

Lost, Missing, Long-overdue

Workflow Development and Support

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Problem

Legacy workflow for review and replacement of lost, missing, and long-overdue materials (LMLO).

Formerly, the University of Cincinnati Libraries conducted annual reports of lost materials, manually compiled and organized by subject into spreadsheets for distribution to subject-selectors for review. The process required many hours of staff-time. Because of the time-intensive nature of the workflow, reports were scheduled annually.

Figures

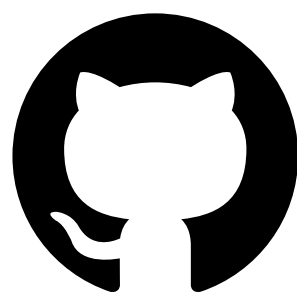
2014 LMLO (manual) Reports

- 19 subject selector librarians
- ~ **40 hours staff time**
- 2100 items reviewed
- 80 replacement purchases

The manual workflow shows low return for significant staff commitment. This workflow is ripe for automation.

Develop

James Van Mil and Sean Crowe developed a Ruby on Rails application to query the Library's Innovative Inc. Sierra ILS for lost items and compile them in an index website that subject selectors can passively review and use to make replacement decisions.



active_sierra

Innovative Interfaces Sierra ILS offers a PostgreSQL database back-end, and a comprehensive entity relationship diagram. Using this documentation, we modeled frequently-used tables and bundled the Active Record models in a Ruby gem, a code library that we named *active_sierra*.

We can now use Active Record to query the Sierra database. Users can script object-oriented calls to the database without the need for cryptic SQL queries. The gem has been posted on Github and Rubygems.org.

Tricera-shopper

Building on the functionality of the active_sierra gem, we have created a selector portal website that includes an index of lost, missing, and long-overdue materials from our collection. We named this selector portal website: *Tricera-shopper*, in honor of Patricia Renick's Triceracopter sculpture, on view at Langsam Library.

The index updates automatically on a monthly basis and can generate an email notification for selectors at time of update. The index includes bibliographic and circulation information as well as an ISBN link-out to Yankee Book Publisher's GOBI interface for replacement selection.

Technical

LMLO Index Features

- Automatic updates
- Notification email
- User accounts
- Facets by shelf location, LC class
- Title search

Built using Ruby on Rails and Github for version control.

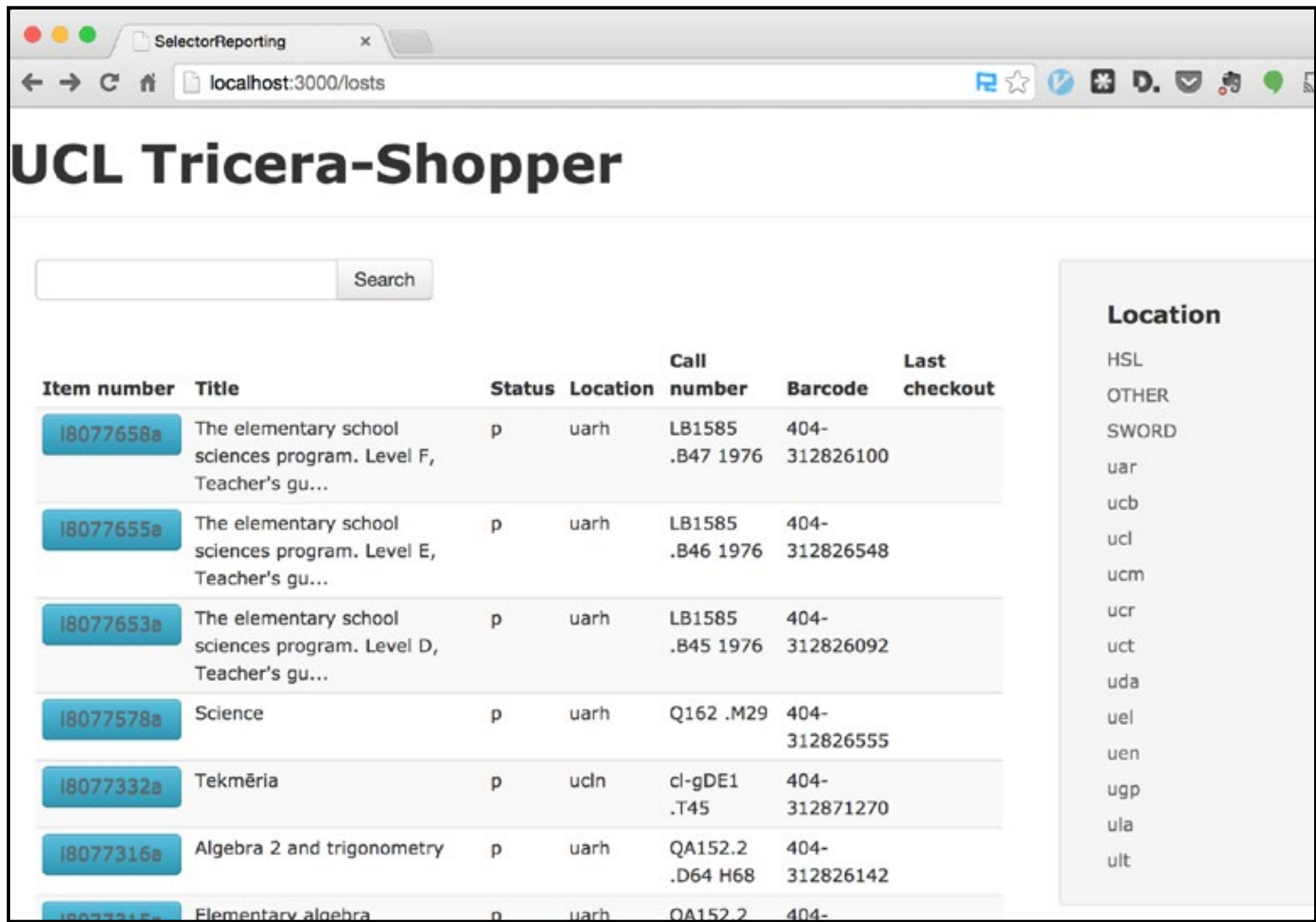
Outcome

Scheduled for production in Fall Semester 2014 with small pilot group of selectors. Manual workflow replaced by passive, automated system of review. Reports run monthly with minimal staff oversight.

Contact, etc.

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<https://github.com/jamesvanmil/tricerashopper>
https://github.com/uclibs/active_sierra



Item number	Title	Status	Location	Call number	Barcode	Last checkout
18077658a	The elementary school sciences program. Level F, Teacher's gu...	p	uarh	LB1585 .B47 1976	404-312826100	
18077655a	The elementary school sciences program. Level E, Teacher's gu...	p	uarh	LB1585 .B46 1976	404-312826548	
18077653a	The elementary school sciences program. Level D, Teacher's gu...	p	uarh	LB1585 .B45 1976	404-312826092	
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18077332a	Tekmēria	p	ucln	cl-gDE1 .T45	404-312871270	
18077316a	Algebra 2 and trigonometry	p	uarh	QA152.2 .D64 H68	404-312826142	
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