

"Hidden Uses of Melvyl" Staff Survey Summary

Introduction

The purpose of the survey was to gather from UC library staff the "hidden" tasks for which they use the current Melvyl Catalog, in order to, as much as possible, ensure that these functions are available in the new Melvyl-T Ex Libris Aleph catalog.

Survey was posted July 12 – July 31, 2001; there were 265 respondents, representing all 9 UC campuses.

Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance a list of current Melvyl/PE functions/features (e.g., Check PE for holdings information). They were also asked to provide other, current features/functions that they felt were important to have in the new catalog.

In addition, respondents were asked if, when they conducted catalog searches, they used their local catalog or Melvyl first. Finally, they were asked how often they used Melvyl, and demographic information such as their job title, how long they have been working at UC and at which campus.

Results

Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance a list of 21 functions currently available in Melvyl.¹ For 11 of the 21 functions/features listed, over 60% of the respondents ranked them "very important"; 8 of the functions/features were ranked "important" by between 40-50% of the respondents. The functions rated the highest included: "Search for exact periodical," "Search for exact title," "check other campus' holdings for serials," and "check PE for holdings information."

The functions that ranked the highest for "not very important" included: "check CALLS list," "Use to assess rarity of a work," "Use for campus comparison of holdings (e.g., subject or keyword at campus and date) to assess evolving campus program strengths."

The responses to the open-ended question regarding other, current functions/features staff would like to see in the new catalog were classified into 5 categories: Functions, Searches/Indexes, Displays, Desired Functions, and Other Databases (see Appendix B for a complete summary of responses). The number of occurrences of issues raised in each category is listed below.²

¹ See Appendix A for complete results

²When one response covered several issues, each issue was counted individually and each person taking the survey did not respond to this question so the total number of issues is less than the total number of responses.

Functions (129) – the two most often mentioned functions were access to holdings (UC and outside UC) and telnet (the most common telnet features cited were d rev and browsing subject headings)

Searches (68) – the most common searches desired were: search by format, exact title, truncation, series, report number, title word and limit by date and holdings.

Display features (26) – the most often listed were display MARC fields, OCLC numbers, ISSN and the database in which journals are indexed.

Desired features (14) – there was no consensus on desired features, some included interface/usability issues such as improving long display in order to make diacritics easier to read and improving the location of print holding information in relation to online access information. New search and “limit to” features were also mentioned (e.g., limit to full-text, limit to publisher).

Other Databases (13) – Accessing other databases from Melvyl [RCAT (1); RLIN (4); WorldCat (8)]

With regards to usage, 63% of the respondents use Melvyl specifically to verify a bibliographic citation daily; 25% once a week. When asked, when conducting a catalog search which catalog they use first, 63% responded that they used their own catalog first and 37% said they used Melvyl first.

The library departments/job titles chosen spread a cross a variety of areas (respondents could choose as many categories as applied); most (38%) were in reference/instruction, and approximately 20% each in Collection Development and in Technical Services: Cataloging. 23% each worked at a Main Library or Branch Library.

Length of time respondents have worked at UC – most (46%) over 15 years; followed by 17% each for 1-3 years and 11-15 years.

Campus response:

UCB – 24%	UCLA – 15%	UCSF – 6.1%
UCD – 15%	UCR – 14%	UCSB – 2.3%
UCI – 6.5%	UCSD – 8.8%	UCSC – 5.3%

Appendix A: Summary of Rank of Functions

Function	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important
Search for exact periodical	84%	12%	4%
Search for exact title	83%	14%	3%
Check other campus' holdings for serials	82%	11%	7%
Check PE for holdings information	82%	10%	7%
Check other campus' holdings for monographs	78%	17%	5%
Search by series	78%	16%	6%
Bibliographic verification: Author/title	71%	24%	5%
Bibliographic verification: Author	68%	25%	7%
Check numbered series information	65%	25%	10%
Bibliographic verification: Title/date	64%	28%	7%
Search for corporate name	63%	27%	10%
Display more than one selected field at a time	60%	24%	15%
Truncate for abbreviated journals titles (e.g., brit#, jou#, add#)	58%	24%	17%
Bibliographic verification: Author/Date	55%	35%	9%
Check MARC records	51%	27%	21%
Check notes for serials	49%	33%	17%
Use for campus comparison of holdings (e.g., subject or keyword at campus and date) to assess evolving campus program strengths	46%	25%	28%
Search for exact periodicals in quotes	44%	34%	22%
Search for corporate name and date	42%	38%	20%
Use to access rarity of a work	37%	33%	30%
Check CALLS list	29%	30%	40%

Appendix B: Responses to Open-Ended Question

Note: Where more than one person mentioned an issue, the number is listed next to the issue

FUNCTION/FEATURES
function - circ (2)
function - common command language
function - copy cataloging (3)
function - copy cataloging (call number) (2)
function - copy cataloging (series)
function - copy cataloging (subject headings, full marc record, verify and establish series and uniform titles)
function - copy cataloging from PE
function - delete local records from Melvyl
function - download bibliographic records
function - download to ref mgnt (3)
function - electronic resources, find (4)
function - email bibliographic records
function - email specified tagged fields
function - email, ability to include messages
function - email, system verifies before sending
function - holdings - materials NOT at a campus
function - holdings (10)
function - holdings (for legal publishers competition)
function - holdings outside UC (5); including for gov publications
function - holdings RLFs (4)
function - holdings UC (14); including for foreign language items
function - holdings, local catalog record number
function - holdings, serials (4)
function - holdings, view notes
function - ILL - provide location close to your local campus
function - phone numbers, locate other libraries numbers
function - print marc and special records "continuously"
function - profile
function - report bibliographic errors
function - request (4)
function - search - redo
function - search history
function - shelf-list conversion
function - sorting
function - telnet (14)
function - telnet - redo command
function - telnet (browse all subject headings) (8)
function - telnet (combined searches)
function - telnet (complex searches)
function - telnet (d lon) (2); to determine volumes of collected works series
function - telnet (d rev) (7)
function - telnet (dis su)
function - telnet (marc display) (2)
function - telnet (saved lists to downloads to ref mgnt)

FUNCTION/FEATURES
function - timeout, set
function - update
function - verify call numbers
function - verify citation (5)
function - verify classification numbers
function - verify serial name changes (2)
function - verify subject headings (2)

SEARCH/INDEXES
search - all published editions of a work
search - author, partial name
search - authors held by uc libraries
search - Boolean
search - browse
search - call number (2)
search - cn (conf)
search - combined (eg author/title)
search - complex (limit already limited search)
search - corporate entries found by searching in PE titles
search - corporate, partial author name
search - date (2) including publication date array
search - date, limit by (3)
search - format (7)
search - geographic code (2)
search - gov doc number
search - isbn and issn (2)
search - lccn
search - limit holding (3)
search - loaded records (9xx field)
search - marc 730
search - mesh, "at med" limit
search - monographic titles of issues
search - notes, marc 520
search - number, item
search - number, local
search - number, report (3)
search - periodicals titles
search - scale and geographic cutter
search - series (3)
search - series title, partial
search - series, untraced (marc field 490)
search - set searching
search - subject (2)
search - sudoc (2)
search - supplements
search - title and number
search - title word (3), including in any order
search - title, exact (4)
search - title, same periodical title, with different publication date
search - truncation (3)

DISPLAY OPTIONS
display - analytic sets
display - catalog changes made to oclc records
display - cataloger's initial
display - cataloging history
display - date local record was entered and updated
display - issn (2)
display - marc (subject headings, author headings, series headings)
display - marc (2) including 001, 901, 904, 949
display - marc (4) including 510
display - marc (all fields currently available)
display - marc (check campus monograph and serial records)
display - notes field
display - notes in periodicals records
display - oclc numbers (5)
display - url for full-text--provide
display - where journal is indexed (2)

DESIRED FEATURES
desired feature - browse keywords
desired feature - export record into local ILS in tagged marc format
desired feature - having books and periodicals in one file
desired feature - improve merging holdings
desired feature - interface - don't display print holdings under online access
desired feature - limit by publisher
desired feature - limit to full-text
desired feature - limit to geographic location ("ucla college library" and "greater LA")
desired feature - search exact series name add "not se" to narrow results
desired feature - search keyword
desired feature - search, complex "without taking lots of cycles"
desired feature - search, truncation and no "too many truncated words" error
desired feature - sort by report number
desired feature - usability - make the display long with diacritics easier to read