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Chalmers Library
www.lib.chalmers.se

CHALMERS

REUSING SIERRA DATA

An open source interlibrary loan system
We are developing our own ILL-system and need access to our patron data from Sierra. We use SQL and the Sierra Scheduler to retrieve the information from Sierra.

The main reason for developing a separate system is the possibility to implement new functions relevant for our ILL workflow. We have chosen not to use the circulation function in Sierra for our ILL books, but might do so in the future if Sierra develops a writable API.
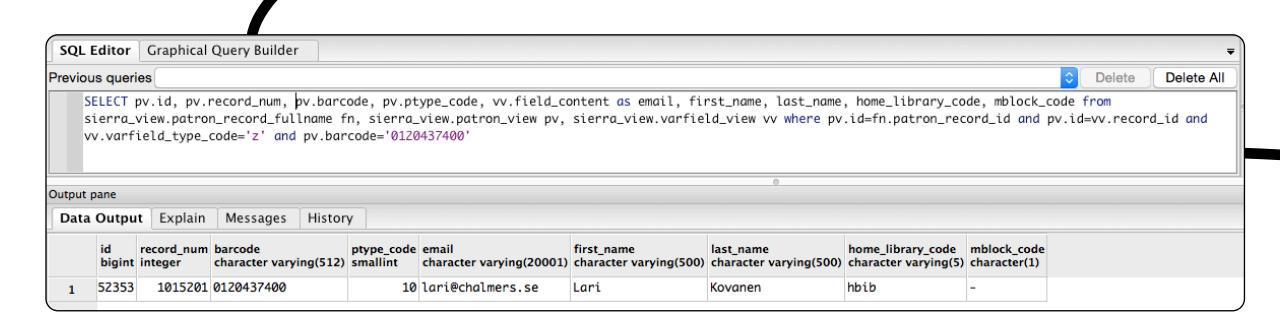
The request
A user enters a request on our website or via the Swedish National library catalogue, LIBRIS. In LIBRIS the user registers with his or her library card number and on our website either with the library card number or social security number.

The SQL lookup
Our new system connects to Sierra via SQL and searches for the users internal database identifier and then looks up the address, patron type, home library and other information.

This lookup function is slow when using a library card number and even slower when trying to identify a user via their social security number.
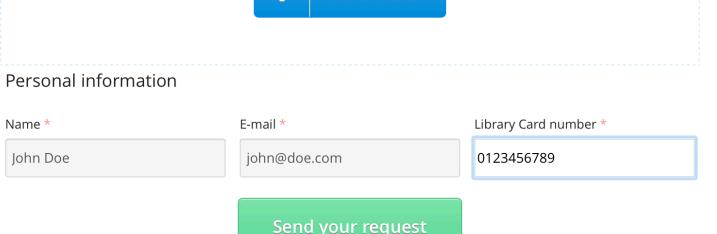
The SOLR lookup
If the user is not found in our SQL lookup we have to manually try to find the user by searching on other patron data.

This kind of search involves many table fields in Sierra and is therefore faster in SOLR. We have set the Scheduler in Sierra to export data every half hour and import them to SOLR. SOLR indexes all the fields so the ILL administrator has the highest probability rate to find the correct user.

Conclusions
- Live searches in the SQL views results in up-to-date patron data, but is unfortunately very slow.
- The field for the social security numbers are not found in the regular patron view. That means we have to use several views in one query which increases the search time.
- We would prefer to use a Sierra developed API that includes all the fields we need as this would increase the speed of each search.

Request material
Request articles or books not available at Chalmers library. All book requests are considered for purchase. Please let us know if you prefer print or e-book.

1 I'd like to order the nice blue book with white corners and a picture of a nice red...

+ Add another

Personal information

Name * John Doe
E-mail * john@doe.com
Library Card number * 0123456789

Send your request

* Mandatory fields. Please enter your personal identity number (10 digits) if you don't have a Library Card.
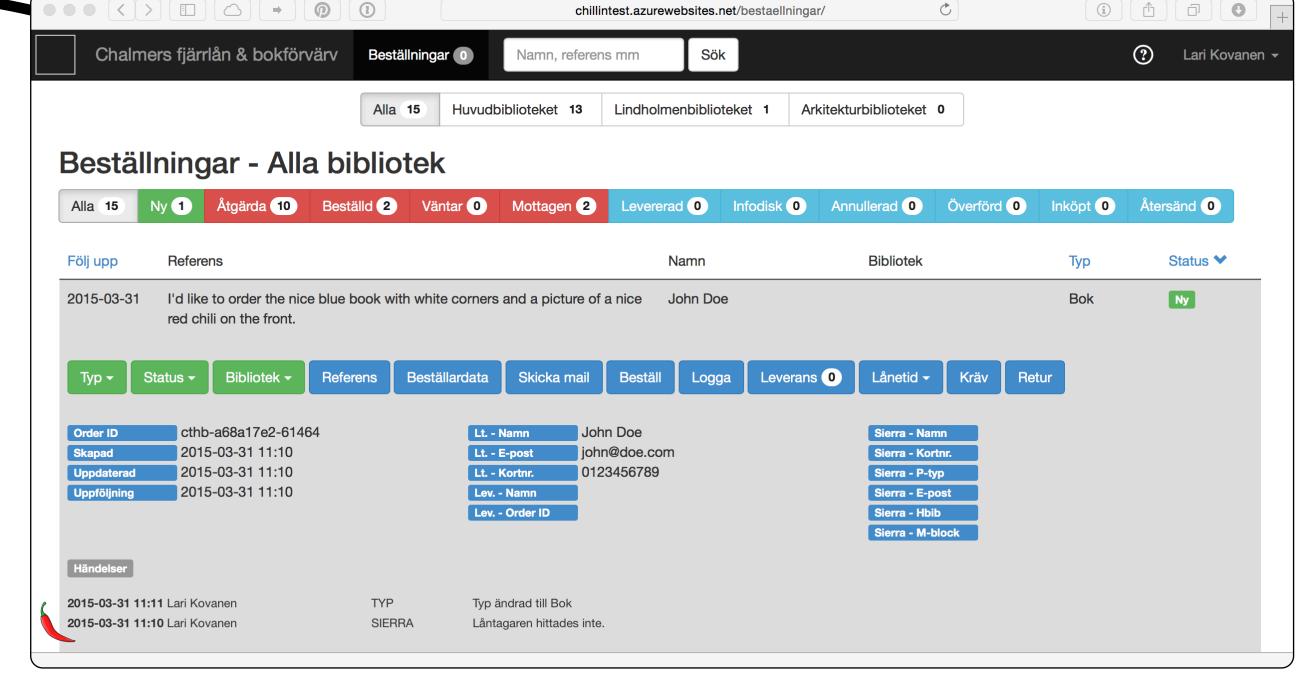
OPEN SOURCE
https://github.com/ChalmersLibrary/Chillin

QUESTIONS?
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