

Just-in-time WebOPAC Design

If you have to do a quick and dirty redesign of your WebOPAC before going live, or you just want to give you site a facelift, here is a handy cheatsheet of the pages to update first and the tools you need to do that.

Prerequisites

- Working knowledge of html or a better-than-basic understanding of your favorite html editor
- Access to Millennium admin or telnet access to the character based system of your training server or staging directory
- Access to CSDirect, the IUG Listserv, the IUG Clearinghouse and the User Manual for your software release

Tip: before editing any html or css page, MAKE A COPY of it and add “orig” to the copy’s name. For example, copy mainmenu.html to mainmenu_orig.html. This way, you can always delete the file you are editing and revert back to the original page.

Top Three High-Impact Edits

1. mainmenu.html and opacmenu.html

What are they?

Same file, different uses. Originally designed to function as the home WebOPAC page (mainmenu.html) and the customizable page for scopes within the system (opacmenu.html). In single use systems, clicking on a button using the /search command link will bring you to opacmenu.html. Save time and ensure constancy by making all edits to mainmenu.html then make a copy it as opacmenu.html.

What do I do with them?

- Add or remove buttons and links to options Innovative Modules (KidsOPAC, ILL, Course Reserves, etc.)
- Add link for your organization’s web page
- Change verbiage (are you going to call it My Millennium or My Account?)
- Add or remove types of searches (call number, gov docs number, etc)
- Set up scopes

What do I need to do this?

- Ability to edit tables (Tip: consider using Firefox with Chris Pederick’s Web Developer Extension which will allow you to display table cells on the live web page <http://chrispederick.com/work/webdeveloper/>)
- Understanding of command links (User Manual #102166)
- Understanding of general display and behavior and other relevant wwwoptions (User Manual #102167)
- Understanding of scoping (User Manual #101264)

2. toplogo.html and botlogo.html

What are they?

HTML files that contain the information to populate the extreme top and extreme bottom of the mainmenu and opacmenu screens. In the default page, these are the areas with the darker blue background. A token is used to pull the contents of these files into all pages in the system, except for some search pages that have the default html hardcoded into them. The tokens will not work on these pages unless you are on release 2005 or later. There is also version of the toplogo file that will display to users when they are logged in (toplogo_loggedin.html) that is controlled by a custom html form.

What do I do with them?

- Add your organization's logo
- Remove "Innovative Interfaces" name
- Add or remove buttons

What do I need to do this?

- Understanding of general display and behavior and My Millennium wwwoptions (User Manual #102167)
- Information on customizing toplogo_loggedin.html (User Manual #105850)
- Understanding of command links (User Manual #102166)

3. briefcit.html

What is it?

Search results page which displays the brief citation of the records retrieved. Since most users will do a simple keyword search to access the catalog, this is the most visible page on your site. Setting up the most understandable format here is essential.

What do I do with it?

Decide what individual pieces of information to display about each record, including:

- Bibliographic fields
- Format type icons
- External content like book jackets and reviews (if you subscribe to Syndetics, Content Café, etc.)
- Links to related resources via WebBridge (if you have it)

What do I need to do this?

Information on customizing the briefcit form (User Manual #101264)

Understanding of search results, records display, content linking, and WebBridge wwwoptions (User Manual #102167)

Access to technical support from your content provider

Other pages to edit if time allows

Help_index.html and all srchhelp pages

The help pages for the various types of searches available to patrons. Depending on your setup, you may want to remove examples from pages or not link to pages at all if you are not going to offer that type of search. There is no default help form for My Millennium, so you may consider adding one and linking to it from the index page.

patronview_web.html

This is a customizable form that will allow you to alter what information the patron sees in their My Millennium account (User Manual # 105261).

Pverify pages

These are the various pages on which patrons are asked for their logon information. You may have additional pverify pages if you have some of the optional modules like Web Access Management (pverify2) and ILL (pverify6).

- Pverify_web.html – My Millennium logon screen
- Pverify3_web.html – Request verification screen (if the patron is not logged in to My Millennium but wants to place a hold, this is the screen they will see)
- Pverify4_web.html – Request saved screen (if the patron wants to request everything in their book cart)

Newpin.html

The page patrons see if you allow them to self-assign a pin if they don't have one.

Request_result.html

The page patrons see upon successfully placing a hold.

Styles.css

The default Innovative style sheet. Changing this will replicate changes throughout the catalog, so do not attempt to edit unless you are very familiar with CSS and have taken time to become familiar with the various classes it employs (User Manual # 105262).

One easy change to make to the style sheet – colors. A list of the 6 default colors with their corresponding hexadecimal codes appears at the very beginning of the stylesheet. If you have a standard set of colors used in your website and would like to replicate them in the catalog, simply match up an Innovative color with a color from your organizational palette and make that change throughout the stylesheet. If you are site that does not have easy access to a Unix machine (and therefore no access to a grep tool), low cost utility like Actual Search and Replace (<http://www.divlocsoft.com/>) can make this very easy to do.

As always, MAKE A COPY OF THE STYLE SHEET PRIOR TO EDITING IT.