



Recommendation: Default to Keyword Search in Sierra Search/Holds Function

The Sierra Evaluation 2021 Survey results indicated that nearly 17% of V-Cat staff were unsatisfied with searching and placing holds in Sierra.

Two of the problem areas that were identified include duplicate records in the search results and the need to have exact title information to find materials. One of the improvements requested was more ways to filter searches.

Upon reviewing the comments, and talking with staff at Innovative, we believe changing the default search to keyword may help improve the search experience.

Keyword searching can provide the following benefits:

- Far fewer duplicate records

For Example:

A **title** search for 'Muppet babies' returns 7 results with two duplicate records.

A **keyword** search for 'Muppet babies' returns 10 results with no duplicate records.

- More friendly searching for titles that are 'close' but not 'exact'

For example:

A **title** search for 'Anne green gables' returns no nearby relevant results

A **keyword** search for 'Anne green gables' returns many relevant results

- Keyword searching also provides additional facets for filtering search results.

Title Search Facets:

Format (material type)
Language
Locations (bib location code)
Available at Library
Phrase

Keyword Search Facets:

Collections (format/audience/libraries)
Found in (where keyword is found)
Format (material type)
Language (bib location code)
Locations (bib location code)
Available (items in circulation true/false)
Publish Date (year)