

Creating a Research Workbench - User Test

The aim of this research project is to provide an enhanced user experience for the currently existing Global ETD Search. Global ETD Search provides a central portal to search over 6 million **electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs)** contained in the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations archive. The current site does not provide any user features apart from search. This research project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of increasing the user experience of Global ETD Search via two main themes: content organised by other users and content organised visually.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. All information will be treated in a confidential manner and used exclusively for the purpose of this study. No individual names will be recorded or published. You will not be requested to supply any identifiable information, ensuring anonymity of your responses. You can choose to withdraw from the research at any time for whatever reason, in accordance with ethical research requirements.

Please follow the below instructions to test the two systems and answer the survey after testing both systems. Completing the whole evaluation should take 10-20 minutes depending on how quickly you work through the user test. Please complete the tasks below on a computer.

Step 1: User Organised Feature System

This system allows users to add resources to different reading lists (or user lists) and share them with other users.

The below instructions are slightly repetitive but aim to give you a good idea of how the system operates.

1. Navigate to <http://20.87.26.56:8080/ResearchWorkbench>
2. Create a user profile.

Now imagine you are performing research on anything to do with computers.

3. Search “computer” in the search field and select one of the top 5 results
3. Click one of the user lists and skim through the titles shown.
4. Add at least 3 of the ETDs to a list of your own. You may choose whether you would like it to be public or private. Bookmark some of the items as well.

Now imagine you are performing research on neural networks.

6. Select Menu and go back to the Search page.
7. Search “neural networks” and select one of the top 5 results.
8. Select one of the user lists and skim through the titles shown.
9. Add 2-3 of the items to a new user list of your own and bookmark some of the items you come across by making use of the bookmarking feature.
10. View the items you have bookmarked so far by navigating via the Menu.

Finally, imagine you are performing research on digital libraries.

11. Navigate to the search page and search “digital libraries”.
11. Select one of the top results. If the paper isn’t contained in any other user lists, choose another search result.
12. Select one of the user lists and skim through the titles shown. Bookmark some more items if you like.
13. Navigate to your User List page via the Menu. Here, you are able to see the lists you have created, and the items you have added to each list

Optional: Feel free to make use of the reading list feature to make your own lists and manage them.

Step 2: Questionnaire

Please complete Part 1 and 2 of the questionnaire, which relates to the User Organised Feature system. Once completed, return back to the instructions.

<https://survey.cs.uct.ac.za/limesurvey/index.php/574542?lang=en>

Step 3: Library Visualisation Feature System

Task A: Attempt to find ETDs on the sport “cricket”.

1. First use the ND LTD global search: http://search.ndltd.org/search.php?q=&source_set_names=Ethos+UK&year_start=2000&year_end=

(for controlled purposes, please do not change the start year or source set)

1. Begin by searching “cricket” in the search bar.
 2. Look at the first 10 search results. Try to see how quickly it takes you to find 3 ETDs relevant to the **sport**, and not other topics (like the insect, for example).
 3. Looking at these three results, try to determine something about their appearance that would help in finding other relevant results (it is okay if you cannot).
 4. Attempt to filter the search results so that the first 10 results are guaranteed to all be relevant to the **sport**.
 5. Now attempt to filter the search results so that you are guaranteed to have at least 30 search results that are entirely cricket (sport) based and not other fields/subjects (it is okay if you cannot).
2. Now use the visualisation:

<http://20.87.26.56:8080/Demo/>

1. Search “cricket” into the search bar.
2. Look at the first 10 search results. Try to see how quickly it takes you to find 3 ETDs relevant to the **sport**.
3. Looking at these three results, try to determine something about their appearance that would help in finding other similar results.
4. Filter the search results so that the first 10 results match this appearance and hence are guaranteed to be relevant to the sport.
5. Use the navigation buttons above to go between piles. Notice that you have over 30 results all relating to cricket.

Task B: Play around with the filters and user interface.

(Feel free to turn the tooltips on or off at any point, using the tooltips checkbox at the top left corner of the space background)

1. Search for any of the following topics: “navy”, “cloud”, “mars”, “mushroom”.
2. Click any of the filters (preferably one that makes sense) on the left to filter your results. Hover over the filters’ icons to see a tooltip (if the tooltip checkbox is checked).
3. Attempt to filter-out all subjects except a subject of your choice.
4. Attempt to filter-in other subjects that you want to include in the results.
5. Now, click any book and see what happens. Click away to undo what happened.
6. Now search for one of the following in the search bar: “fossil”, “photon”, “microwave”.
7. Select filters that make sense and allow for at least 30 results.
8. Use the buttons at the top of the screen to navigate between piles. Hover over them to see tooltips (if the tooltip checkbox is checked).
9. Click a book and click the link on the right to take you to that ETD’s source. Close the opened tab after quickly verifying that it takes you to a page that you can access the ETD.
10. Reset your filters by double clicking any of the filters (their bodies/text, not their icons).
11. Spend 1-2 minutes messing around with the features: search for a different research topic, filter, etc.
12. Optional (advanced users): If you want to make a specific query using solr query language, you may do so by wrapping your query in brackets. For example, you may search: “((dolphin OR shark))” to get results that are either on dolphins or sharks. Please only perform this task if you are familiar with **Solr** queries.

Step 4:

Complete Part 3 of the questionnaire, which relates to the Book Visualisation system.

<https://survey.cs.uct.ac.za/limesurvey/index.php/574542?lang=en>

Thank you for your time and effort!