Bookshelf – valid only during session
- Had to rewrite all help
- Context-specific help implemented later
- Link to Instruction Committee's "Tutorials" page



Feedback

- Ask Us!
- webopac-feedback@mit.edu

Challenges & Lessons Learned



- Communication during transition
- Implementation time 6 months
- ADA complacency & can we fully remove all JavaScript [two versions?]
- User education issue with Barton, Vera, Bell...
- 3rd Barton OPAC team (& other functional teams)



What's Next?

- Implementation of frameless, no JavaScript version (Jan/02)
- Make forms more interactive
- Add context-specific help
- Improve authorities (add board and narrow terms)
- Prelimit by date
- and ...