

Blacklight Summit Agenda

October 6-9, 2020 via Zoom ([register to receive links](#))

IMPORTANT LINKS: [Event Page](#) | [Code of Conduct](#) | [Community Notes \(feel free to add to them\)](#)

This agenda may be adjusted.

Customizing Blacklight: Approaches and Best Practices*

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:00-5:00pm ET

*Registration full

Chris Beer, Software Engineer, Stanford University

Jessie Keck, Software Engineer, Stanford University

Jack Reed, Software Engineer, Stanford University

Camille Villa, Software Engineer, Stanford University

This pre-summit workshop will be geared towards developers of Blacklight and will do a deep dive into approaches and recommend best practices for customizing Blacklight applications. We will discuss a range of topics, including styling and theming, customizing discovery experiences, and working with Solr.

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:00 - 5:00pm ET

- Welcome and Plan for Summit (2:00 - 2:30pm)
Facilitator: Kelly Farrell
 - Opening remarks / plans for summit / important information / icebreaker breakout sessions
- Open discussion of agenda and suggest changes (2:30 - 3:00pm)
Facilitator: David Kinzer | [Related Document](#)
- Break (3:00 - 3:15pm)
- Arclight Implementations (3:15 - 4:00pm) *Recorded
Facilitator: Kelly Farrell
 - *Duke University (Sean Aery)*
 - *Indiana University (Julie Hardesty and Randall Floyd)*
 - *Princeton University (Trey Pendragon)*
- Solve your Search Quality Issues by Putting Relevance at the Center of Blacklight (4:00 - 5:00pm)
**Recorded*
Eric Pugh, OpenSource Connections

Thursday, October 8, 2020 11:05am - 3:00pm ET

- Welcome and Plan for Day Two and Three (11:05 - 11:10am)
Facilitator: Kelly Farrell
- Local innovations that could be created as a Gem or plugin (11:10 - 12pm)
Facilitator: Cory Lown

a. Please add topics with your name in parentheses if there is a local innovation you want to share with the community.

- How a local project becomes a blacklight gem (as in a repo under the projectblacklight Github organization)
- “Controlled digital lending” (see e.g. <https://controldigitalending.org/whitepaper>) , how to integrate with or add on to Blacklight

Suggested topics from May summit:

- Harvard lists feature
- Duke homepage
- Citation plugin
- Call number browse

- Break (12:00 - 1pm)
- Sustainable Blacklight Customization Discussion (1:00 - 1:50pm)

Facilitator: Nikitas Tampakis | [Related Document](#)

- Upgrades
- More details about view components
- Who is using view components (and issues that they have run into)
- Blacklight has ViewComponents now, how do I customize them?

- Break (1:50 - 2:00pm)
- Lightning Talks (5 minutes each) (2:00 - 3:00pm) *Will be recorded

Facilitator: Charlie Morris

a. Please add your topic and name if you would like to offer a lightning talk

- b. [Axe-matchers gem for automated accessibility testing](#) (Charlie Morris - Penn State University Libraries)
- c. [“Linked data: am I Blacklight?”](#) (Huda Khan [Cornell] etc.)
- d. [Tailored Subject Specialist Recommendations via the Solr JSON Facet API](#) (UPenn Michaels)
- e. Blacklight IIIF Search (Eben English - Boston Public Library)
 - https://github.com/boston-library/blacklight_iiif_search
- f. What if cronjobs don't do their job? (Genia Kazymova - TRLN)
 - [Systemd timers](#)
- g. [Stanford Call Number Browse](#) (Jessie - Stanford)
- h.
- i.

Friday, October 9, 2020 2:05 - 5:00pm ET

- Welcome and Plan for Day (2:05 - 2:10pm)

Facilitator: Kelly Farrell

- Ask Anything (2:10 - 3:15pm)

Facilitator: Huda Khan | [Related Document](#)

- Please add your questions to this [document](#) throughout the Summit

- Break (3:15 - 3:30pm)
- Open Session (3:30 - 4:30pm)

Facilitator: Cory Lown

- "Bento Boxes" and "Bento-like" display of search results from multiple targets, from Blacklight and non-Blacklight sources - architecture, code, APIs, but also UX?
Some using Jonathan Rochkind's Bento gem
Some using Drupal
Including data sources beyond 3 or 4 is a challenge
 - Rails but not Bento gem based: https://github.com/NCSU-Libraries/quick_search -- live site <https://search.lib.ncsu.edu/>
- General overview of roadmap for further 7.*
 - Releases, changes planned for Blacklight 8
 - Planning to make Blacklight 8 easier to contribute to by removing cruft.
 - What's currently on the roadmap and what should be considered added?
- What's the state of docker for development?
 - It depends who you ask.
 - Documentation says if you're developing FOR blacklight, use docker-compose. If you have a Blacklight application you're working on it generates solr_wrapper for you.
 - Princeton has started using Lando for our Blacklight applications:
 - <https://github.com/lando/lando>
 - <https://github.com/pulibrary/pulfalight#setup-server>
 - <https://github.com/pulibrary/pulfalight/blob/master/.lando.yml>
 - https://github.com/pulibrary/pulfalight/blob/master/config/lando_env.rb
 - <https://github.com/pulibrary/pulfalight/blob/master/config/blacklight.yml>
 - Jack Reed: When you got local development to work for Blacklight dev was it docker or solr_wrapper?
 - Are there others using Docker to contribute to blacklight?
 - David Kinzer: Yes, but had to do some thinking. Wasn't really easy to spin up.
 - Documentation is long.
 - Using CI are you seeing a difference in build time in Docker vs Solr Wrapper?
 - Justin: We don't even try to use solr_wrapper in CircleCI because cci uses docker already
 - Trey: We also use docker in CircleCI, but there's been difficulties with Solr 8.4 because of "untrusted configsets" and the inability to use docker cp. We should have it figured out next week.
- Nikitas Tampakis: How can I participate in reviews and other things to help make the process go smoothly?
 - Jessie Keck: Heard people mention issues, be it potential bugs or things they've had to fork or do a local workaround for. File an issue for these. If anyone sees these, feel comfortable to jump in and fix it!
- Trey Pendragon: Where do discussions about what should happen or what's coming up happen?
 - Tickets or code4lib slack. Also linked issues from projects that are implementing Blacklight.
- Chris Beer: What are people planning to do this year?
 - Michael Gibney: At Penn, looking at using JSON Facet API and relatedness to do subject relevance. Hope is to have that be something that can be shared generally.

- Cory Lown: Would like to get Blacklight 6 apps up to Blacklight 7 for TRLN and some of Duke's blacklight-based apps.
- Charlie Morris: Penn State Catalog. Releasing 1.0 with the release of a My Account application to handle holds and renewals. Looking at a long list of good citations: Automated relevancy testing, event level tracking for Matomo, citations, better browse.
- Trey Pendragon/Anna Headley: Princeton - Indexing pipelines, Alma migration, Arclight application launch.
- Laura Akerman: Emory plans to have a beta Blacklight catalog by summer next year. We wish you luck!
- Eben English: Boston Public Library, upgrading Blacklight 6 to 7. Trying to integrate Universal Viewer with Blacklight.
- Jessie Keck: No commitments, receiving a lot of feedback and want to improve citations. Currently using an OCLC API which they're not updating. Planning to use SiteProc solution potentially using gem shown earlier. Lots of changes around requestability, holdings, etc and how that kind of thing could be improved since COVID.
- Charlie Morris: Anyone planning to decouple the frontend and use Blacklight as a JSON endpoint?
 - Not Stanford. Except the one they have.
 - The one they have has a limited audience. Concerned about having full-JS frontends for large audiences.
 - David: Blacklight's JSON API would probably have to be improved.
 - Trey Pendragon: Not planning to do it. Figured if we'd do it we'd do an Elasticsearch proxy or something instead. Something like <https://opensource.appbase.io/reactivesearch/> or <https://www.elastic.co/enterprise-search/search-ui>.
- How do the maintainers feel?
 - Justin Coyne: We've reached a point of maturity. We've found the model that works. There's work to do to simplify and make it more maintainable.
 - Chris Beer: Agreed. A lot of the energy around the open source collaborations using Blacklight has been around domain-specific implementations or plugins. (GeoBlacklight, Arclight, Spotlight, etc.)
- Look at open issues in blacklight or blacklight plugins? (time permitting or maybe as an extra dev session)
 - Also Planning for future time to be spend reviewing open issues/PRs+
- Wrap up and retro (4:30 - 5:00pm)
Facilitator: Kelly Farrell | [Related Document](#)

Session Descriptions

Solve your Search Quality Issues by putting Relevance at the center of Blacklight (Eric Pugh)

One hour on day one and could lead a breakout session later if there is more interest in hands-on experience with the tools discussed.

Historically there were no good open source tools for measuring and improving the quality of your search results. Today however, there are a number of great open source options for improving the quality of your Blacklight based search experience.

In this talk we'll lay out why Relevancy is important to the success of your institution's digital library efforts. We'll then provide a framework for thinking about the two main areas of Relevancy improvement, the offline world and the online world.

We'll then take a brief tour of the various open source options that work with a Blacklight based search experience, and lastly we'll do a quick live demonstration of solving a common relevancy issue.

This talk will give you a much stronger understanding of what Relevance is, and some concrete steps you can take to improve the quality of search.