

Email to VuFind Early Adopters List from Paige Weston, CARLI Office, May 27, 2008

Good morning, VuFind Early Adopters,

I hope you had a good holiday weekend and have returned refreshed and ready to plunge in to VuFind usability testing! We have been monitoring VuFind usage statistics, and usage is still very light. Since the four get-acquainted weeks you asked for have only just now elapsed, I'm hoping that that is the explanation and that we will soon see a dramatic increase in usage as you begin to introduce VuFind to your users, whether in controlled, back-office sessions or by making VuFind generally available for your users to discover and use.

We have received and acted on a few requests to customize the color scheme and branding of VuFind "local" catalogs. As a reminder, the customization request form is available at <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/I-Share/opac/vuFcustom.php>. The form has been modified since I first announced its availability: it is now possible to submit a banner image in (almost) any size, and to submit an image map to go with it, if you want to make your banner clickable.

We have removed the erroneous "full text here" links from the Results page. This is phase 1 of the 856 field-handling we intend for VuFind. Meantime, most of you have SFX buttons displaying, so *appropriate* links to full text remain available.

We have added a "Logged in as ..." indication in the upper right corner of the VuFind page, and also a reminder to users, after they've logged out, to close their browsers if they're concerned about their privacy. A change to the log in page is a checkbox where the user can indicate that her workstation is private, not shared. On a private workstation, VuFind logins will not time out. On shared workstations (the default assumption), VuFind logins will time out after 60 idle minutes.

The link to "Advanced Search" has been re-engineered. As you'll see, the user now has three choices: exit VuFind to use the WebVoyage Advanced Search form, read VuFind search tips and apply advanced techniques within the regular VuFind search box, and/or complete a brief survey that we posted in an effort to learn what kind of Advanced Search form--if any--our users say they'd truly like to have. (Note that the link to WebVoyage leads always to the Advanced Search page for the Universal Catalog at this time. Our intention would be for this to lead to the Advanced Search page of the WebVoyage instance that corresponds to what the user has been searching in VuFind: all I-Share libraries or just one I-Share library.)

Other VuFind development work continues on many fronts.

We look forward to seeing VuFind usage grow and to reading the comments, questions and suggestions you receive from your users.