

## Wilson, Chap 8: OPAC

Please, read and memorize the terms on pages 109-110.

And, do written assignment on iCollege.

Throw out the definition for phrase searching on page 110. Instead, use definition from this lecture - slide #9.

## OPAC = Online Public Access Catalog

- allows users to view the library's catalog from any computer, at any time of the day
- a good OPAC should have:
  1. good and easy to use interface and design
  2. good indexing and searching
- OPAC may be included in your library's integrated system

## Library Webpage

- allows users to view information about the library such as hours, events, etc.
- usually designed and maintained by librarians
- Hopefully, computer technicians are available to help librarians run their website!

## HTML=Hypertext Markup Language

- is not really a programming language
- is easy to learn!
- uses tags to tell the computer what to display
- tags (aka elements) = special words in HTML that serve as commands to the web browser
- see page 166 for examples of some common HTML tags
- to see the HTML code for a web page: in the web browser, click on the **View** menu, then select **Source**

## Customizing the OPAC

- a standard OPAC may be included in the integrated library system
- libraries can customize this standard OPAC by adding logos and additional content
- maintenance of the OPAC is the library's responsibility

## Static and Dynamic Webpages

- static webpages change only when the library edits them
  - e.g.: OPAC's welcome screen:  
<https://gil.gpc.edu/>
- dynamic webpages are created “on the fly” when a query (question) is given
  - e.g.: Search for a title in the OPAC

## Public View of the OPAC

- OPACs provide different displays and interfaces for library staff and library users
- the public view usually contains more graphics (pictures)
- the public view contains less information than the staff view
- the public view may contain fewer search options

## Indexing

Indexing = the act of classifying items in order to make them easier to retrieve

- a library must decide what information should be indexed
- a library must decide which indexed information should be available to the public
- E.g., an index of authors, titles, subjects, keywords, journal title, call number, ISBN, etc. would be available to the library staff and the public
- but, an index of barcodes may only be available to the library staff.

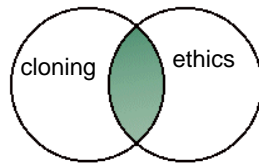
## Searching the OPAC (part 1)

- **phrase searching** - a string of words must appear in the record
  - e.g. “Gone with the Wind” as a phrase search gets fewer results than Gone with the Wind as a keyword search.
  - usually phrase searching has to be chosen and is not the default way of searching

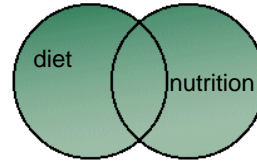
## Searching the OPAC (part 2)

- **keyword searching** - looks for your terms in a complete index of authors, titles, subjects, etc.
- you can use Boolean operators to combine terms
  1. AND = both terms must be present (e.g., cloning AND ethics)
  2. OR = at least one of the terms must be present (e.g., diet OR nutrition)
  3. NOT = term is not present (e.g., Da Vinci NOT code)

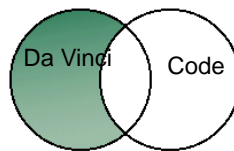
## Venn Diagrams of Boolean Operators



cloning AND ethics



diet OR nutrition



Da Vinci NOT code

## Searching the OPAC (part 3)

- **advanced searching** - allows you even more power over your search
  - change index searched
    - Search only in titles, authors, etc.
  - limits such as location or type of material
    - Location limit: search only in specified branches or locations
    - Type of material limit: search only for audio books, dvds, juvenile materials, etc.

## Displaying Search Results

- can display brief or full record
- can sort results by title, author, date, relevancy, etc.
- can select results and store them temporarily
- can print, email, or download search results

## Examples of OPACs

- Public Library OPAC: Dekalb County Public Library Catalog (SirsiDynix)  
<http://www.dekalblibrary.org/>  
(click on Catalog)
- Academic Library OPAC: GPC Libraries Catalog (GIL catalog/Voyager)  
<https://gil.gpc.edu/>
- Pines Catalog (open-source software)  
<http://gapines.org/>.

## Web Portal

- internet site that allow personalized capabilities to the user.
- library web portals usually contain links to other libraries, library catalogs, databases, web search engines, etc.
- [GALILEO \(http://galileo.usg.edu\)](http://galileo.usg.edu) can be thought of as a web portal: it is personalized according to your institution and contains links to databases from one web site.
- More on GALILEO in lecture 9!

## Federated Searching

- = simultaneous searching across several online resources (catalogs, databases, websites)
- a.k.a. metasearching
  - Advantages:
    1. if the same record is found in more than one resource, the duplicates can be eliminated from the search results
    2. the same search can be performed once, instead of being run multiple times on the different databases.
  - GALILEO has a Federated Searching which will be covered in Lecture 9: Database Searching

## OpenURL Linking

- provides links from citations and catalogs to the full text (or more information)
- e.g. if you were in a database that provided citation information only, you could use OpenURL Linking to find other databases that contain the full text.
- e.g. if you were interested in finding a particular journal, you could use OpenURL Linking to find any databases that contain full text articles from that journal.

## “My Library”

- a.k.a. “my record” or “my account”
- provides access to patrons to view their record
- users can renew books, place holds, view fines, etc.
- some libraries allow users to store other information such as database searches or lists of book titles

## Network Security and OPACs

- since OPACs are available on the internet, security is required to protect the library's computer system
- firewall - software that blocks unauthorized network access thus providing network security

## Network Security and OPACs (page 2)

- possible threats:
  1. hacker - a person who breaks through network security (and possibly does damage to the computer system)
  2. spammer - a person who abuses email to send bulk email messages
  3. viruses - malicious software that self-replicates and spreads by inserting copies of itself into other software

## Authentication

- provides network security
- ensures that only authorized users are allowed access to the computer system
- ensures that libraries adhere to database license agreements

## Methods of Authentication

1. IP address - only computers with a certain IP address are allowed access.  
Remember from the Internet lecture: Each computer has an IP address. These addresses are assigned by the institution. Only addresses the institution knows would be allowed access to the institutions network.
2. Remote authentication - using a username and password to gain access
3. Directory services - only those people in an authorized directory would be allowed access

## Digital Libraries

- collection of digitized materials
- digitized materials are items that have been converted from paper to electronic format (e.g. materials are scanned in and saved as a electronic file)
- stored on internet servers and is accessible via a computer

## Digital Libraries (page 2)

- Advantages of Digital Libraries:
  1. preservation
  2. provide broader access
  3. provide access to electronic materials
  4. saves space
- [Digital Library of Georgia](http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/)  
(<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>)