Single Search with SOLR

...or what to do when everything goes to &#@
Minnesota Historical Society
Gale Family Library

Sarah Quimby
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Jackie Beckey
The Backstory
The Aftermath
Crisis Management
Systems & Styles
Crisis Management

Partnerships
Crisis Management Tools
Moving out of crisis mode
What do you like best?
Lessons Learned
Red Flags
Searching historical records: What

Name: Christianson, Oscar Nelson
Birth: November 15, 1911
County of Birth: Meeker County, Minnesota, United States
Mother’s Maiden Name: Newman
Searching historical records: What

Name: Rude, Baby Girl
Birth Certificate Index | Text | 1912-44064
Birth: March 17, 1912
County of Birth: Ramsey County, Minnesota, United States
Mother's Maiden Name: Star

http://people.mnhs.org/finder/bci/1912-44064
Searching historical records: How

Simple search v. Advanced search
Searching historical records: How

Search philosophy #2: Known items vs. browse
Searching historical records: How

Search philosophy #3: Everything vs. specific things

The Vision

The ubiquity of online access inspires a vision of a single search across all collections, without regard for where the assets are housed or what institutional unit oversees them. A “Google-like search across our collections” showcases the compelling body of materials, extending the status of “leading” and “foremost” collections in a particular area or discipline from the physical into the virtual world. Incorporating other resources such as lectures, course content or educational materials into the single search “promotes intellectual connections.” Searching by “my term, not your term” yields satisfactory results for every interaction, while result sets including “forest” (broad) and “tree” (specific) views allow multiple paths into the resources. Any desirable unit of information is never more than “two clicks away,” allowing easy navigation through resources.

Searching historical records: Who

Gathering data
What users want

- Separate searches for vital records
- Separate fields for first name and last name
- Fewer clicks
To sum up:

Know your users and their search habits. *Different users have different needs!*

Know your data and your metadata!

Advanced search(ers) = simple results

Index fields for vital records: Last name, first name, mother’s maiden name (when available), county, year (at a minimum)
Questions?

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