

**Colby College**

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**From the Selected Works of Margaret D. Ericson**

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**CBBcat: Aquabrowser as the 'NextGen' shared catalog for the Colby/Bates/Bowdoin Libraries: a public, technical services and music perspective**

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Available at: [https://works.bepress.com/margaret\\_ericson/10/](https://works.bepress.com/margaret_ericson/10/)

## **Music Library Association Annual Meeting (2010:San Diego). Plenary.**

**Ericson, Margaret. "CBBcat: Aquabrowser as the "NextGen" Shared Catalog for the Colby, Bates and Bowdoin Libraries. A Public and Technical Services Music Perspective." Unpublished paper. Powerpoint slides are available upon request.**

Slide 1.

I'm pleased to co-present this talk today with Sharon Saunders, (Systems and Catalog Librarian at Bates College), who will respond to my paper with the Technical Services view on the implementation of Aquabrowser music features.

Commonalities:

Slide 2

Colby, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges, all small private liberal arts colleges with an FTE student population under 2000, are located in central Maine's own "academic triangle". [map displays] Each not more than 45 minutes driving time from each other, the CBB Libraries have a long history of collaboration.

Slide 3

Ongoing initiatives -- shared lending, consistent borrowing rules, the same ILS system (III), and consortial purchasing of online databases and digital packages whenever possible -- have laid the groundwork for more extensive and formalized collaborations. In 2007 the CBB Libraries received a \$280,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation for planning and implementation of a cooperative collection development plan. As a result of the project, there is now an official CBB Libraries Governance Structure for ongoing collaboration in the purchase of systems, electronic and physical collections, and planning for access services for delivery of materials.

Slide 4

Notably, CBB Libraries now have a shared book and E-book approval Plan with Yankee books. We duplicate fewer academic book titles, thus allowing us to use our resources to purchase a wider range of unique titles in all formats shared amongst CBB. In order to make the sharing of physical collections really work, the directors of the CBB Libraries concluded that our virtual presence needed to reinforce our new arrangements. CBB needed a better platform for users to discover and access our shared resources. It was time to move to a Next Generation Catalog platform to promote the philosophical idea that our collections were one.

Slide 5

In early 2008 the three libraries evaluated Encore (III), Aquabrowser, Endeca and Primo for possible options for our new discovery platform. We compared all four systems with our functional requirements.

Of primary importance was the ability to accommodate our current ILS, Innovative Interfaces. CBB participates in two ILL consortia for shared lending and document delivery: MaineCat (all public university, college and major public libraries in the state of Maine, and NExpress, a consortium of 8 New England Academic Libraries (CBB, Middlebury, Northeastern, Vassar, Wellesley, Williams). Any new catalog would have to maintain our current crosswalk searches to these consortial catalogs.

Other features we were looking for.

- Google like Single search box, displaying most relevant results 1st
- Appealing Graphic data visualization of results: Refining, Discovery
- Ability to merge E-resource records for C,B,B into the catalog
- External E-Content integration: ILL WebBridge, Syndetics, Google Books, Library Thing, etc.
- Integration of Authority control
- Social features: reviews, ratings, tagging.
- Customization & library branding for C/B/B, our own logo, as well as our own individual look for the catalog on our individual websites .
- Important that the company is willing to be a development partner for features beyond “out of box” implementation: Scopes, Advanced Searches, etc.

Slide 6

In summer 2008 Colby, Bates and Bowdoin Libraries signed a contract with Aquabrowser (then owned by the Dutch company MediaLabs, but has just been sold to Serials Solutions).

Slide 7

It has been a prolonged implementation, not the 90 day roll-out that was promised by the vendor, due to the various complexities of our particular project:

1. we have an official structure for shared governance of systems and design decisions
2. incorporating three libraries bibliographic and holdings data
3. contractual agreements with Aquabrowser to develop new features specifically for our implementation
4. we have to execute many local CBB decisions effecting the customization and design, links out to external e-content, gathering user feedback, etc. This has moved us into our 20<sup>th</sup> month of implementation.

Slide 8

All three libraries have made our new CBBcat the default choice on our home pages. Based on user feedback, in addition to the single Aquabrowser box to CBBcat, we also have on the home page, links to selected pre-search scopes to journals, scores, audio, and video. We also have a visible tab for the option to search our “classic” or original catalog. We have a unified logo that appears on each library home page, in our branded color scheme for each college.

I’m going to go through a basic search to give examples of some of the features of AB, and those specific features developed for us in partnering in AB for CBBcat

## Slide 9

Here is a look at our individual “skins” or branded design, which is maintained locally by your systems/web staff. If you enter a term in the single search box that AB detects as a misspelling yielding no results, AB will suggest an alternate spelling, preceded by the phrase “Did you mean..?” We’ll click on the suggested link to sitar, correctly spelled. In the spirit of cooperation, for the duration of the slide show, we’ll be displaying Bates’ version of CBBcat.

## Slide 10

Results of a search on sitar are displayed here. The AB results screen is designed in three sections, and once a user understands the distinctions, navigating is fairly straightforward.

Hits from the terms entered in the one search box are displayed in the center frame. Results are relevancy ranked as the default sort, but a user can change the sort to date, author, and title.

I executed a search across ALL formats, which the default search from the single search box. But users can initiate new searches using the same terms by choosing amongst the selection of white tabs at the top of the screen.

For each results list, an icon representing the particular format of the item displays. Particular audio format is displayed (CD, LP, Streaming, not just a blanket term “sound recording”), similarly for Video (VHS, DVD). Book (book, E-book). This is much more useful to our patrons. Visual content from Syndetics feeds in covers of books, CDs and videos.

On the left is the “Discovery Frame”. The discover frame is meant to broaden the search results beyond what the user has input for a search. When a user chooses a term in the “word cloud”, the results are broadened and with a relevancy to the original search. The “word cloud” in the left Discover Frame allows the user to see associated topics that crop up frequently in relation to the term or terms in the search box. This “relatedness” feature allows users to make connections to word meaning they may not have thought of previously. The terms are color coded so that users can distinguish those that are from controlled headings or thesauri (LC subject headings...here in blue), as opposed to from those that crop up frequently in relation to the term or terms used in the search which are in a different color and font. The usefulness of the terms in the word cloud is an issue which is under much debate amongst the CBB Librarians. Sometimes it works well, as it does here for this topical search. The word cloud offers a set of expanded terms related to the sitar’s organology and relation to its cultural origins. But when you create a more complex search, the word cloud can be perplexing, if not somewhat amusing in some instances. Libraries can choose to set the default display of a search to hide the word cloud.

In the right hand frame, users can “NARROW” the results by navigating through what are called “facets” Online, Call Number, Location (Branch/Dept 117 total results you can see how hits are parsed out amongst the three libraries), Format, Author (Person, Corporate), Topic, Time Period, Geographical, Genre, New Books.

## Slide 11

In this slide, we have the same results list, and I’ve checked off several hits to select them for exporting. Results export to a text file for printing, or directly to RefWorks or Endnote. One of the open issues we

have with AB is that call numbers do not export; only the author, title, and imprint data exports. This is quite problematic if a user wants to create a list with call numbers that they want to take with them to the shelves to retrieve the items.

There is also a social feature to Next Gen catalogs, and AB is no exception. When users create their own account, in a feature AB calls "My Discoveries" top right (I'm logged in on this screen), they can create a named list on a topic, save results to that list, create their own descriptive tags, rate the item with a "starred" rating, and review or comment on the item. I've showed an example of that here. The list "sitar" will now display in a results list when other users execute a search on this terms.

Users can also create an RSS feed to a given search (RSS icon, top right) clicking on this link will produce a link that if inserted into a webpage or Libguides will feed in a results list.

#### Slide 12

At an individual bibliographic record, you'll see the combined CBB holdings displayed with real time availability. Colby users would see our copy was checked out and could then Request the title through NEXpress/Mainecat to get the Bates copy. Below our holdings, you'll a line called "TAGS" which displayed tags from Library Thing, another feature that is unique to our implementation of CBBcat. Also, CBBcat has created a link out to Google Books, so that when users click on the link, it goes directly to the Google Books record. Summaries, table of contents, first couple of chapter, or the entire book if in public domain. One should not that some scores are contained in GB. Dover editions (complete), select previews from Mel Bay, Hal Leonard items as well. I wish there was more. Also on the right, you'll see links out to other relevant external content. Here Bates has profiled music searches to display a link that goes out to Oxford Music Online. This is coming from our III's Web Bridge product which the CBB libraries have implemented.

#### Slide 13

So, what's happening here. We're breaking down individual silos for the libraries. First our combined holdings are more transparent, so we don't have to unnecessarily duplicate. We can spend more money on materials that expand the range of our individual collections, and at the same time save physical space. We are pushing external digital content out to the users when possible. Users can borrow easily from one of our consortial libraries. One thing that has become clear to me is that even though we very similar colleges on the surface, our music collections are truly very different. As illustrated here, there is little duplication amongst music editions in our libraries. Bowdoin has a great chamber music collection; Bates has a strong overall collection with a lot of pop, 20<sup>th</sup> century music and ethno collections. Colby purchases heavily in complete works and collected editions, facsimiles, and blues, jazz, and core repertoire.

#### Slide 14

Aquabrowser advertises that they integrate authority records into searches and displays. CBBcat has implemented authorities in AB to some degree. This slide illustrates how subject authorities are integrated in the search results and overall displays. I have searched for the term: "electronic music". Because this is an exact match for an official LC subject heading, Aquabrowser displays under the search box, Your query has been expanded with Electronic tape music, Electronics (Music), etc. all the UF headings in the LC authority record for electronic music. See the inset on the right corner, for the LC

authority structure and how it relates to the display. You'll again also see that the word cloud contains the related and narrower terms in the LC authority record. This is quite useful.

#### Slide 15.

The integration of Name authorities is still under implementation in CBBcat. Music headings matching an exact name can be problematic, because of the number of name authority records that often match a prolific composer. Here I've searched on the American woman composer "Libby Larsen". Aquabrowser reads this as an exact match, and thus displays all the authority records for this author and expands the result list to all entries matching these headings. The left hand frame also has the "Discover" function for authors, and one may open an author browse list, and go directly that name, "Larsen, Libby", to focus in on a particular name if you choose. Combined with the Right hand facet for personal author, the user has a confusing range of options to consider if one is doing a composer search and wanting to use the correct form of the name and find a particular work title.

#### Slide 16

And currently, if one types in an unauthorized name form, the name authorities do not always lead the user to the proper spelling of a name...it will just match exactly on the name if found. Here for "Skriabin", the word cloud does not help the user get to the proper name form, the author browse offers no help. The user will just have to infer, by the scarce results list, that perhaps the spelling is not correct.

#### Slide 17

CBB and Aquabrowser partnered to developed pre-search limits for particular formats of materials. This was important for our implementation and user base. Tabbed searches (in white tabs at top of screen), lead users to the scoped searches to format. The Scores Scope page opens up with the center 'content well' which is customizable to each library. e.g.

- Search tips
- E collections
- Subject Guides
- New CBB scores

Search  ; the user wants the violin piano arrangement

#### Slide 18

5 hits are retrieved. The right hand facet frame displays the locations of the holding libraries, topic headings for further honing, etc.

#### Slide 19

CBB also decided it was important to offer users capabilities for advanced searching, for those who wanted to refine their searches according their own needs. CBB developed templates particular to each scope (or format). For the Score scope, the template displays options for searching by title, author, keyword, song, instrument, publisher, call number. Of course each of these search options requires careful index profiling to be useful. How would a Next Gen user fill out this template?

#### Slide 20

Here I tried what some users might try. Concerto\* 64 (title) Mendelssohn (author) violin piano (instruments). This however, yields no results.

#### Slide 21

Concerto\* 64 (title) Mendelssohn (author) violin piano (keyword).

This brings up 2 editions: (G. Schirmer at Colby and International at Bowdoin).

Using the keyword option in advanced search yields better results than instrument or topic.

This probably has to do with the field that the relevant terms appear in. I would ask, "Would the user understand the distinctions? "

#### Slide 22

Here is a slide with the view of the pre-search scope to "Music" which is our sound recordings search. The center content, promoting audio e-collections. Naxos Music Library, and other music audio databases, as well as new CDs. I input a search for the Mozart aria, "deh vieni non tardar" (aria often assigned to sopranos studying voice).

#### Slide 23

Here is the result list. Note that the results displays the performer (marc field 511) field just after the publisher, so that music users have enough information to select amongst variant versions of a music work in a hit list. Again, icon for the particular audio formats is available, so users can choose a cd, streaming lp, etc, as in the format facet to the right. Syndetics cd covers enhance the display.

#### Slide 24

Again, one could also try to do an advanced search using the advanced template in the Music scope. Title, Author/Performer, Topic, Keyword, Song, Instruments, PN, Call number, publisher. Here I input author Mozart, and "song" deh vieni non tardar, and the number of results is fewer than just doing a basic keyword search, but no doubt the results are bound to be more precise.

#### Slide 25

To recapitulate about Format Scopes

- Users want the format scope functionality found in our ILS.
- Based on MARC leader code for material type, not locally created translations of codes for ILL system.
- Basic (Keyword) and Advanced (Index based)
- Advanced: Still in beta
  - Goal: more precise, relevant result set
  - requires reconciling tagging practices / preferences at the three schools
  - Because of indexing, results can be uneven
  - Are users familiar with the indexing practices: is it NextGen?

#### Slide 26

I mentioned that CBBcat feeds in Syndetics content in the form of CD book and DVD covers. Syndetics also provides media reviews and contents lists from All Music/Media Guide, and the reviews are part of

the bib record for the titles that match up with Syndetics content. Here we have a nice overview of *Karajan: The Music, The Legend*, a cd/dvd special issue.

#### Slide 27

Here is a media review of *Ma Rainey: Complete recorded works in chronological order*. The review mentions info about the original recording label, artists that performed with Ma Rainey, so very quickly a user has relational information on which to search for other material.

#### Slide 28

One of the major open issues with our CBBcat implementation, especially with regard to music, is that uniform titles appearing as a 240 field separate from the 100 level author field, are not linked in CBBcat. This greatly impacts the retrieval of titles of larger full scale works, especially those with language variations (e.g. operas), or instrumental works with title descriptions in innumerable variations. Here I've done a search for: "emperor concerto Beethoven", using the popular title of the work. At the bibliographic level, you'll note that the uniform title is not link so the user can't navigate to all the works with this uniform title. HOWEVER, during the first round of implementation, analyzed 700 author title field combinations, like those for sound recordings which have several titles associated with a single bib record, are hot linked and users can navigate to through the added entries in the bib record. CBB needs to pursue this further to really be useful for public service needs for music.

- Sample search Emperor concerto beethoven
- 700 Author/title headings ARE linked.
- Impacts retrieval of titles of large works with language variations, form variations, etc

#### Slide 29

This slide demonstrates how different the result sets can be without this important feature.

37 results keyword (emperor concerto beethoven), 76 with a uniform title for this work.

#### Slide 30

- 240 uniform titles are not linked in CBBcat. On our Aquabrowser open issues list.
- Data cleanup (marc codes) and merging records in the catalog
- Profiling for Advanced Search templates. Evaluating fields/subfields profiled for the advanced search. Topic: (chronological, geographical, and form subdivisions left out)
- Authority Records are loaded, but not fully functional yet. Displays are problematic for those searches matching on multiple authority headings.

#### Slide 31

In doing some research on AB implementations for this paper, I went to the Harvard Libraries site, as they also have implemented AB for their new Hollis catalog. Harvard has implemented uniform titles, so we know this issue isn't an AB limitation. Harvard also has implemented a facet (right frame for

narrowing) for “other titles” which includes uniform title information. I noticed they also have implemented a Genres facet which includes [MARC TAG |v form]

#### Slide 32

Finally, I want to speak to some overarching trends that we may glean from Music Information Retrieval Research. I strongly encourage you to seek out various articles by J. Stephen Downie, a former MLA member, now a professor of library and information science at University of Illinois. Downie’s research seeks to provide a solid framework of music information seeking behavior so that designers of information retrieval systems for music can meet our needs. A good place to start is the study by Downie and Jin Ha Lee, *“Survey of music information needs, uses, and seeking behaviours: preliminary findings.”* Proceedings. ISMIR: 5th International Conference on Music Information Retrieval, Barcelona, Spain, 2004

#### Slide 33

Here are some of his findings

1. Three types of information: Intrinsic, descriptive, and extra-musical information enrich the information seeking experience for music information users.
2. Users want to be connected to the musical object itself, or enough of it to satisfy their needs for identification and selection. (e.g. audio samples, sample pages of scores, texts)
3. Users seek information to assist in the building of collections of music
4. Users seek music information for verifying or identifying works, artists, lyrics, etc.
5. Relational metadata: data about the item’s relationships (“artificially created or socially constructed”) with other music related items: genre, style, similar artists)
6. “Social aspects” of using music is of great importance: User contributions of reviews, ratings, recommendations, etc. benefit the information seeking experience.

#### Slide 34

Looked at in this context, of what seekers of music information want  
Next Gen catalogs can provide

- Bib Record: description, verification
- Results Lists: associations with other editions
- Syndetics Visual Content: CD & DVD covers & reviews of audio
- Facets & Word Cloud: relationships by topic, composers, artists, genre, etc.
- Actual object: only if e-record in system (e.g. NAXOS, DRAM, dig. rep.)
- Select digital score content/previews via Google Books
- Social Aspects: Library Thing tags, user ratings, user tags.
- Suggestions of other external e-content

Limited in various respects.

- Basic design oriented to general library collections, and not music delivery. (*Lots of potential though*)
- The catalog does not supply intrinsic information (tempo, difficulty, range, incipits)
- Retrieving a “music object” itself if in digital form beyond the catalog
- Is there an audio or score equivalent to Google Books, to link users out from Bib Record Level.
- Accessing multiplicity of digital score and audio sites.
- Not a replacement for other web search engines for music.

## Slide 35

### Future Considerations.

We are still trying to work with Aquabrowser on an open list of issues.

- CBBcat still a work in progress:
  - CBB will continue to work with AB to finish implementation of features not completed
  - Hone and improve our catalog
- Serials Solutions, Aquabrowser, Summon.
  - Future support, new developments

Library Administrators are asking us to think of new ways to push our resources out to users. We need to be involved in the solutions. They might not be perfect or fully developed, but working together in finding solutions certainly makes the ability to handle change much easier than jumping off on one's own. Fearless administrators and leaders in technical services for the CBB Libraries deserve many kudos for making this a very successful cooperative venture.