Bento Box Discovery

https://www.lib.umd.edu/search-alpha

What

Alpha release of a new bento-style Search tool

Single search box with results grouped by source/resource type - Bento is a style of Japanese boxed meal with compartmentalized portions

Link out to native interface - for each box, both for full results and individual hits; the native interface provides optimized display, navigation, and advanced search for the source data

Why

Currently no single search because no single index

Single search box makes it easy for users to get started, executes multiple searches on their behalf, guides them to relevant source(s)

Best option available for now - until true single search is available, if ever

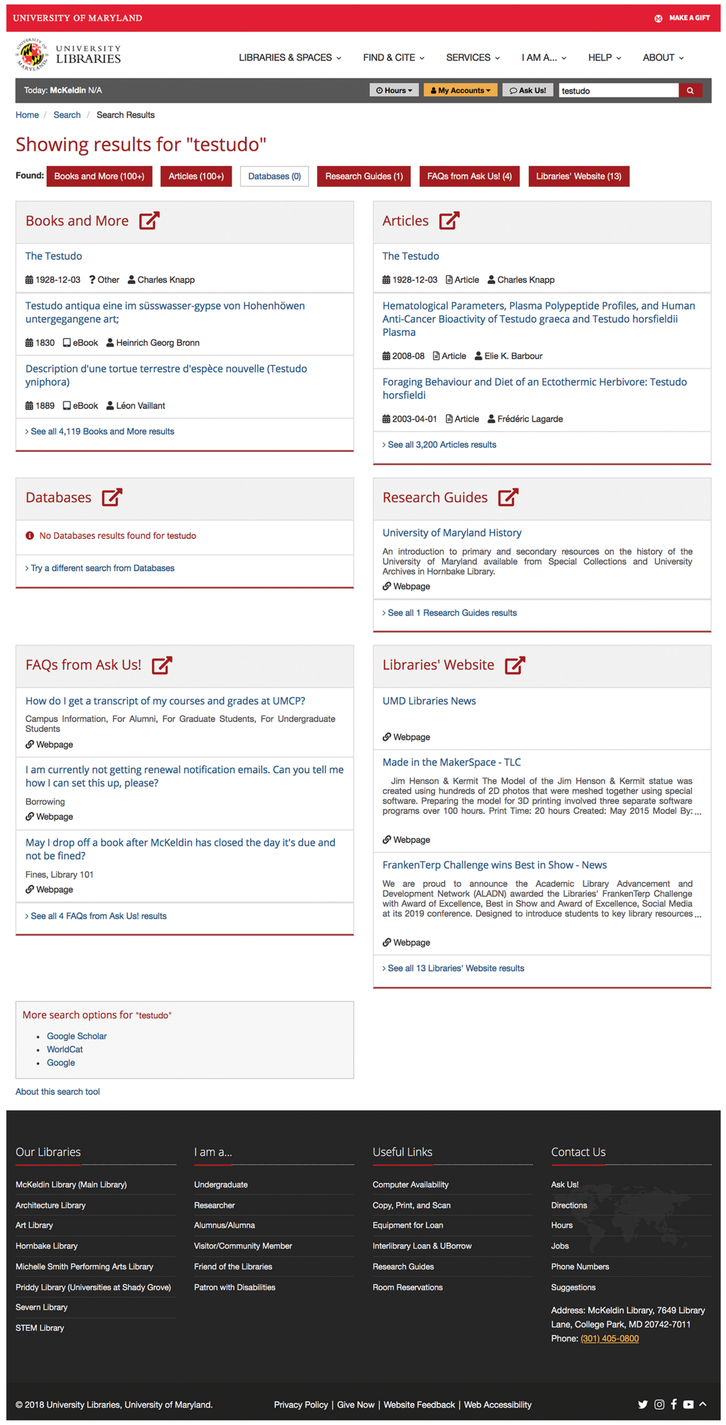
How

Technology - local system executes multiple searches against source system APIs, but does not attempt to aggregate the results; built using Libraries' Website CMS and QuickSearch

Evaluation process - explore publications and peer institution experiences;prototypes, mockups, and usability testing; alpha release for Libraries feedback; beta release for campus feedback; ensure data collection and review process in place from the start

Acknowledgement

Many thanks to NCSU Libraries, a leader in the area of Bento Box Discovery. For more information see their QuickSearch open-source application at https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/projects/quicksearch



UX - User Experience Testing

UX Test 1: prefilled searches

+ Best Bets (but buggy), use of headers for navigation, ? result relevance/metadata

UX Test 2: common searches

+ ease of use, - visual layout, - metadata/what results mean, focus above the fold

UX Test 3: visual mockups

+ color photo background, + red buttons for results, understanding of bento-style results

UX Test 4: Worldcat vs. EDS results

+ EDS for article results, + Worldcat for book results, - metadata / what results mean, ? navigating EDS

UX Test 4.5: Focus group & repeat WC vs. EDS

- "Best Bet" and "Expert Librarian" , + recency/relevance of EDS results, - frustration both in bento and targets

UX next steps

Faculty/researcher feedback, quant data gathering, accessibility testing, longer user journeys

Pull quotes:

"If you wanted to request a book there's a lot of different click throughs to find it "

"Yeah, like there's 36,000 results here (Books & More), it seems like it would be a good search tool"

"I like this is more compact and you can see the year, I feel like the year is really important to a lot of research"

"Doesn't give enough information about search results"

"When you see 'more options,' you know you're out of stuff."

"Expert librarian, it's more like, these people are really good at librarying."

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