

Time for a Change?

An Overview of Web OPAC Redesign: Beginning Session

Accompanying Notes

Charles A. Gimon

WILIUG: June 2, 2005

Minneapolis Public Library

[Catalog Home](#) [Log In](#) [ILL](#) [Recommend an Item](#) [Library Home](#)

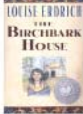

[START OVER](#) [LIMIT/SORT RESULTS](#) [ANOTHER SEARCH](#) (Search History)

TITLE: [View Entire Collection](#) [System Sorted](#) [Sort](#) [Search](#)

[SAVE MARKED RECORDS](#) [SAVE ALL ON PAGE](#)

TITLES (1-2 of 2)

Birchbark House

1		The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich. Erdrich, Louise. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, 1999. 244 p. : ill., map ; 24 cm.	1999
2		The Birchbark House [Sound Recording] / Louise Erdrich. Erdrich, Louise. Northport, Maine : Audio Bookshelf, p2002. 4 sound cassettes (6 hr.) : analog.	p2002

PHONOTAPE FICTION
4 copies available at FR Juvenile, NK Juvenile, NR Juvenile and WN Juvenile for checkout at this time

Local intranet

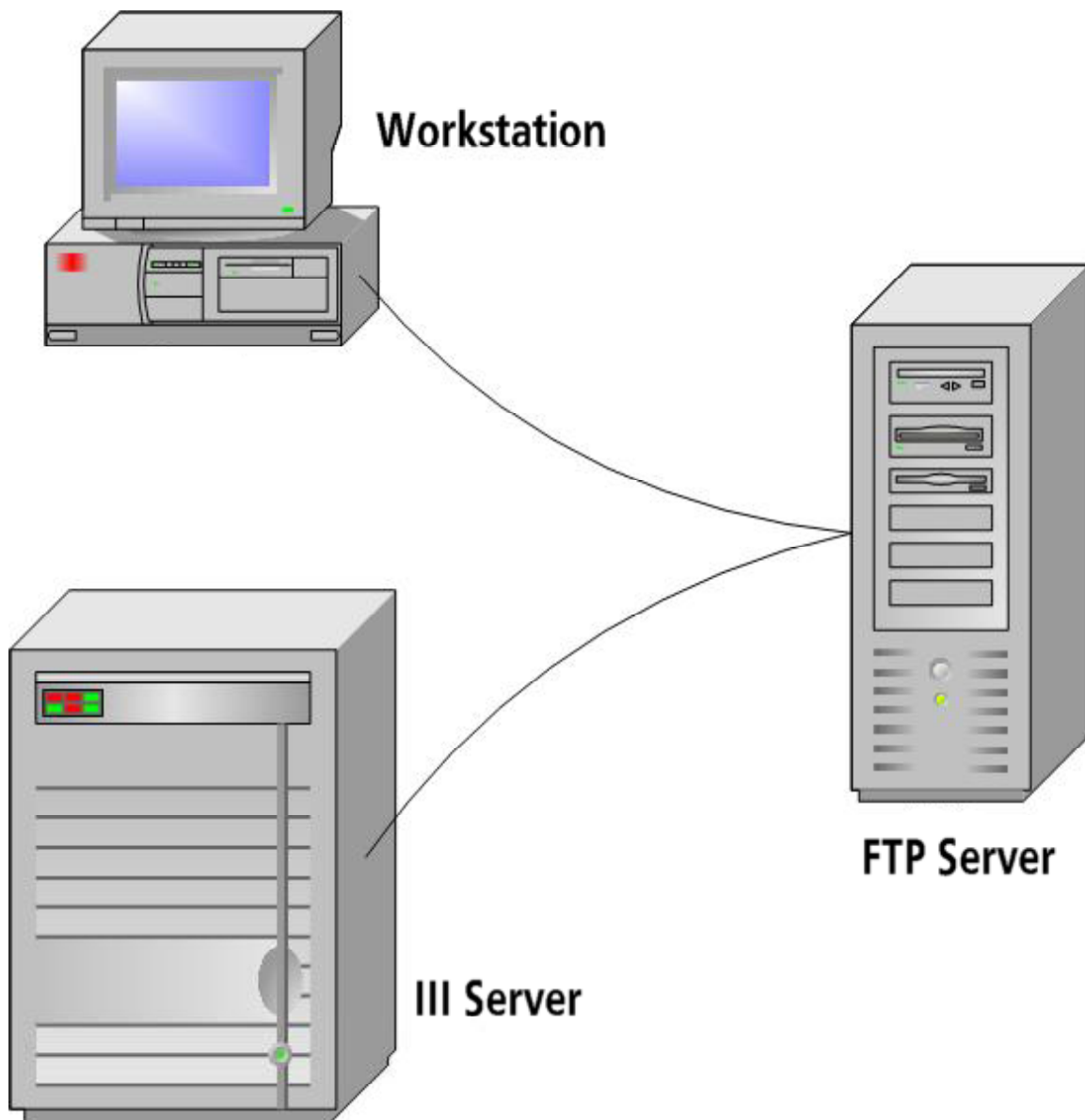
File Management

Set up an FTP server somewhere on your network.

Both your workstation (with Dreamweaver, Fireworks, etc.) and your IIS server will act as clients and get files off of this server.

Also see tips in the manual on pages #105640, #105643.

Turn off any options in your HTML editing program that will do "code rewriting" or indentation. Tokens must be on a line by themselves with no leading spaces. Details are in the manual, page #105618.



Staging Area versus Live

Always test in the staging area--that's what it's there for.

The staging area can be viewed on port 2082. The URL will look like this:

`http://mplwebcat.mplib.org:2082/`

The directories on the server for your staging and live files are:

`/iiidb/http/staging/screens`

`/iiidb/http/live/screens`

Making Changes Active

See manual #105634. If you make changes to `wwwoptions` or other files, you will need to go to "Restart a Terminal" and restart all web server processes for the changes to become live. This applies to both staging and live directories--you have to restart all processes regardless of which directory you're working in.

Moving Files from Staging to Live

One terrifying command will do this. See manual #105646. "Innovative recommends backing up the live Web OPAC files before overwriting them." No kidding.

The Files:

mainmenu and opacmenu

mainmenu.html is the "home page" for your Web OPAC. opacmenu.html is the default "second screen" that visitors see.

For example:

<http://mplwebcat.mplib.org/> is displaying mainmenu.html

<http://mplwebcat.mplib.org/search> is displaying opacmenu.html

The default settings in wwwoptions works like this:

--When a visitor clicks "Start Over", they are sent back to opacmenu.html and remain logged in.

--When a visitor clicks "Log Out", they are sent back to mainmenu.html and are logged out.

--When the OPAC times out because of inactivity, the visitor is redirected to mainmenu.html, and if they are logged in, they are now logged out.

Best practices:

--Make these two files look exactly the same--but include "patroninfo" and "logout" tokens on opacmenu.html.

--On internal screens in the OPAC, link visitors to opacmenu (/search).

--Linking to your OPAC from elsewhere, link to mainmenu, that is, to the base URL.

--Keep the wwwoptions TIMEOUT setting linked to mainmenu, for example:

```
TIMEOUT=300;URL=/
```

Keep STARTOVER and XSTARTOVER settings, for example:

```
STARTOVER=/screens/opacmenu.html  
XSTARTOVER=/screens/opacmenu.html
```

srchhelp screens

These screens are used for author, title, ISBN, etc. searches. See the full list at page #102132 in the manual.

srchhelp_a.html is the file that lets you customize /search/a, for example.

Layout and function of these is very basic. Typically, you would use these to add "help" instructions on how to do a good title search, what is an ISBN, and so on.

Some tokens can or should be used on these pages, notably indexsort, scope, startover, logout.

Many libraries are using advanced keyword search screens. Examine the code at /search/X at other Innovative libraries to see interesting examples.

toplogo, botlogo

The toplogo and botlogo entries in wwwoptions define what will appear at the top or bottom of any screen that you cannot otherwise customize (browse screens, bib record displays, etc.)

Good practice is to take advantage of the ability to put this info in separate files, rather than pasting the HTML code into wwwoptions. The wwwoptions entries should look like this:

```
TOPLOGO=@screens/toplogo.html  
BOTLOGO=@screens/botlogo.html
```

Use the same chunks of code in customizable forms and srchhelp screens as well for consistency.

Customizable Forms

There are many customizable forms. The most notable are:

View Your Own Record	pverify_web.html
Modify Personal Information	modpininfo.html
Web Access Management Patron Verification	pverify2_web.html
Request Verification	pverify3_web.html
Modify Your PIN	newpin.html
Inter-Library Loan Requests	(several)
Patron Record Display	patronview_web.html

Other forms may also be available if you have purchased add-on modules, such as bookings or E-Commerce.

Use the same chunks of code that you used in TOPLOGO and BOTLOGO in these files.

briefcit.html

briefcit.html lets you customize one row of a browse screen. Very useful. Allows you to bring out the structure of the page visually, add extra bits of bib and holdings info, insert book jackets from an outside vendor or WebBridge features.

Links to all forms documentation is in the manual at page #102138.

wwwoptions

You can view any III wwwoptions file at /screens/wwwoptions, for example:

<http://mplwebcat.mpls.lib.mn.us/screens/wwwoptions>

Some wwwoptions entries control functionality, some control look and feel.

A few wwwoptions entries are "legacy" items (such as attributes to the BODY tag listed under BODYPARAM=) which can be overridden in your style sheet.

Some possible wwwoptions entries will depend on your current version or purchased modules/options.

Documentation is in the manual at page #102167

A similar optional file is webpub.def. This file controls the content of bibliographic and holdings screens (but not their appearance).

Images

Generally, you can divide these into four groups:

- banners
- buttons
- matttype icons
- AVS icons

plus other incidental images you may want to include.

Banners

Use banners in TOPLOGO and BOTLOGO (then use the same chunks of HTML code, including those banners, in srchhelp screens, customizable forms, etc.)

Buttons

Use the same button template throughout.

Fastest way to find the buttons you can customize is to look in wwwoptions (or in the specs for wwwoptions in CSDirect). Look for the lines that begin with BUT_ or ICON_.

MATTYPE icons

Make one for each material type. Feel free to use the icons from Minneapolis with our compliments. Icons are also available from CSDirect and many other user groups or individual libraries. View other libraries' wwwoptions files to see the exact location and filename of their MATTYPE icons--the lines defining these will begin with MATTYPE.

AVS icons

These highlight the relevance of a hit returned from a search. Images that use stars (5 stars, 4 stars, etc.) ship with III.

Your Style Sheet

Best practice is to have one dedicated style sheet for your OPAC. File name and location is set in wwwoptions (STYLESHEET=).

There are more styles available than ever before, and more on the way. Consult the manual page #105162 for details.

The fastest way to see what styles are available at a particular point in a page is simply to "view source". You can view the source of other libraries' OPAC style sheets as well.

Big advantage of style sheet usage: changes are immediate. You don't have to go to Restart a Terminal and restart web server processes to activate your changes.

Note: Innovative's documentation in the manual will mention what HTML tag the style is applied to. For example:

patFuncDate Defines properties for any patron function table cell containing a date.

The actual code will contain `<TD CLASS="patFuncDate">` --you can use styles here that can be applied to TD.

General Considerations

Be consistent!

Every page view should identify your library (using TOPLOGO, etc.), have consistent navigation options, and have a consistent look and feel.

Links back to your regular public web site, campus web site, etc. are also advisable.

Consider general help links, or context-sensitive help where possible.

Visit these WILIUG libraries for ideas:

<http://iii.ahml.info/>

<http://www.more.lib.wi.us/>

<http://catalog.waukeganpl.org/>