Is That Book Checked Out?
Getting Holdings and Availability Data into Other Applications

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April 21, 2016
Background

- Creating a new Discovery Layer
- Using Blacklight, because it’s cool!
- Wanted real-time holdings data, but did not want to query the db directly.
I had already met SuperCat

- Our consortium’s sysadmin pointed me toward some documentation on the wiki
- I used it to create a cute display of our new books
SuperCat is nice!
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Format was nice!
I could easily parse the XML with nokogiri’s xpath powers – Blacklight already had this as a dependency!
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Credentials required
None!
SuperCat is nice!

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Credentials required
None!

Capabilities are clear
Easy to get to list of possible formats.
How to use SuperCat

Format
http://example.com/opac/extras/supercat/
{COMMAND}/
{FORMAT}/
{Specific information needed by your COMMAND}
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http://example.com/opac/extras/supercat/
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Example SuperCat query
http://libcat.linnbenton.edu/opac/extras/supercat/retrieve/atom-full/record/514477
Results of Supercat query

[snip]

<counts>
  <count type="public" count="1" available="1" unshadow="1" type="public" count="1" available="1" unshadow="1"/>
  <count type="staff" count="1" available="1" unshadow="1" type="staff" count="1" available="1" unshadow="1"/>
</counts>

<volumes>
  <volume id="tag:open-ils.org:asset:call_number/643383" id="tag:open-ils.org:asset:call_number/643383">
    <copies>
      <copy id="tag:open-ils.org:asset:copy/442300" id="tag:open-ils.org:asset:copy/442300">
        <status ident="0" opac_visible="t">Available</status>
        <location ident="223" opac_visible="t">New books</location>
        <circlib ident="7" opac_visible="t">LBCC Lib</circlib>
      </copy>
    </copies>
  </volume>
</volumes>

[snip]
Supercat isn’t perfect

- The atom-full format had everything I needed, but it also returns a bunch of other (bibliographic) data that we don’t really need.
- htmlholdings-full format didn’t have any helpful markup. Also wasn’t totally interested in dropping results in as an HTML list.
- Staff suggestion: display due datetime when item checked out
OpenSearch

Credit: Alan David Robb / CC0
OpenSearch

Format was also nice! In fact, it had the same format options as supercat...

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Credentials required
None!

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Credentials required
None!

Capabilities are clear
Because they are the same as supercat...

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UnAPI

Credit: Public Domain Image
UnAPI

Format was almost ideal!
holdings\_xml-full!

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Format was almost ideal!
holdings_xml-full!

Credentials required
None!

Credit: Public Domain Image
UnAPI

Format was almost ideal! holdings xml-full!

Credentials required
None!

Capabilities are not clear
Unless you read through Open-ILS/src/perlmods/lib/OpenILS/WWW/SuperCat.pm

Credit: Public Domain Image
UnAPI

- URLs look like this:
  https://libcat.linnbenton.edu/opac/extras/unapi?id=tag:U2@bre:biblio_record_entry/280157&format=holdings_xml-full

- Still don’t have due dates in there.
JSON from opensrf web gateway

Credit: Joaquim Alves Gaspar / CC-BY-SA-3.0
JSON from opensrf web gateway

Format is kinda scary
But very compact!

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Credentials required
Authentication token

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Authentication token

Capabilities are pretty much unlimited
As long as Evergreen can do it, I can do it too.

Credit: Joaquim Alves Gaspar / CC-BY-SA-3.0
JSON from opensrf web gateway

http://libcat.linnbenton.edu/gateway?
service=open-ils.cat&
method=open-ils.cat.asset.copy_tree.retrieve&
param=[AUTH TOKEN]&
param=294385&param=7
Getting an auth token

How to get here: Admin → For developers → Javascript Shell
Results of opensrf query