
Project Blacklight



<http://projectblacklight.org/>

Overview

Blacklight is a discovery solution (a.k.a. “next generation catalog”) for library collections. It provides faceted browsing and customizable search, and accommodates discovery across heterogeneous collections, allowing different object types to exhibit different behaviors and appearance. Blacklight uses the Apache Solr search engine to search full text and/or metadata and has a highly configurable Ruby on Rails front-end. Blacklight was originally developed at the University of Virginia Library and is made public under an Apache 2.0 license. Blacklight also provides the UI component of Project Hydra.

Objectives / Problem to be Solved

Project Blacklight was originally developed as a response to sluggish and awkward online public access catalogs (OPACs) in an attempt to increase usability and findability for their users.

It allows repositories to tailor and customize their relevance rankings in catalog search results based on their unique collections and local needs.

It allows institutions to provide a single discovery solution for collections that would otherwise be siloed, e.g., providing a single search for physical library collections, digital library holdings, and archival collections.

Recent Activities

Blacklight 4.0 was released in November 2012 and the most recent update 4.2.1 was released in May of 2013. These versions provide more flexibility to add Solr features as they emerge. It also uses the Twitter Bootstrap UI, which provides a responsive design that works on mobile devices.

In addition, Blacklight has several ad-ons including:

- An advanced Search plugin
- A Contextual Query Language (CQL) search plugin
- A Date Range limiter plugin

Governance

Technical leadership of Project Blacklight is through a small group of proven developers who have demonstrated commitment to Blacklight’s progress and

Members/Partners

Some of the institutions using Project Blacklight:

- University of Virginia
- Stanford University
- WGBH
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Hull
- NCSU
- Agriculture Network Information Center
- American Legislative and Issue Campaign Exchange
- Bibliotheque Clermont Universite
- Columbia University
- Tekniske Universitet
- Lowcountry Digital Library
- New York Public Library
- Northwest Digital Archives
- Northwestern University Library
- NRM
- Pennsylvania State University
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- Tufts
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Funders/Funding model

There are no membership dues or

success. Code contributions take the form of pull requests on github.com, and developers review each other's contributions. Committers have a regular meeting, usually in the form of a conference call, to coordinate development & direction.

Next Steps / Planned Future Work

Blacklight plugins under development include:

- Sitemap generator plugin
- Highlighter plugin
- OAI provider plugin
- unAPI plugin
- Embedding framework
- "more like this" results generator plugin
- Google analytics plugin

software licensing costs. All of the development, coordination, and common infrastructure is supported and underwritten by the participating institutions.