



Building a suite of open-source applications for libraries to reveal their collections on the web

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER'S

eXtensible Catalog Project

The goal of the eXtensible Catalog Project is to provide open-source applications to simplify user access to all library resources, digital and non-digital

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Collaboratively design and develop the eXtensible Catalog software with a team of developers hosted at the University of Rochester libraries and at partner institutions.
- Deploy the software at our partner institutions and make the software available under an open source license
- Start a not-for-profit company to provide a sustaining governance model that will support broad adoption of the software by the library community.

PROJECT GOALS

- Provide software that can bring information about library resources into web interfaces that libraries may already be using, such as learning management systems and content management systems.
- Deliver a user interface that includes a complete suite of Web 2.0 functionality (blogs, tagging, folksonomies, RSS feeds)

- Offer libraries the ability to build their own web applications that extend the XC software
- Eliminate barriers libraries face when trying to leverage their existing investment in metadata and systems by delivering the “glue” that will clean up the existing metadata, generate relationships or faceting metadata automatically, and tie disparate systems together by shuttling the metadata to the appropriate place.
- Capture and incorporate user-generated metadata into the discovery process
- Engage in user research to inform the design and functionality of the XC software
- Publish the XC code as open source, to be sustained by a community of contributors bound by a funded governance structure
- Make it possible for libraries to implement an entirely open-source approach to the discovery of library resources.
- Offer libraries the opportunity to participate in campus learning management systems and student portals by serving scholarly resources into them and opening up a channel of communication between the users of these systems, library staff and faculty
- Enable libraries to collect, share and make available user-generated metadata (such as resource recommendations)

TECHNOLOGIES, STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS USED

- Java, PHP, SQL, XML
- Apache SOLR and Lucene
- Web services
- Drupal open source content management system
- SAKAI open source learning management system
- Evergreen open source library management system
- Blackboard learning management system
- MARC and Dublin Core metadata
- LDAP
- Open Archives Initiative – Protocol for Metadata Harvesting
- Web services