

It Shouldn't Be That Hard: OpenURL to Save Time

Logan Rath, MLS, MS



The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Agenda

- About Me
- What is OpenURL
- How does it work?
- URL encoding
- Request It!
- Live Demo



What is Open URL?

- OpenURL is a standard ([Z39.88-2004\(R 2010\)](#)) to pass data in a uniform way between systems.
- OpenURL is the way that databases talk to link resolvers and then link resolvers talk to ILLiad and other services.



Example of an OpenURL string

<http://uh4jc3de5m.search.serialssolutions.com/?genre=article&isbn=&issn=01639269&title=Behavioral%20&%20Social%20Sciences%20Librarian&volume=34&issue=2&date=20150401&atitle=Collaborating%20Around%20Critical%20Multiliteracies%3A%20A%20Formula%20for%20Success.&au=Rath,%20Logan&spage=47&sid=EBSCO:Education%20Source&pid=>



But How Does it Work??

- The crucial data is passed in a URL as a variable. There are two parts:
 1. The variable
 2. The value
- The syntax is variable = value
- Use **&** (ampersand) between variables
- Special characters are URL Encoded



Example of an OpenURL string

<http://uh4jc3de5m.search.serialssolutions.com/?genre=article&isbn=&issn=01639269&title=Behavioral%20&%20Social%20Sciences%20Librarian&volume=34&issue=2&date=20150401&atitle=Collaborating%20Around%20Critical%20Multiliteracies%3A%20A%20Formula%20for%20Success.&au=Rath,%20Logan&spage=47&sid=EBSCO:Education%20Source&pid=>



I can't read URL Encoding

title=Behavioral&SocialSciencesLibrarian
atitle=CollaboratingAroundCriticalMultiliteracies%3A
AFormulaforSuccess.

date=20150401

au=Rath,Logan

spage=47

sid=EBSCO:Education
%20Source

isbn=

issn=01639269

volume=34

issue=2

genre=article



Common HTML encodings

Character	encoding
Space	%20
Slash (/)	%2F
Colon (:)	%3A
Question (?)	%3F
At sign (@)	%40



Use a Decoder to Help

- I often google **url decoder** to bring up a decoder when working with HTML strings.
- I prefer the meyerweb.com one.



How to Not Retype Things

- Open URL can be used to pass data to any system (not just ILLiad)
- We've developed an intermediary page to intercept and change the OpenURL syntax as needed.
 - Rewrites and redirects the request.



RequestIt! Options

- We have named our service RequestIt! It uses Open URL to help:
 1. Request a scan of a chapter in lieu of the entire book.
 2. Place things on course reserve.
 3. Fill out a lost book form.
 4. Fill out a problem with item form.
 5. Submit a digitization request (forthcoming)



If the Live Demo doesn't work....

This request is for:

Love : the psychology of attraction / Leslie Becker-Phelps Ph.D. ; with Megan Kaye.

by Becker-Phelps, Leslie.

I would like to:

- ✓ receive a copy of this item (at Drake, Brockport Downtown or VSW).
- request a scan of one chapter of this item for personal use.
- place this entire item on course reserve.
- request a scan of one chapter of this item for course reserve.
- report this item missing.
- report a problem with this item.

[Continue](#)



But how does it really work?

- To change the RequestType in ILLiad, change the genre= variable.
 - Search and replace based on drop down value.
- To direct the data to a new form, re-write the URL string to work with that system (Mach Form, Google Forms)



Live Demo

<https://brockport.summon.serialssolutions.com/>



The underlying code (php)

```
if ( $_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD']=="POST" ) {  
    foreach( $_POST as $key =>$value) {  
        $r1.=$key."=".$value."&";  
    }  
  
    $r2 = str_replace("rft_", "rft.", $r1);  
  
    header("Location:https://brockport.illiad.oclc  
.org/illiad/illiad.dll/OpenURL?genre=".$_POST[  
'rft_genre']."&".$r2);  
}
```

WARNING: THIS CODE IS INCOMPLETE AS SHOWN.



OpenURL in ILLiad

- You can use the genre setting to map the request to a certain workflow.
- Read the documentation at <https://support.atlas-sys.com/hc/en-us/articles/360011910073-OpenURL-Configuration>



Questions?

Thank you!

Logan Rath

lrath@brockport.edu

