

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design

Recommendation Lists Featured on the Homepage



In brief

Customer request:

Readers should be able to easily access up-to-date information not only from the library catalogue but also from the institutional repository and online content services.

Solution:

In the form of recommendation lists (bookshelves) placed on the OPAC/Discovery homepage, the library can recommend content to readers, automatically generated based on predefined algorithms from the transactional data of the library system's (Corvina or HunTéka) database.

What was the customer's need that we provided a solution for?

On the homepage of the OPAC/Discovery interface, the library can recommend content to readers via recommendation lists (bookshelves). The system automatically generates these recommendations based on predefined algorithms using transactional data from the library system's (Corvina or HunTéka) database—such as acquisitions, loans, reservations, etc. Consequently, these bookshelves always feature up-to-date recommendations and require no librarian intervention (administration).

However, this operational model presents two limitations. First, the recommendations can only include documents originating from the library system (the library catalogue); repository and online content, which are otherwise searchable in the Discovery interface, cannot be included since there are no transactions for them in the ILS (Integrated Library System), and the automatic recommendations—as mentioned above—are built based on these transactions. The second limitation is that due to this automated operation, library staff do not have the option to manually compile thematic bookshelves that reflect current 'hot topics' or contemporary events (such as awards, holidays, seasons, etc.).

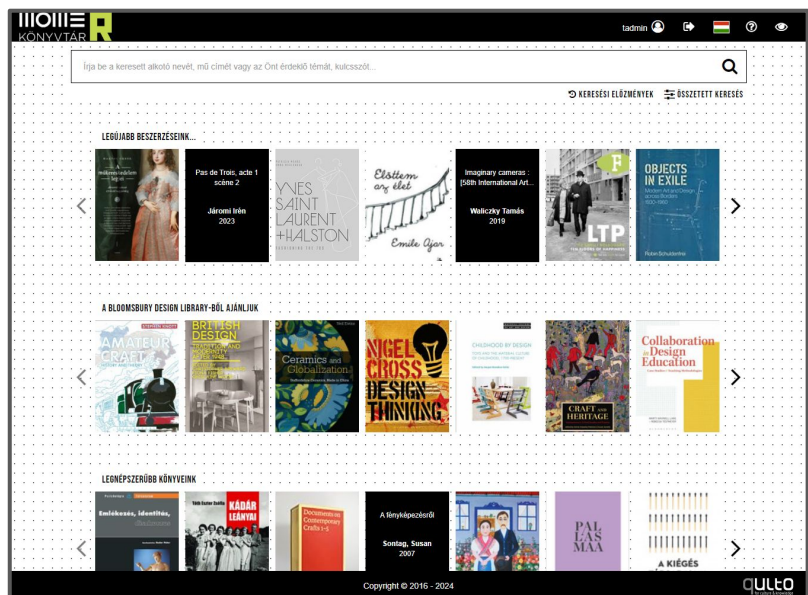


How does this improve the service?

Using the 'My Lists' feature to compile homepage recommendations expands the library's options for drawing readers' attention to content that may interest them. On one hand, they can recommend documents from the entire Discovery ecosystem—meaning not only from the library catalogue but also from the institutional repository and online content services. This allows the library to highlight items on the homepage such as the most recently defended dissertations from the university's doctoral school, or e-books newly added to an online collection. On the other hand, library staff can also put together thematic recommendation lists tied to current 'hot topics' or contemporary events.

What is the solution?

The 'My Lists' feature of the OPAC/Discovery system allows catalogue users to compile lists, bibliographies, and virtual bookshelves from the documents accessible (searchable) in Discovery. When readers compile such lists, they typically do so to gather materials for their studies, exams, or research, to put together a reading list of mandatory and recommended literature for their students, or simply to save readings for themselves for later. However, the feature also enables and supports a use case where library staff compile lists of searchable documents in Discovery specifically to display the resulting list as a recommendation on the OPAC/Discovery homepage. Naturally, this particular use case is only accessible within the 'My Lists' feature for designated librarian users.



Future development opportunities, plans

In the case of thematic recommendations, it can be particularly important for the list creator to add a short commentary of a few sentences, explaining why they recommend the items to readers. For example, what makes the list timely, what current 'hot topic' it connects to, or which user group might find it especially interesting. The 'My Lists' feature allows users to provide a short description of the list's content. Future development plans include displaying this short description above the recommendation on the OPAC/Discovery homepage as well.