
Taking Control of Discovery: In-house development to improve student experience and break down silos

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Outline

- Brief introduction: what are we doing with discovery and why
 - Our discovery projects in detail
 - Big picture questions for which we have no real answers
-

What are we doing with discovery -
and why?

What do MacEwan students say about discovery?



This:

“impossible to find”

“search engine sucks”

“weird”

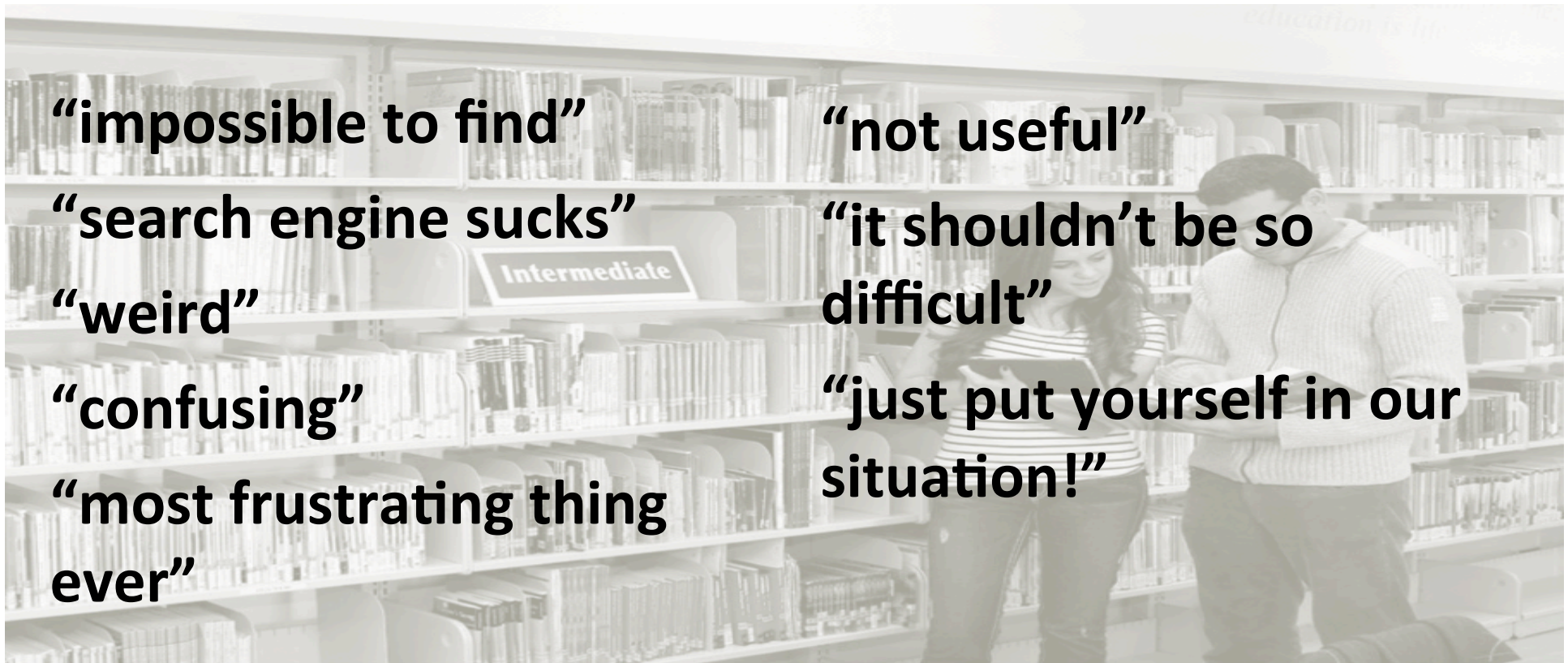
“confusing”

**“most frustrating thing
ever”**

“not useful”

**“it shouldn’t be so
difficult”**

**“just put yourself in our
situation!”**



Issue 1: too many confusing UIs

How many interfaces are required to:

- place a hold on a book? 3
 - get help from a research guide? 2
 - view a PDF database article? 4
 - request an ILL for an article? 4
-

We expend lots of energy here



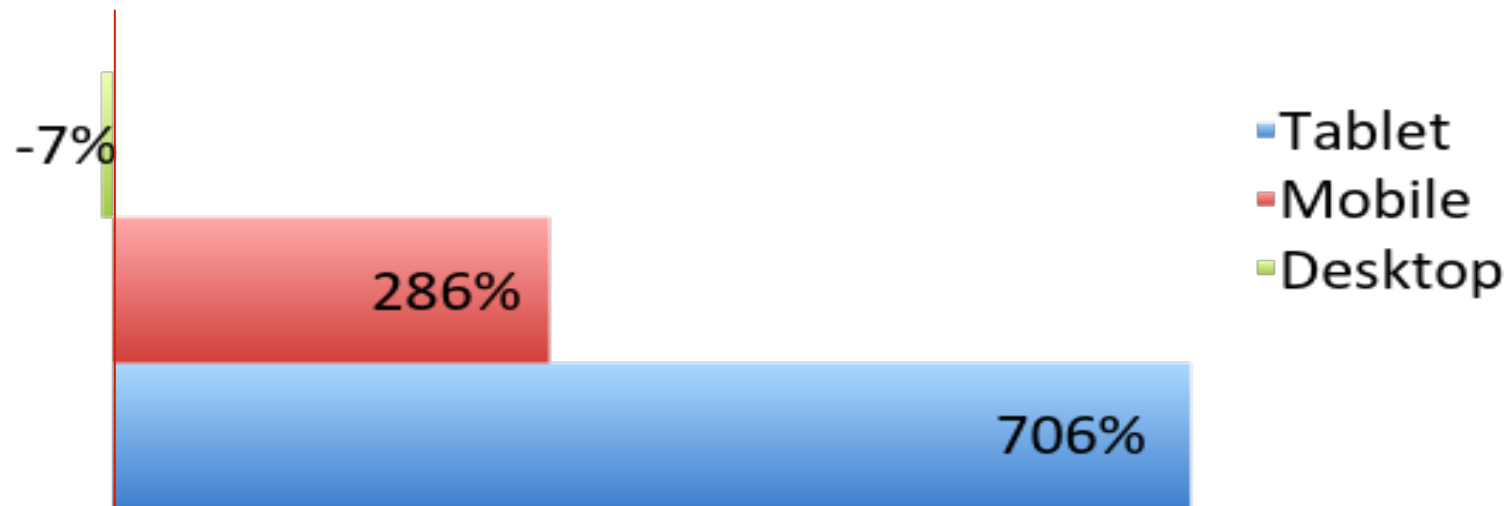
But lose them in the UI wilderness



Welcome to LibGuides at MacEwan



Issue 2: devices

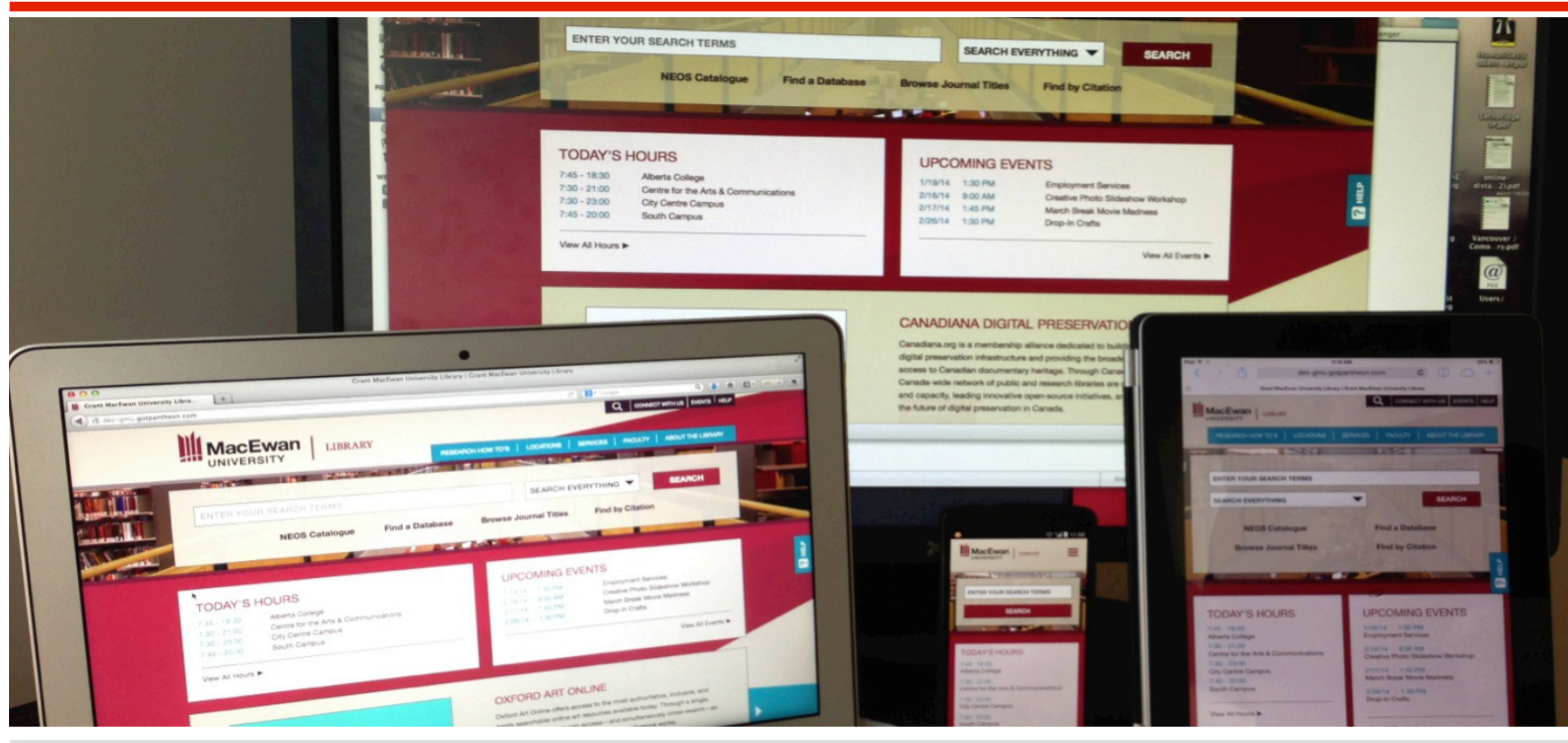


% Growth in MacEwan Library site visits 2011 – 2014

Solution 1: Integration



Solution 2: Responsive design



University of Alberta Discovery

- Silo combination (single search)
 - Customizability and flexibility
 - Responsiveness
 - Sustainable (capacity building)
 - Common infrastructure
 - Automation and interoperability
 - Who uses our website anyway?
-

JOURNALS

SEARCH *E*JOURNAL TITLES

Title Search ▼

ejournal search

SEARCH *PRINT* JOURNAL TITLES

Titles Containing ▼

Journal Search

SEARCH THE LIBRARY

☒ Keyword ☐ Title ☐ Author

Find books, articles and more...

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

DATABASES

SEARCH DATABASES

Type any letters of a database name:

database search

You are searching database names such as Medline, PsycInfo, or MLA.



Digital
Initiatives



Research
Data Management



Bruce Peel Special
Collections



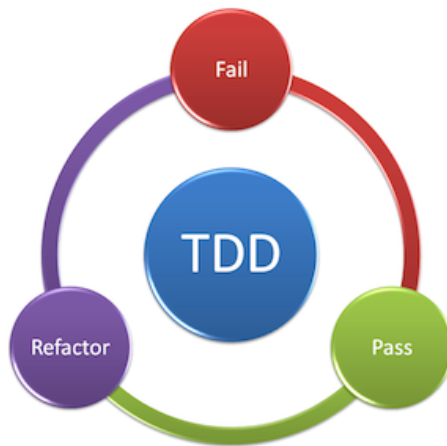
Education &
Research Archive

Discovery and DAMS

DAMS: OpenStack, Dataverse, Archivematica, Hydra (Fedora, Blacklight)

Discovery: Blacklight (Solr, Rails)

“Own your stack” - @adr



"The Rails Logo was created by Kevin Milden and is distributed under the BY-ND Creative Commons Licence."

Discovery Projects in Depth

MacEwan University Discovery

- Vendor-provided APIs
 - Custom-built APIs
 - Drupal modules
 - Responsive design
-

MacEwan University Discovery

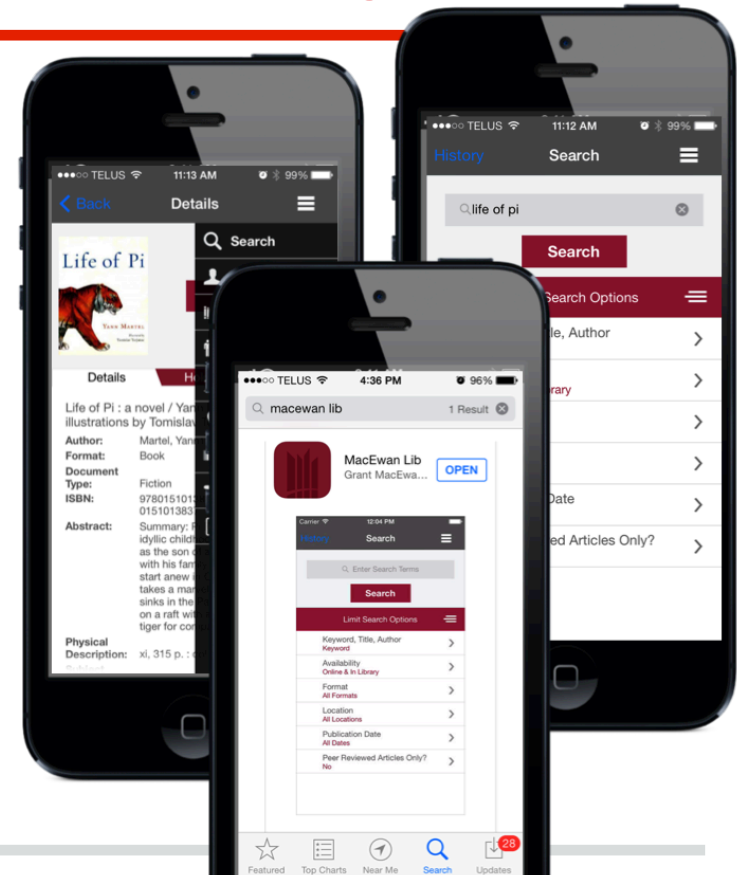
Test case:

MacEwan Lib iOS app

- Integrates vendor services in single interface

But:

- Only accessible on iOS devices
- Different experience in mobile and desktop environments

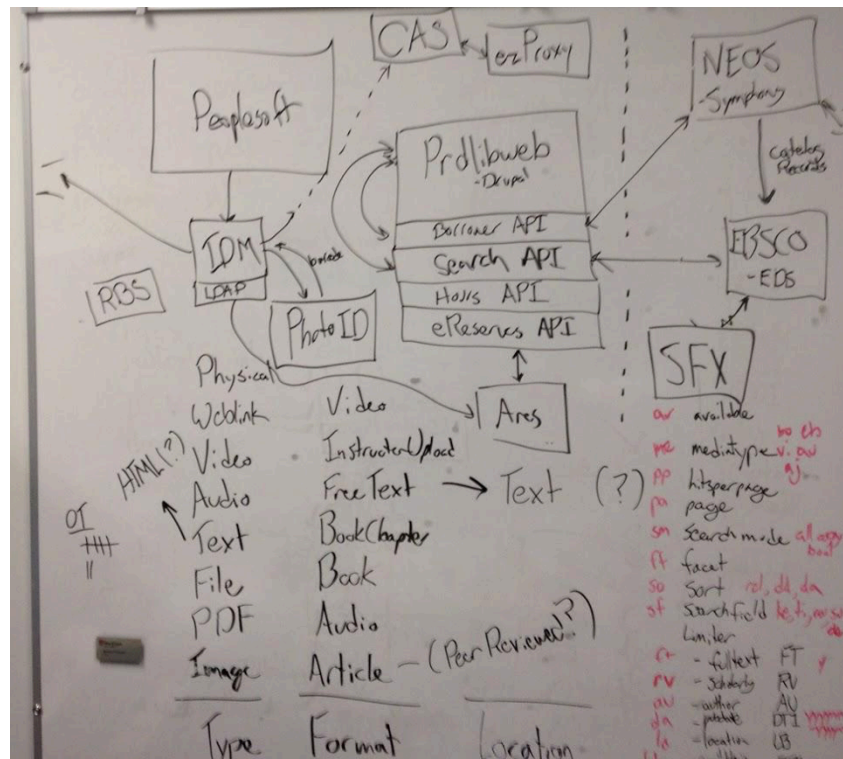


MacEwan University Discovery

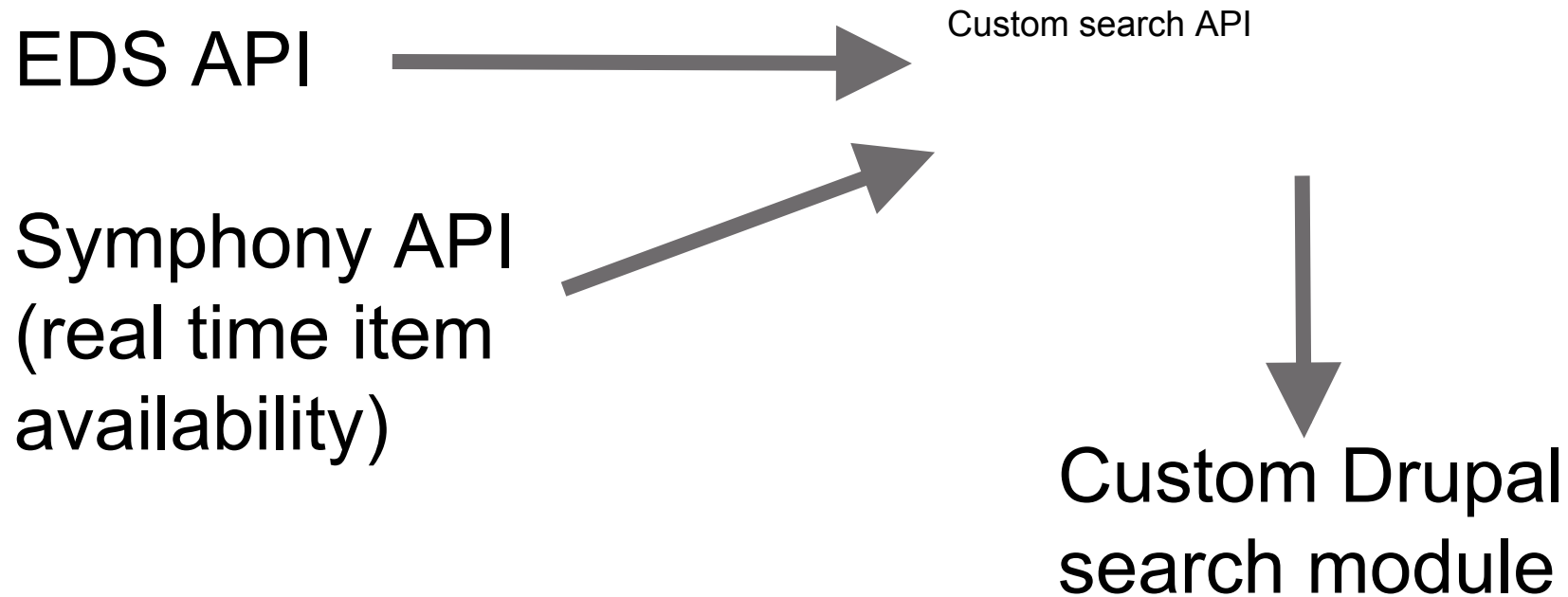
Major components for Phase 1 VSIP: Virtual Services Integration Project:

- EDS API
 - Symphony API
 - Ares eReserves
 - Local content (hours, contact, library info)
 - Group use room booking
 - Library events
 - Authentication
-

MacEwan University Discovery (Simplified)



MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)



MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)

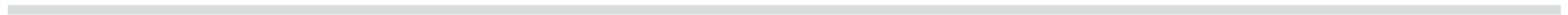
Symphony API
(account info:holds,
renewals, checkouts,
fines)



Custom Borrower API



Custom Drupal
account module



MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)

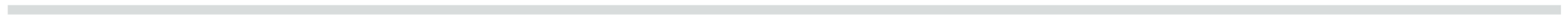
Ares API
Ares Database



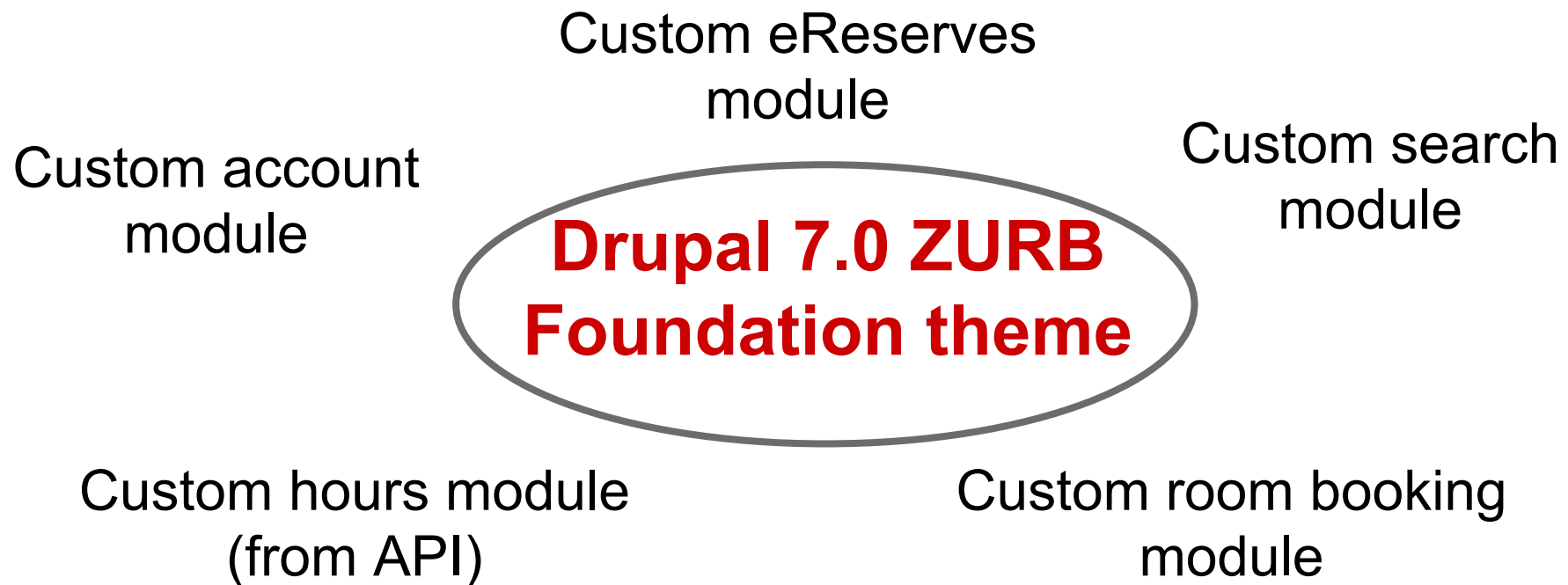
Custom eReserves API



Custom Drupal
eReserves module



MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)

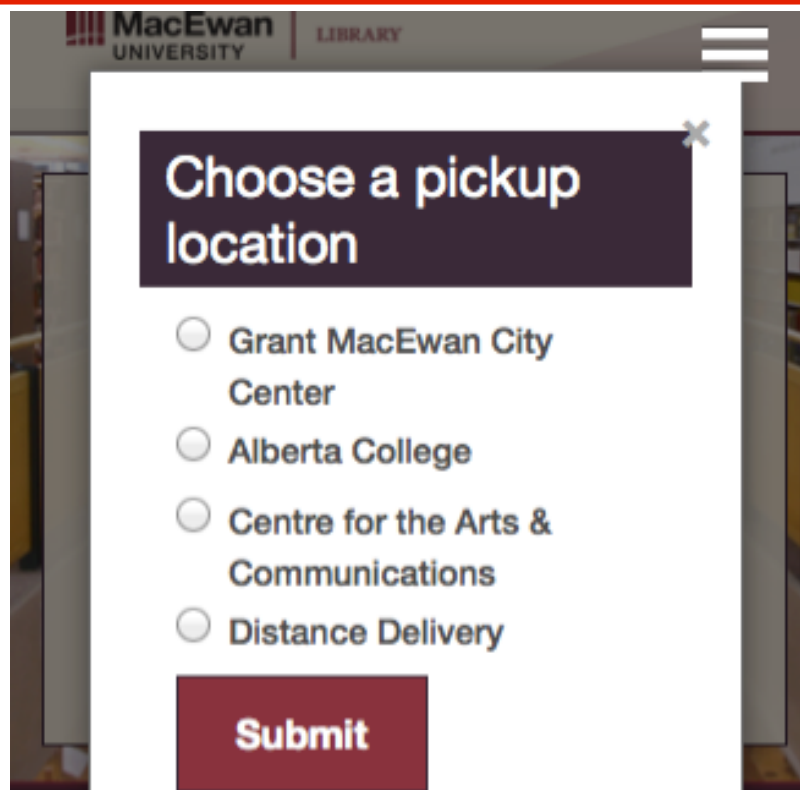


MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)

The interface shows the MacEwan University Library Discovery page. The top navigation bar includes links for Research How To's, Locations, Services, Faculty, and About the Library. A search bar is prominently displayed with a 'Search Everything' dropdown and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are links for NEOS CATALOGUE, FIND A DATABASE, BROWSE JOURNAL TITLES, and FIND BY CITATION. The main content area is titled 'Search Term' and shows a list of search results. The first result is 'Executive functions in premanifest Huntington's disease' by Davies, Patrick T., Cicchetti, Dante, Hentges, Rochelle F., Sturge-Apple, Melissa L., published November 8, 2013. It is available online and has a PDF format. The second result is 'Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology' by Davies, Patrick T., Cicchetti, Dante, Hentges, Rochelle F., Sturge-Apple, Melissa L., published June 20, 2013. It is available online and has a HTML format. The third result is 'Heart Disease review and assessment' by Davies, Patrick T., Cicchetti, Dante, Hentges, Rochelle F., Sturge-Apple, Melissa L., published November 8, 2013. It is available online and has a PDF format. A sidebar on the left allows users to refine their search by availability (Online & In-Library, Online, In-Library) and format (All formats, Books, Ebooks, Videos, Audio, News, Academic journals, Music scores, Biographies, Reviews, Electronic resources, Dissertations).

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MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)

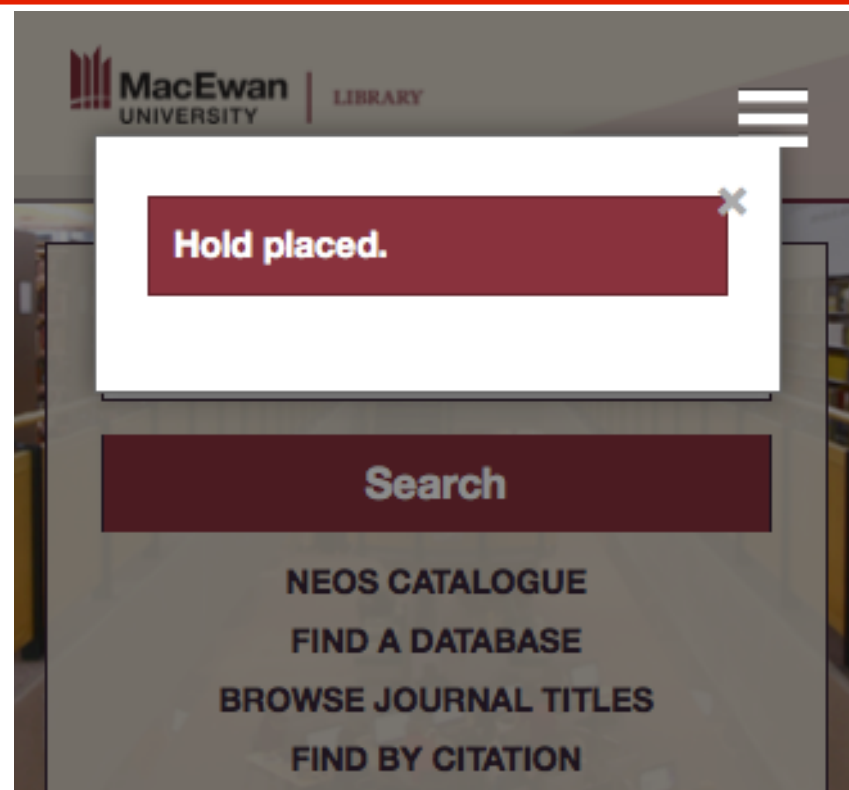


MacEwan UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Choose a pickup location

- ☐ Grant MacEwan City Center
- ☐ Alberta College
- ☐ Centre for the Arts & Communications
- ☐ Distance Delivery

Submit



MacEwan UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Hold placed.

Search

NEOS CATALOGUE
FIND A DATABASE
BROWSE JOURNAL TITLES
FIND BY CITATION

MacEwan University Discovery (Grossly Simplified)

Next steps?

- launch beta environment in next few weeks
 - user testing and work on UI
 - production launch in January
 - thinking about phase 2?
-

University of Alberta Discovery

Development environment:

- Vagrantbox of our base server image (written with kickstart)
 - Ansible playbooks for components (e.g. MySQL) and applications (e.g. Discovery application).
-

University of Alberta Discovery

Developer handbook: <https://github.com/ualbertalib/Developer-Handbook>

Contains

- best practices, policies, procedures
 - GitHub (branch management, etc.)
 - Vagrant (how to deploy our base image)
 - Ansible (how to work with our playbook tree)
-

University of Alberta

Developers and Sysadmins as a team.

- Not quite Scrum, not quite DevOps
 - Birds-of-a-feather sessions
 - Better communication, information sharing, etc.
-

University of Alberta Discovery

Three main components

- Data: how do we break down the silos?
 - Design: improving the user experience
 - Distribution: being where our users are
-

University of Alberta Discovery

Data

- OAI-PMH
 - curl
 - Opinionated Metadata (OM)
 - Solrizer
 - RSolr
 - Doesn't solve all our problems
-

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A complete list of the services available at our libraries.

Subject Guides



Let our librarians guide you to the information you need.

Researcher Tools



Tools to manage, share and preserve your research.

News & Events



See library exhibits, announcements and news.

My Account



Login to renew books, place holds, pay fines and more.

Search Library Resources



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more options and information:

[Get Search Help](#)[About Our New Search](#)[Advanced Search](#)[Classic Catalogue](#)

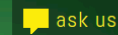
Browse Library Resources

[Databases AtoZ list](#)[Journals AtoZ list](#)[Special and Digital Collections](#)

Library Hours & Locations

Augustana Campus Library	OPEN until 4pm
Bibliothèque Saint-Jean	OPEN until 4pm
Cameron Library (Science & Technology)	OPEN until 4pm
Knowledge Commons & Study Hall Cameron Library basement	OPEN 24 hours
Herbert T. Coultts Library (Education & Physical Education)	OPEN until 4pm
Rutherford Library (Humanities and Social Sciences)	OPEN until 4pm
John A. Weir Memorial Law Library	CLOSED until 8am
John W. Scott Health Sciences Library	OPEN until 4pm
Winspear Business Reference Library	OPEN until 4pm

[all hours and locations >>](#)



9,892,856 Results for *money*

Extra contextual information about your search

search again

search

Books & Media

see all 9,883,164 results

1. Money : the unauthorised biography by *Felix Martin* **2014** [more](#)
2. Money : the game show by *Clara Duffy* **2013** [more](#)
3. Money by *Victoria Benedictsson* translated from the Swedish and with an afterword by *Sarah Death* **2012** [more](#)
4. Money by *Eric Lonergan*. **2012** [more](#)
5. Money by *Penny Dowdy*. **2009** [more](#)
6. Money [electronic resource] : who creates it? who controls it? who profits? **2009** [more](#)
7. Money : the Canadian experience with the Bank of Canada Act of 1934 / compiled, [written, and edited] by *Will Abram*. **2009** [more](#)
8. Money by *Margaret Hall*. **2009** [more](#)
9. Money : beginning math series, grades 1-3 written by *Ruth Solski*; illustrated by S&S Learning Materials **2009** [more](#)
10. Money : a history by *Catherine Eagleton and Jonathan Williams*; with *Joe Cribb and Elizabeth Errington*. **2008** [more](#)

Next 10 results

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7. Money Isn't Everything, but It Helps If It Doesn't Look Used: How the Physical Appearance of Money Influences Spending. **2014** [PDF](#) [more](#)
8. Money and Thinking: Reminders of Money Trigger Abstract Construal and Shape Consumer Judgments. **2014** [PDF](#) [more](#)
9. How Effective Were the Federal Reserve Emergency Liquidity Facilities? Evidence from the Asset-Backed Commercial Paper Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility. **2014** [PDF](#) [more](#)
10. Is Money a Convention and/or a Creature of the State? The Convention of Acceptability, the State, Contracts, and Taxes. **2014** [PDF](#) [more](#)
6. Excess Money, Self-Expansion of Money and Inflation. **2014** [PDF](#) [more](#)
7. Money Creation in the Modern Economy **2014** [PDF](#) [more](#)
8. Über die Nature und das Wesen des Geldes--J. H. von Thunens unveröffentlichtes Manuskript zur Geldtheorie: Literaturbeitrag. (The Nature and the Essence of Money--J. H. von Thunen's Unpublished Manuscript on Monetary [PDF](#) [more](#)

Databases

EconLit
Another database
One More
Money Database
Money Database

Library Guides

EconLit
Another database
One More
Money Database
Money Database

Library Website

EconLit
Another database
One More
Money Database
Money Database

University of Alberta Discovery

Website as discoverable content:

- Hours
 - Maps
 - Subject Librarians
 - LibGuides..... maybe
-

Outstanding Questions

Is there an industry shift towards vendors providing services instead of interfaces?

Do our users still use the library website to search for, discover, and access our material?

How do we integrate library services with users' workflow rather than making them come to us?

How do we provide data and services in easily reusable forms?

Open APIs, Open Data.

Let users build the interfaces and applications they need.

Thank you

Questions?

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