

What we wanted

- To search databases from the general library search box
- To skip the A-Z list, as students told us they preferred searching
- To maintain in one place only
- To retrieve the records through several search services

First attempt: Focus on Search

We transferred MARC records from the National Catalog to Summon. The search was built with Summon API and presented a relevance-ranked result list.

But

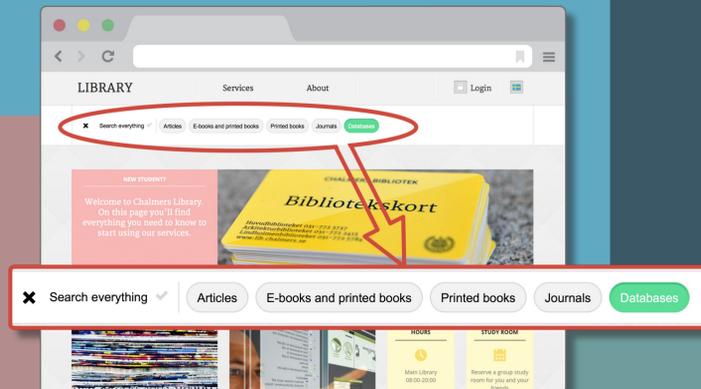
Our users were unhappy, especially the researchers. They got no overview of databases offered by the library.



The relevance ranked result list had no obvious logic. With a small number of records it was more confusing than helpful.

Due to mapping of fields into large groups in Summon we could not trim the descriptions of the databases. Furthermore, the use of a non-primary source caused delay in data updates.

CATALOG ONCE - USE ANYWHERE



Recycling database records

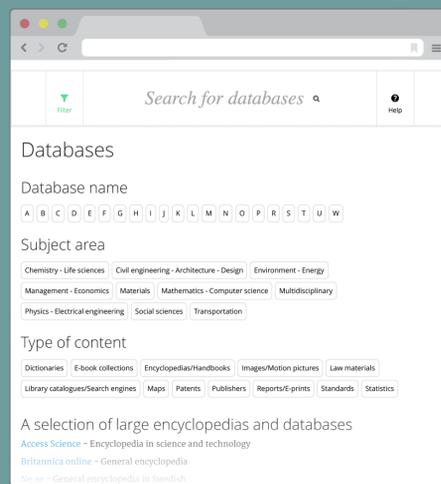
Second attempt: Focus on Search AND Browse



We changed API to our primary source (the National Catalog) and moved some data to locally controlled holding records. We could then develop the search, browse and display since we had access to specified MARC fields instead of field groups.

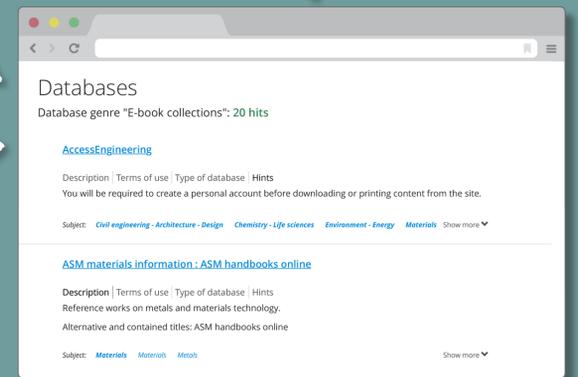
An entry page was created with entries for A-Z, Type of content, and Subject area.

Search results were presented alphabetically – clearer to most users.



Other features:

- Important general databases at the entry page
- List of free databases
- Links to Terms of Use from the ERM-system
- Hints-tab with useful information
- Permanent URL:s to be used when linking from LibGuides, web pages, and Summon Best bets



WE LOVE RECYCLING



What we learned

*BE AGILE
THINK - TEST - RETHINK*

- Use a good data source that suits the purpose
- Do not underestimate users need to browse
- Collaborative cataloging is great, but we need local control over essential fields
- Mistakes and changes of catalog practice become painfully visible when recycling records
- MARC records are not machine readable without workarounds and additional programming
- Pragmatic use of MARC fields may be necessary (But, don't mess up future applications!)

The agile scrum team consisted of:

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