Less searching, more browsing

A plea for more features to support actual discovery

Anne Christensen
effective WEBWORK, Hamburg

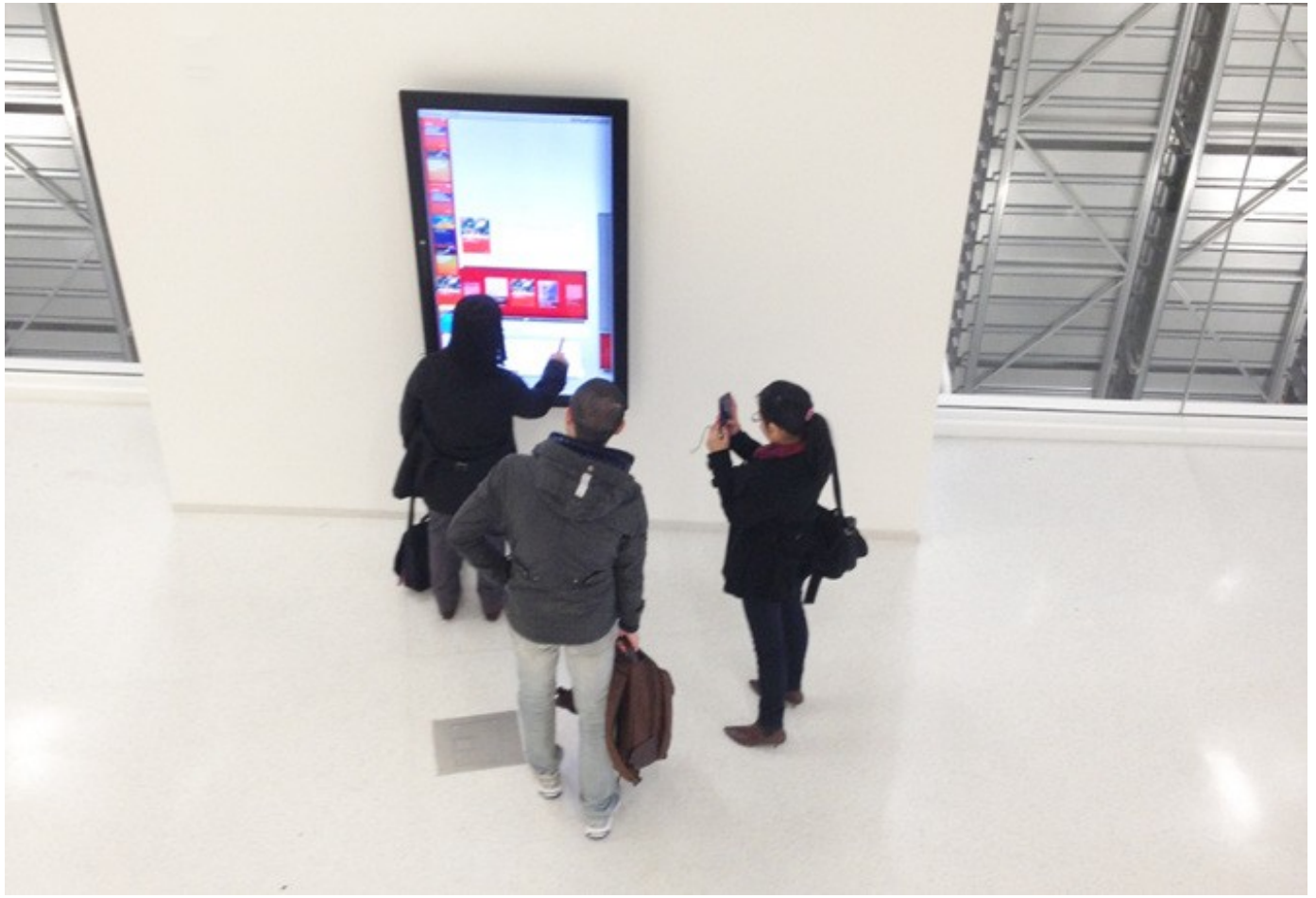
1.10.2020

„I usually find so many good books by browsing the shelves, but with this search engine I never seem to get what I need.“

A frustrated VuFind user

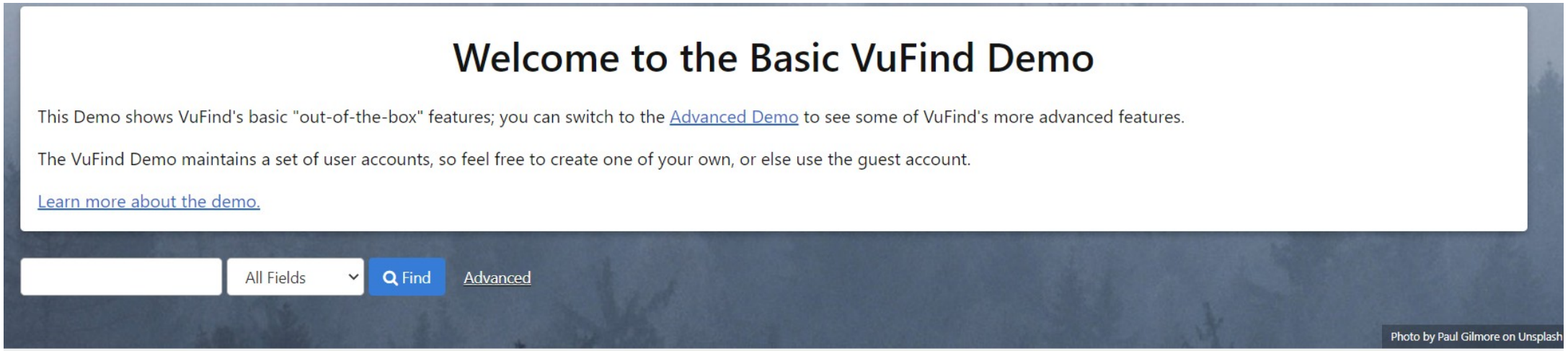
Browsing and discovery in discovery systems: the current state of the art

Browsing – a thing of the physical library space



Source: https://cargocollective.com/nickfair/Virtual-Browse

VuFind Demo



Browse by Call Number

A - General Works
B - Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
C - Historical Sciences
D - World History
E - United States History
F - General American History
G - Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
H - Social Science
J - Political Science
K - Law
L - Education
M - Music
N - Fine Arts
P - Language and Literature
Q - Science
R - Medicine
S - Agriculture
T - Technology
U - Military Science
V - Naval Science
More options...

Browse by Language

Afrikaans
Akkadian
Albanian
Algonquian
Ancient Egyptian
Ancient Greek
Arabic
Aramaic
Armenian
Azerbaijani
More options...

Browse by Format

Audio (Music)
Audio (Non-Music)
Book
Cassette
CD
Conference Proceeding
Data Disc
DVD
Film
Filmstrip
More options...

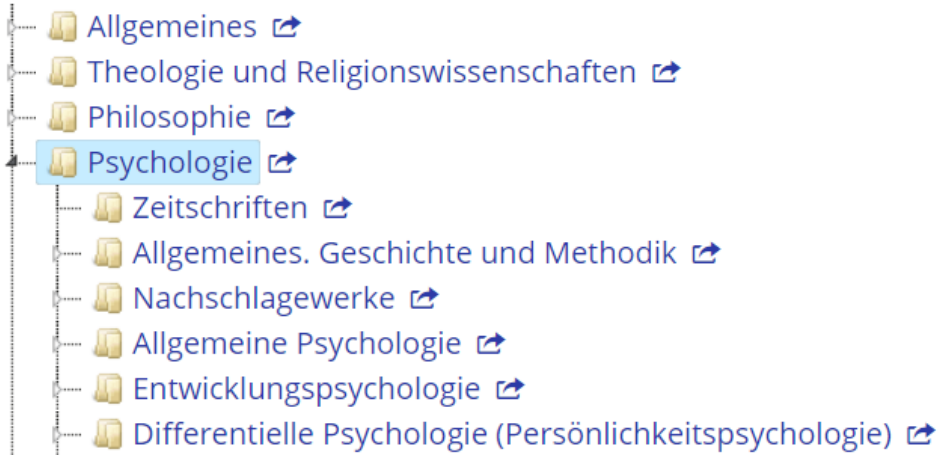
Classifications

Thematische Suche / Browsing:

An dieser Stelle haben Sie die Möglichkeit, thematisch in den Beständen des HIBS zu stöbern (Browsing). Bitte beachten Sie, dass nicht der komplette Medienbestand auf diese Weise erschlossen ist und sich diese thematische Suche vor allem als Sucheinstieg eignet.

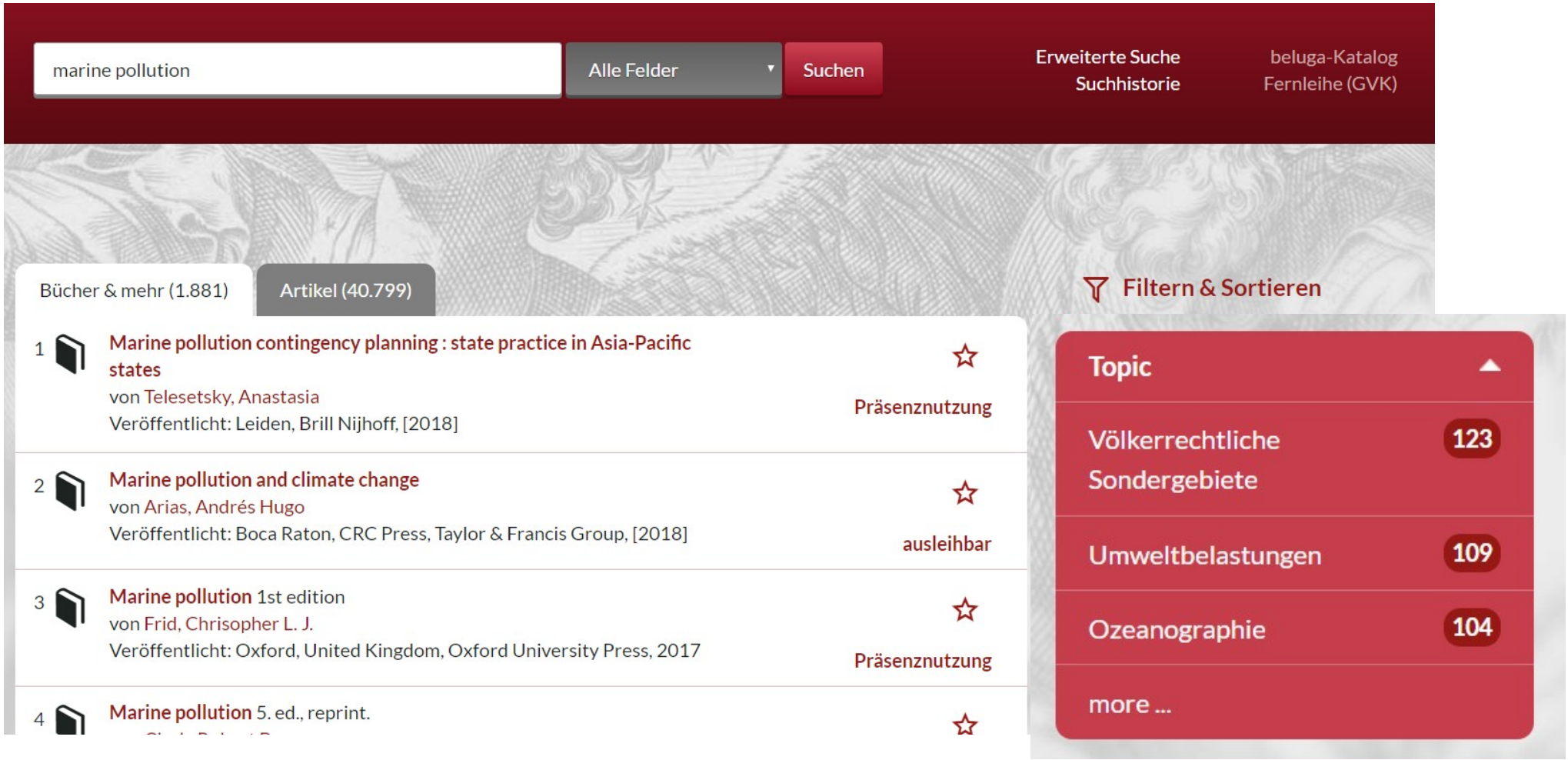
Durch Klick auf einen Oberbegriff (z.B. „Pädagogik“) öffnen sich die zu diesem Fachgebiet gehörenden Untergruppen.

Ein Klick auf den Pfeil rechts neben einem Begriff löst die Katalogsuche nach den Medien aus, die diesem Thema zugeordnet sind.



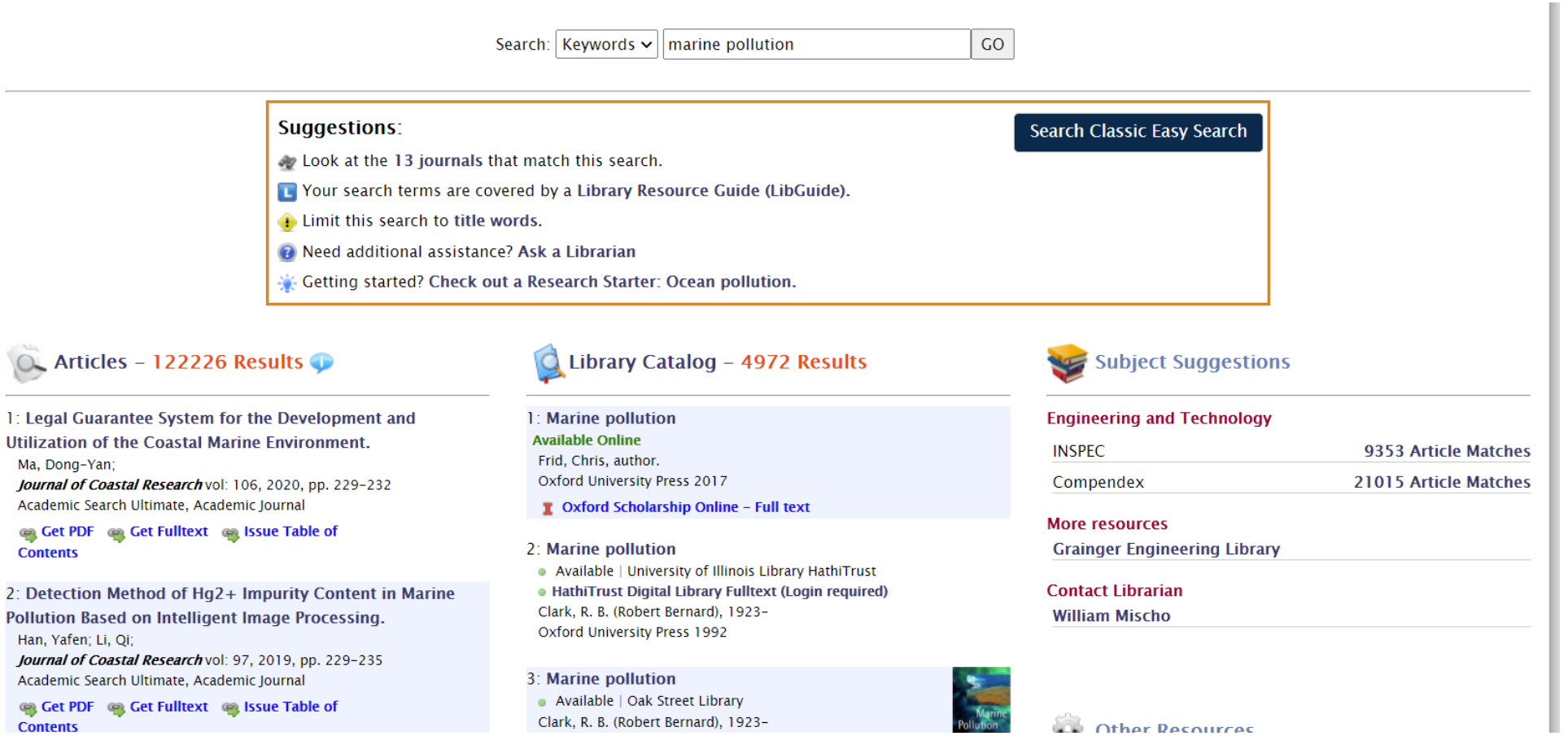
https://katalog.haw-hamburg.de/vufind/Content/topicsearch

Topic facets



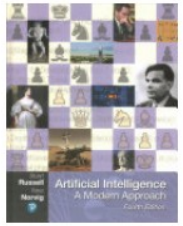
katalogplus.sub.uni-hamburg.de

Bento-style boxes tie in more services



https://search.grainger.illinois.edu/discovery/splitsearch.asp?searcharg=marine+pollution&selection=gen&typeofsearch=keyword&s2=direct&project=gateway&searchbutton=Search

Recommendations based on user behavior



Artificial intelligence

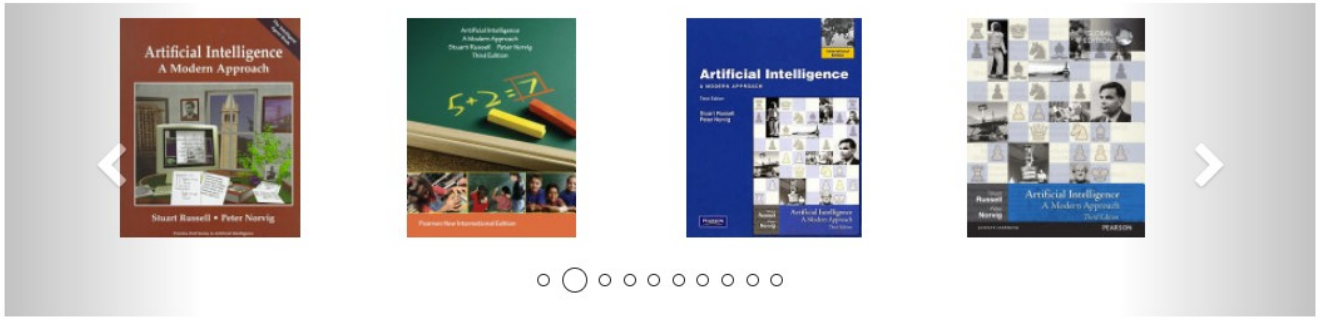
a modern approach

Authors / Contributors:	Stuart J. Russell and Peter Norvig ; contributing writers: Ming-Wei Chang ... [et al.]
Place, publisher, year:	Boston : Pearson, 2021
Physical Description:	1115 p. : ill.
Format:	Book
Edition:	4th ed.

Other Editions

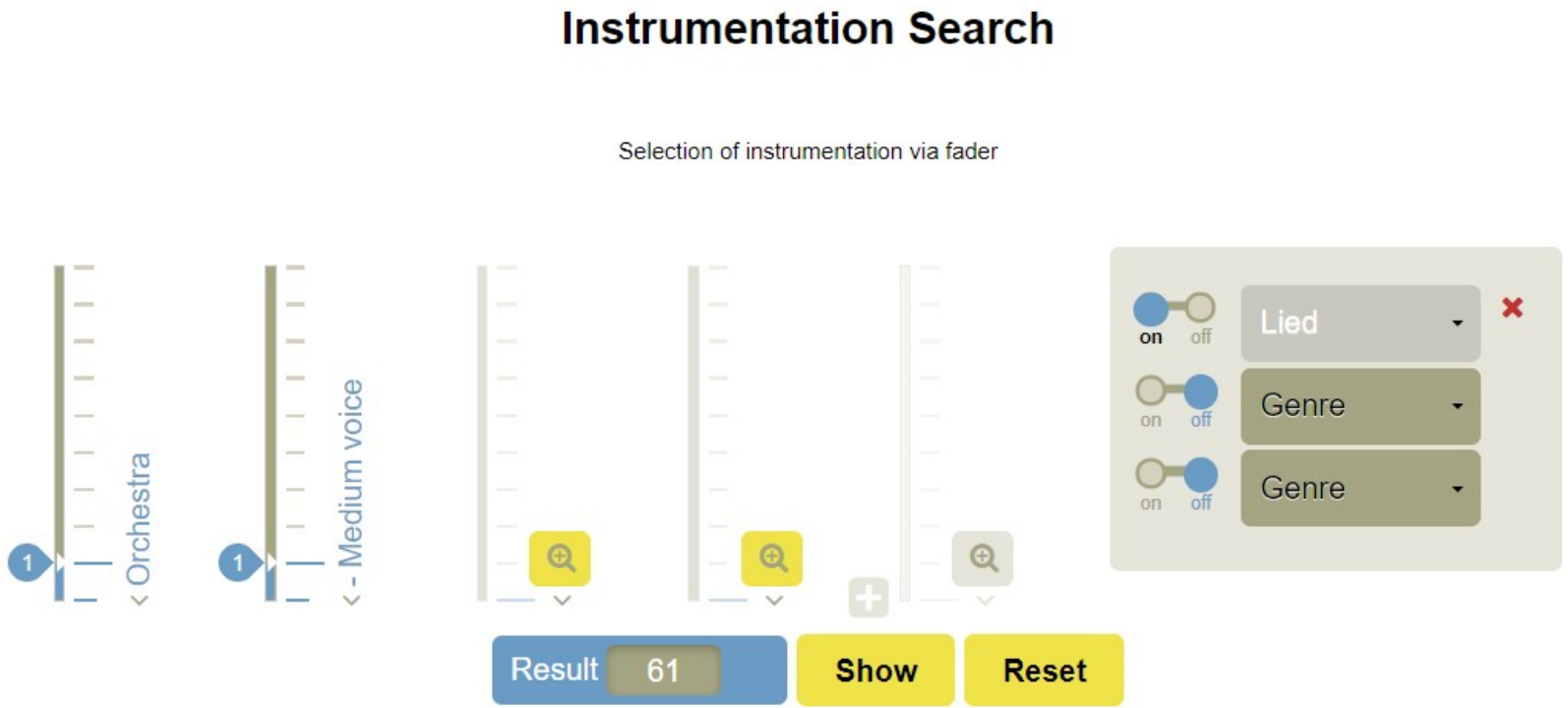
Locations & request | Description | Similar Items | Fields

Similar Items



https://www.swissbib.ch/Record

Exploiting good-quality metadata



https://katalog.hmt-leipzig.de/

What is wrong with these approaches?

- Not engaging enough
- Too caring
- Not bold enough

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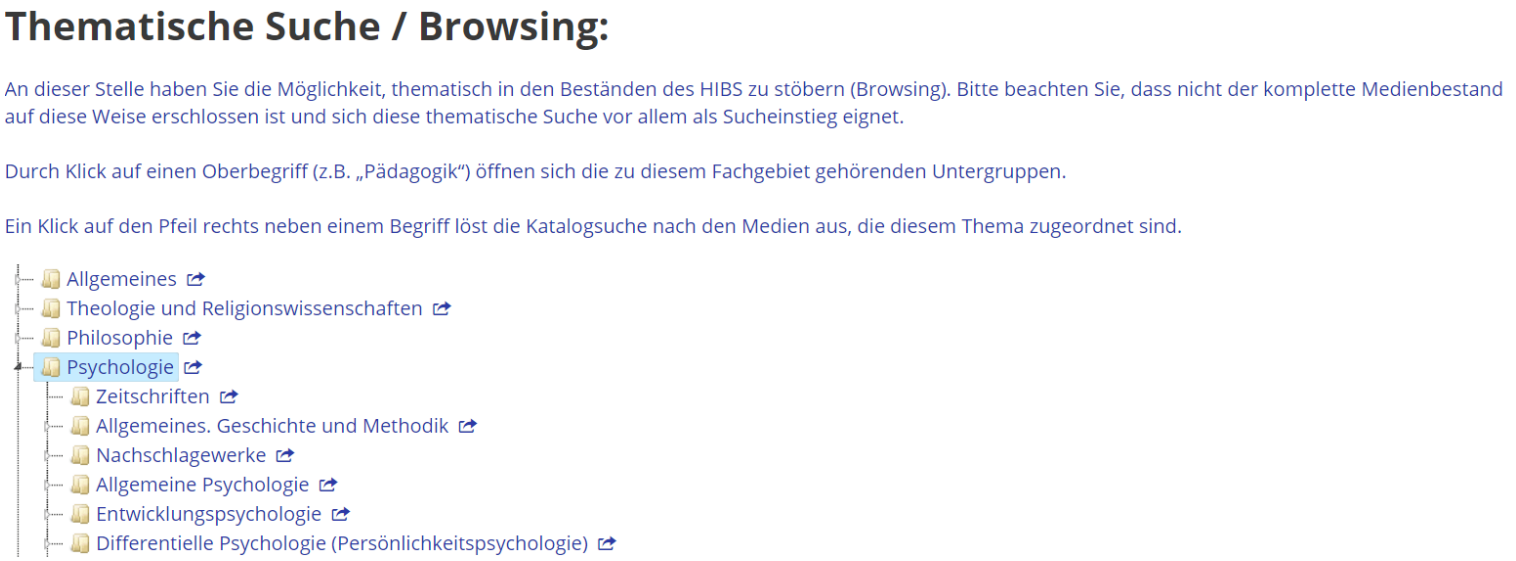

Less textual, more visual approaches

What is wrong with these approaches?

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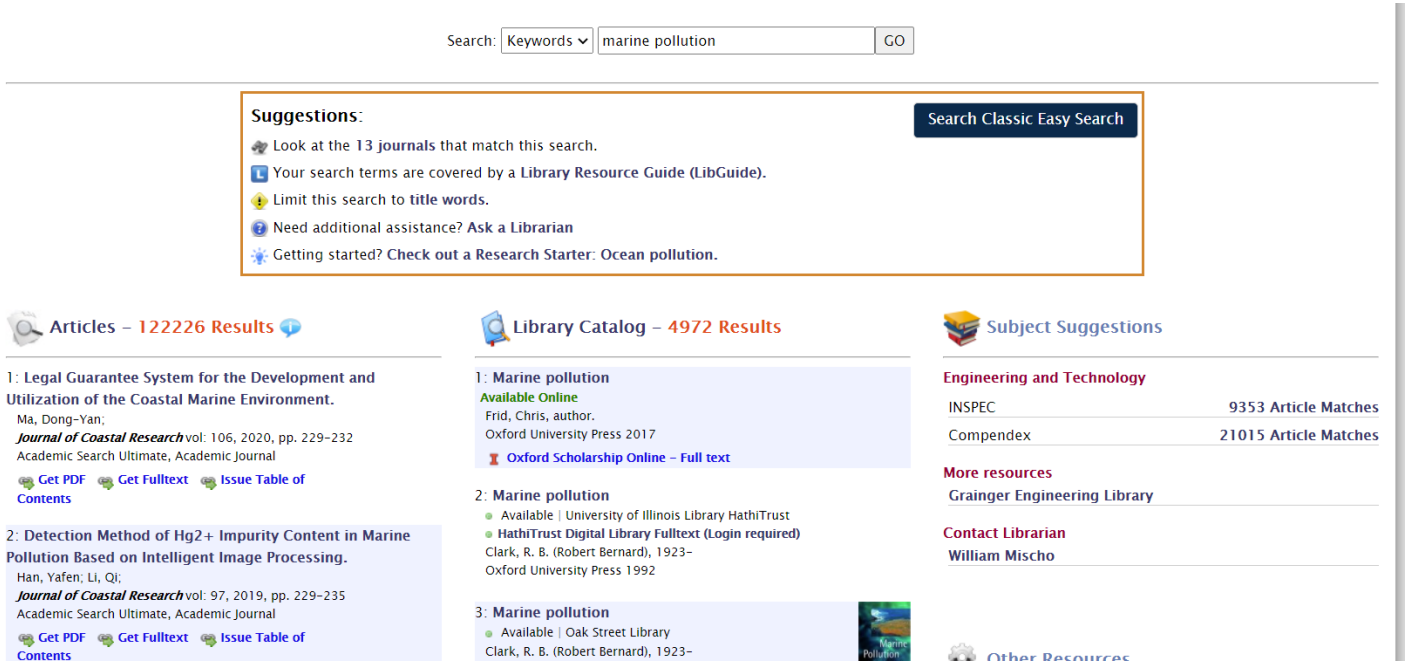

Offering a variety of services is well-meant, but not necessarily well done

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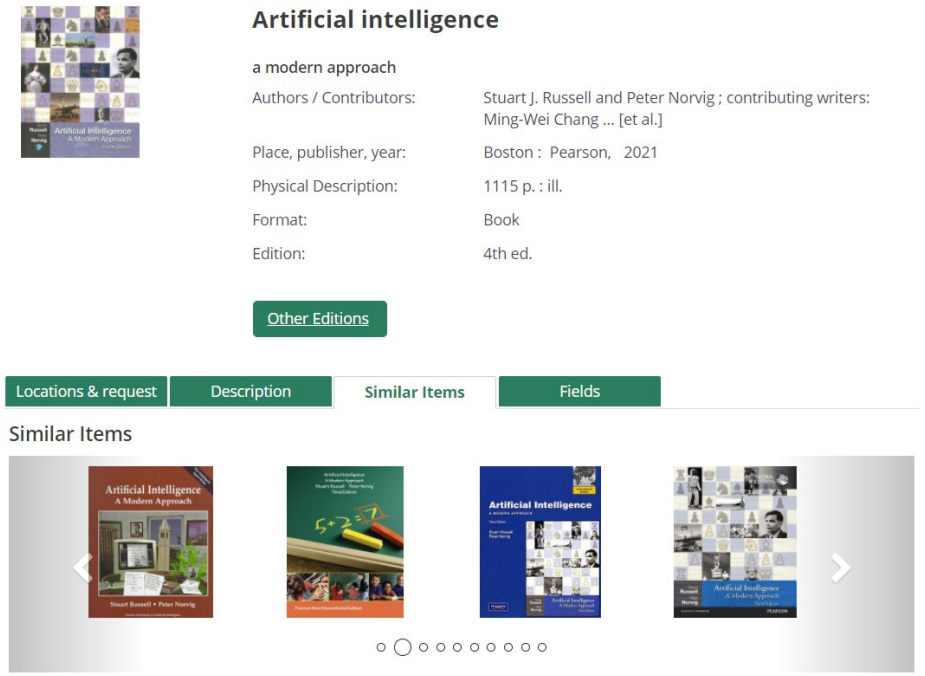
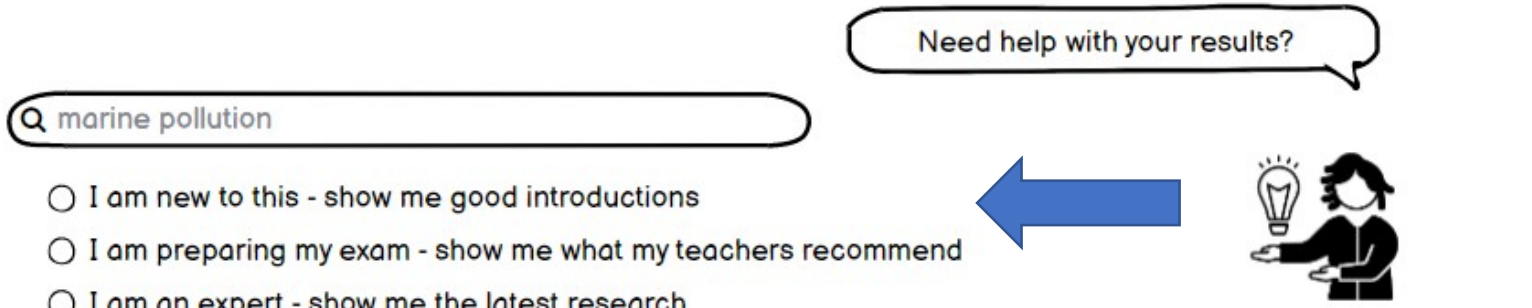


Libraries seem to shy away from exploiting user behavior

How to improve the situation?

More meaningful and engaging ways to drill down large results lists

Scenario-based drill downs

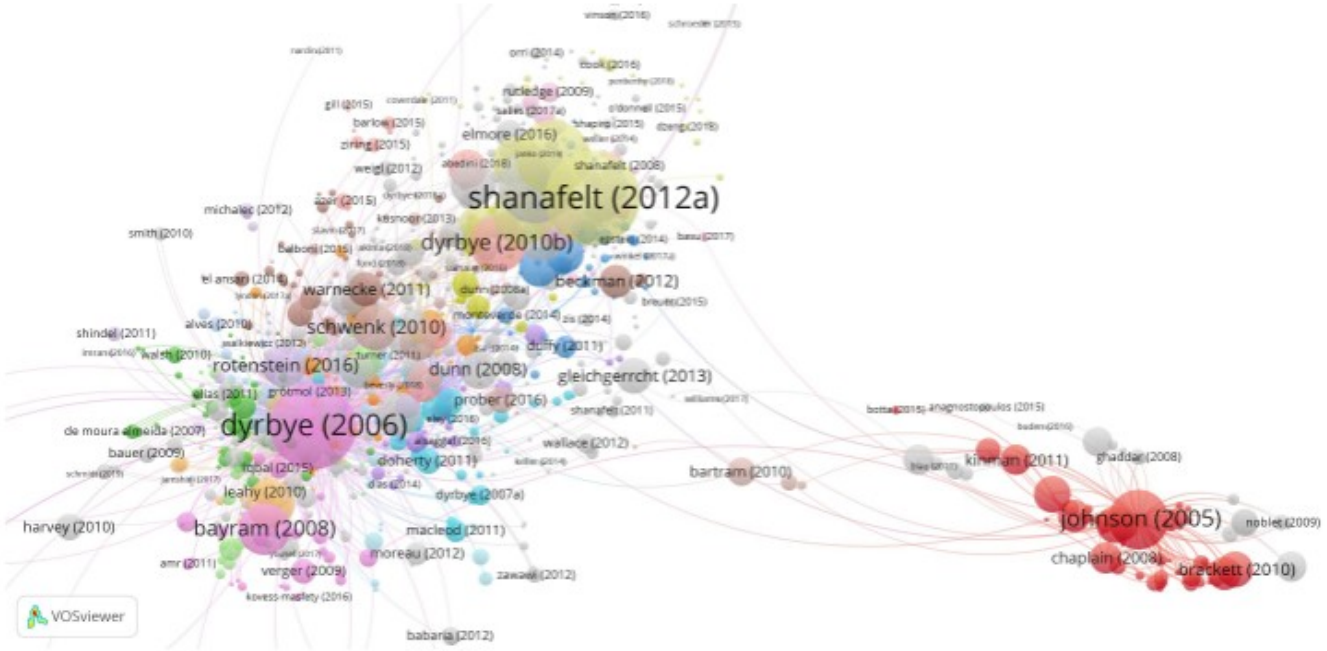


1 **Marine pollution contingency planning : state practice in Asia-Pacific states**
by Telesetsky, Anastasia
Published: Leiden, Brill Nijhoff, [2018]
Reference Holding

2 **Marine pollution** 1st edition
by Frid, Chrisopher L. J.
Published: Oxford, United Kingdom, Oxford University Press, 2017
Reference Holding

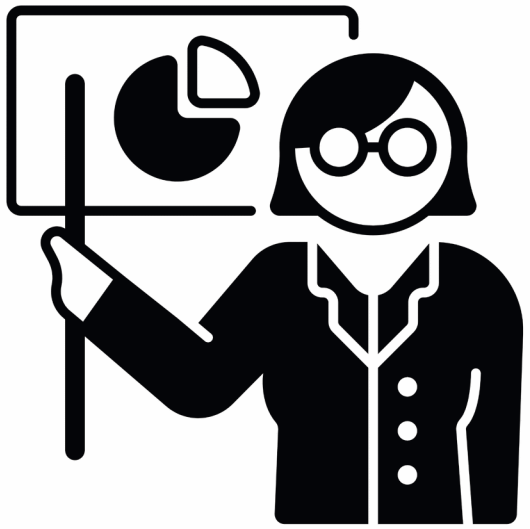
3 **Marine pollution** 5. ed., reprint.
by Clark, Robert B.
Published: Oxford [u.a.], Oxford Univ. Press, 2006
Reference Holding

Citation data and visualizations to identify key works

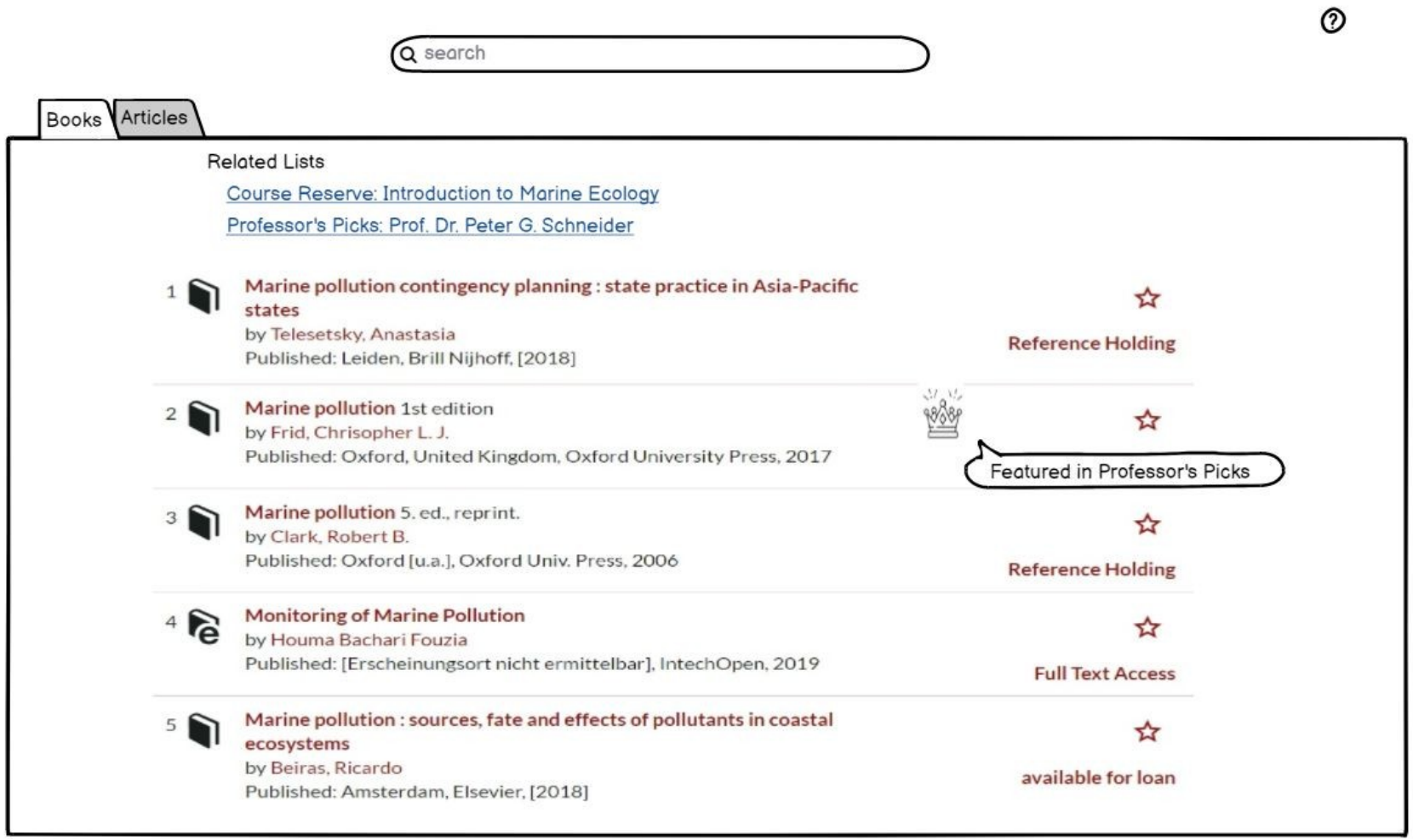


Map identifying key articles from Dimensions data built with VOS Viewer by reference librarian Brett Williams, see https://journal.code4lib.org/articles/14964

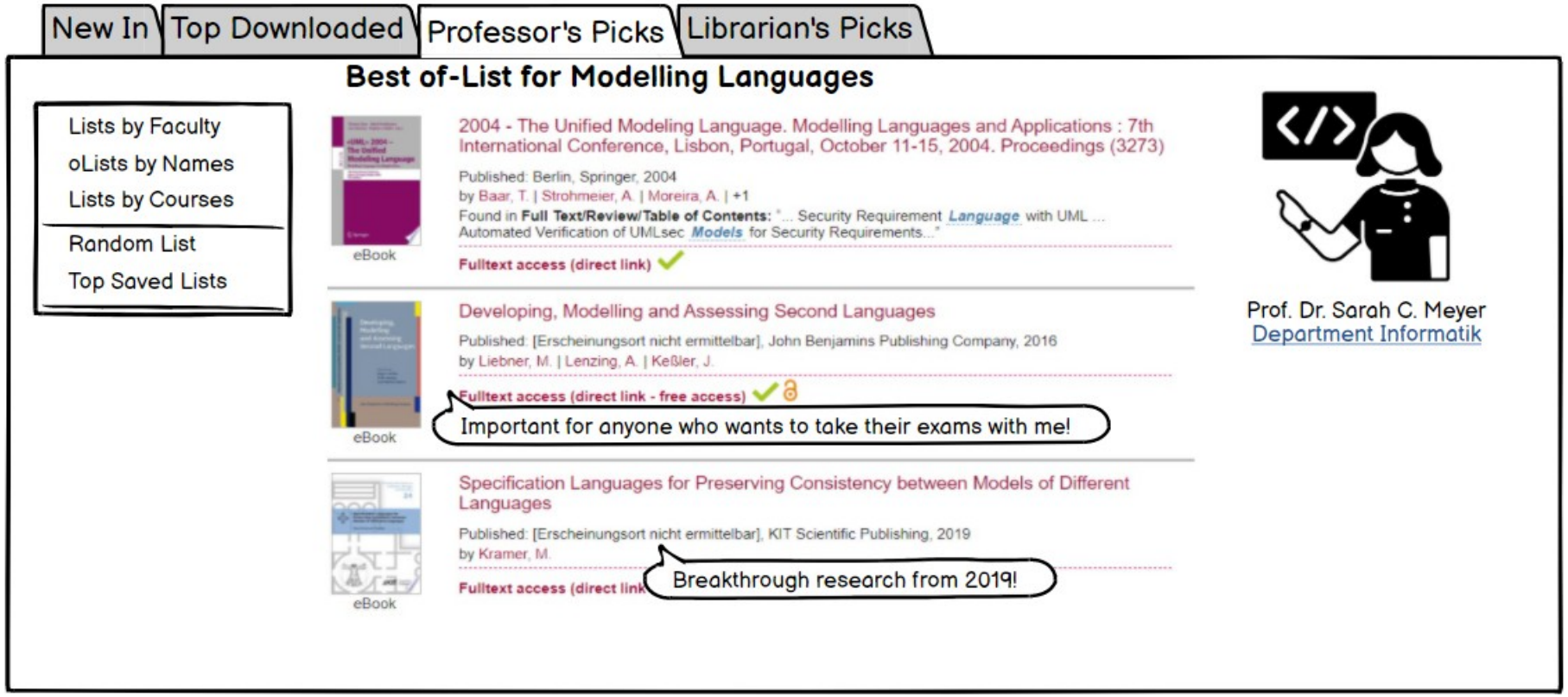
Recommendations from professors and other teaching staff



Course Reserves and Syllabi



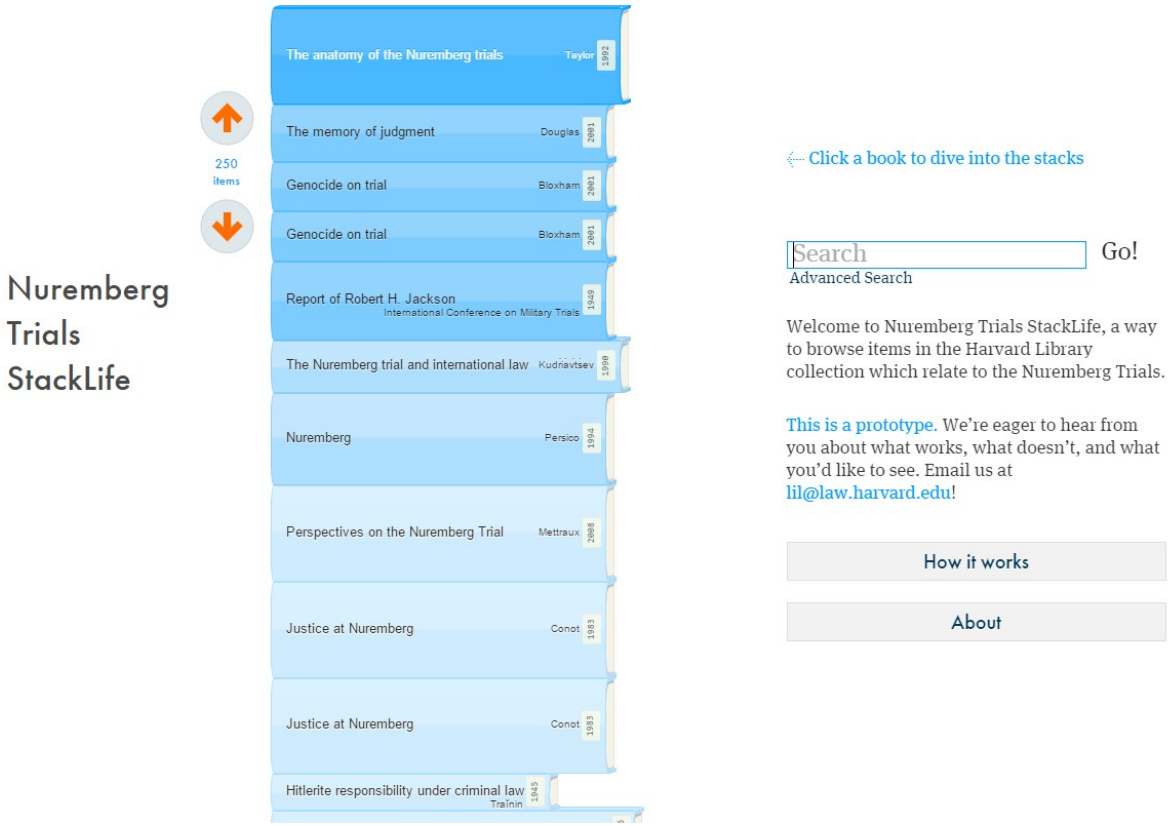
Curated lists by teaching staff



Foster serendipity and learning „good“ literature

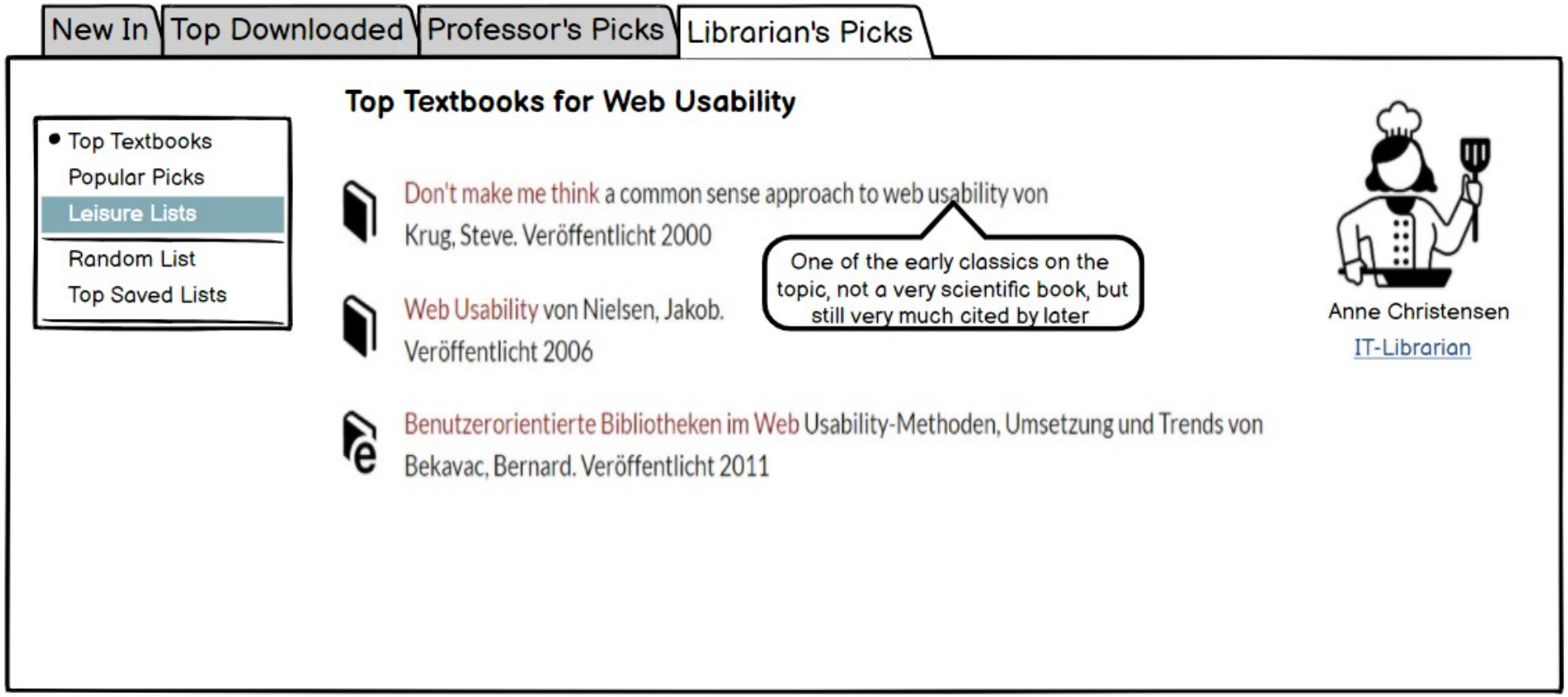
Check-out or download charts

Shelf-browsing with added values



https://emeritus.library.harvard.edu/stacklife-visually-browse-millions-of-harvard-library-materials, see also http://musingsaboutlibrarianship.blogspot.com/2013/06/a-survey-of-library-virtual-shelves-8.html

Commented lists by librarians



Points for discussion

- Can/should usage-based functionality known from commercial websites be responsibly translated to discovery systems?
- How can we (automatically) enrich metadata to foster discovery?
- How do we persuade librarians and teaching staff to create lists?
- Can/should discovery systems teach users how to find „good“ literature?

- How important is this kind of functionality anyway?

Thank you

Anne Christensen

Librarian. Consultant and Project Manager

www.effective-webwork.de