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The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: Using APIs to develop reading list software at the University of Huddersfield

Original Citation

Pattern, David The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: Using APIs to develop reading list software at the University of Huddersfield. In: European Libraries Automation Group Conference 2013, 28-31 May 2013, Ghent, Belgium.

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THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

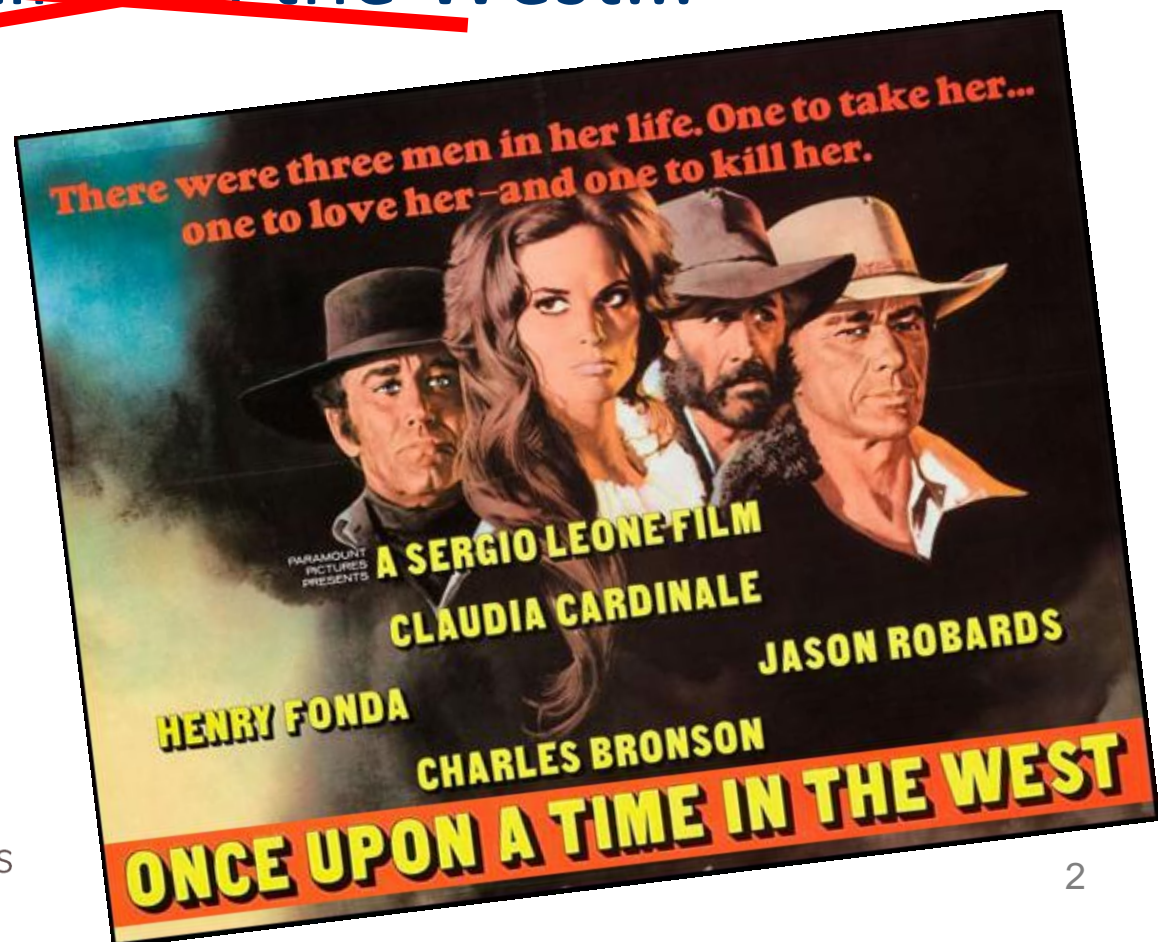
Using APIs to develop
reading list software at the
University of Huddersfield



Dave Pattern
Library Systems Manager
University of Huddersfield, UK

The back story...

- ~~Once upon a time in the West...~~



The back story...

- Once upon a time in West Yorkshire, UK
- ...the University of Huddersfield had a lot of courses
- ...each course contained several modules
- ...most modules had a list of required, recommended and background reading (books, articles, web sites, etc)



the bad

some academics don't
check if the students can
access the items on their
lists in the library



the bad

some academics don't
update the books on
their reading lists to
the latest edition



the bad

many academics forget
to send a copy of the
reading list to the
library

the ugly



students get p*ssed off
when the library fails
to provide access to the
reading list items

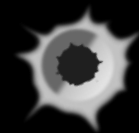
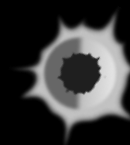
the ugly



it gets real ugly when
300 students try to get
hold of the only copy of
the book in the library



time for the library
to be the good guys :-)



Enter MyReading...

- Reading list software developed in-house
- Launched in summer 2011
- Over 98% of all active modules now have a reading list in MyReading
- Most academics are using the software to maintain their reading lists

BFK0006: INTRODUCTION TO SPORTS PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Module Leader: [Glynis Jones](#)

This list was last updated on 22/Jan/2013

URL: <http://library.hud.ac.uk/my/BFK0006>

[Contents \(show\)](#)



1 - Essential Reading

[collapse](#) | [top](#)



book » essential reading

Chadwick, Simon and Beech, John G. (2007) - [The marketing of sport](#)



2 - Supplementary Reading

[collapse](#) | [top](#)



book » recommended reading

Fullerton, Sam (2010) - [Sports marketing](#) (2nd ed)



book » recommended reading

Shank, Matthew D. (2009) - [Sports marketing: a strategic perspective](#) (4th ed)



book » recommended reading

Smith, Aaron (2008) - [Introduction to sport marketing](#)



book » recommended reading

Sutton, William Anthony, Hardy, Stephen and Mullin, Bernard James (2007) - [Sport marketing](#) (3rd ed)



book » recommended reading

Wakefield, Kirk L. (2007) - [Team sports marketing](#)



BFK0006: INTRODUCTION TO SPORTS PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Module Leader: [Glynis Jones](#)

This list was last updated on 22/Jan/2013

URL: <http://library.hud.ac.uk/my/BFK0006>

[Contents \(show\)](#)



1 - Essential Reading

[collapse](#) | [top](#)



book » essential reading



Chadwick, Simon and Beech, John G. (2007) - [The marketing of sport](#)

[details](#)

[more like this](#)

[options](#)

Links:

- [DawsonEra](#) (electronic book)

Library holdings:

- [Huddersfield](#): 3 copies (all available now)

Bibliographic details:

- published in 2007 by Financial Times Prentice Hall (Harlow)
- shelfmark: [796.0698 MAR](#)
- ISBNs: 9780273688266 / 9781405898812

Library Catalogue - all editions and related works:

- [The marketing of sport](#) (2007) - edited by Beech, John G. [electronic book]
- [The marketing of sport](#) (2007) - edited by Beech, John G.

Purchase options:

- [Amazon.co.uk](#) - £44.79 (paperback, 1st ed., 2006)
- [Blackwells](#) - £48.99 (paperback, ISBN 9780273688266)



The requirements...



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- The software had to:
 - give students electronic access to as much material as possible
 - provide the library with purchasing data
 - **automate as much as possible**
 - **be easy for academics to use**
 - **integrate with other systems**

APII



THE GOOD



#1

SUMMON

Serials Solutions Summon API

api.summon.serialssolutions.com



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The problem...

- We need to make MyReading easier to use than updating a Word document
- Getting accurate metadata is hard and we want to make the references as rich as possible
- We need reliable full-text links

Serials Solutions Summon API

api.summon.serialsolutions.com



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- MyReading is integrated into the Summon interface (using jQuery)
- Academics can quickly add items to their reading lists from the 132 million items in our Summon collection
...or from the 791 million items in the full Summon index

things to do in Ghent

Search

Advanced Search

New search

Cities of Flanders: **Ghent**: Sweet secrets: You never know quite what to expect in **Ghent**, with its quirky customs, secret recipes and long-hidden treasure



by Jane E Knight
The Guardian, ISSN 0261-3077, 11/23/2002, p. 5
.... It's a treasure hunt that has attracted many, but like other things in Ghent, it still remains a mystery...

Newspaper Article: Full Text Online

item options: add to MyReading

Search

Ref

more...

▼ Publication Date

Any



to

Update Clear

▼ Subject Terms

Any

Cities of Flanders: **Ghent**: Sweet secrets: You never know quite what to expect in **Ghent**, with its quirky customs, secret recipes and long-hidden treasure



by Jane E Knight
The Guardian, ISSN 0261-3077, 11/23/2002, p. 5
.... It's a treasure hunt that has attracted many, but like other things in Ghent, it still remains a mystery...

Newspaper Article: Full Text Online

item options: add to MyReading

New guide to Eurostar



TTG, Travel Trade Gazette, U.K. and Ireland, ISSN 0262-4397, 06/2004, p. 13
It gives practical information on things to see and do in all destinations served, including Brussels.



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- </field>
- <field name="Publisher_xml">
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- </field>
- <field name="Snippet">
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the traditional tourist trail in favour of Bruges's beauty and Antwerp's...</value>
- </field>
- <field name="NewspaperSection">
<value>Guardian Special Supplement</value>
- </field>
- <field name="URI">
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- </field>
- <field name="PublicationYear">
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- </field>
- <field name="Genre">
<value>News</value>
- </field>
- <field name="PublicationPlace_xml">
<location name="London (UK)"/>
- </field>
- <field name="PQID">
<value>245898893</value>

Please check the item reference for accuracy...

fields in red are mandatory

fields in green affect how the software displays the reference and should be altered with caution

item type:	JOURNAL ARTICLE	
article title:	Cities of Flanders: Ghent: Sweet secrets: You never know quite what to expect in Ghent, with	
article author(s):	Jane E Knight	?
journal title:	The Guardian	
volume:		?
issue:		?
page(s):	5	?
article DOI:		
article URL:	http://rc4ht3qs8p.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info:ofi/enc:	
publication date:	23/11/2002	?
publisher name:	Guardian News & Media Limited	?
publisher location:	London (UK)	?
ISSN (print):	0261-3077	?
ISSN (electronic):		?

submit

4 - ELAG 2013

section options: edit | ↑move↓ | copy | adaptive release | delete

collapse | top

*journal article » recommended reading*

Jane E Knight - [Cities of Flanders: Ghent: Sweet secrets: You never know quite what to expect in Ghent, with its quirky customs, secret recipes and long- hidden treasure in *The Guardian* \(2002\)](#)

details

more like this

edit

options

Links (show more):

- [article link](#) (via Summon)

Article details:

- page: 5
- date: 23/11/2002

Article abstract from Summon:

- It doesn't take long to expect the unexpected in Ghent, a city sometimes left off the traditional tourist trail in favour of Bruges's beauty and Antwerp's attitude. For Ghent not only ... [\[read more\]](#)

Journal details:

- The Guardian
- ISSN: 0261-3077 (print)
- publisher: Guardian News & Media Limited (London (UK))





journal article » background reading



Shannon, Brent - Refashioning Men: Fashion, Masculinity, and the Cultivation of the Male Consumer in Britain, 1860-1914 in *Victorian Studies* (2004)

details

more like this

edit

options

Links ([show more](#)):

[Arts & Humanities Full Text \(article\)](#)

Article details:

- volume: 46
- issue: 4
- pages: 597-630
- date: 01/07/2004
- DOI: [10.2979/VIC.2004.46.4.597](https://doi.org/10.2979/VIC.2004.46.4.597)
- subject terms: Clothing, Consumer behavior, Fashion, Men, and Middle class



Article abstract from Summon:

- In November 1893 the *Cutter's Gazette of Fashion*, a prominent trade periodical for tailors, published the comments of a T. Patterson delivered before the Sheffield Society. In his address, Patterson celebrated the robust state of London's men's tailoring and extolled the modern advances that had allowed its proliferation throughout the provinces and the Continent. Shannon examines how men, masculinity, and male consumption were imagined in the discourse of the burgeoning commodity culture and fashion industry, and how this discourse operated against, and alongside of, the Great Masculine Renunciation's more conservative promotion of sartorial reserve and repudiation of consumer desire in Britain between 1860 and 1914.

Journal details:

- *Victorian Studies*
- ISSN: 0042-5222 (print) & 1527-2052 (electronic)
- publisher: Indiana University Press

#2

XISBN

The problem...

- Some academics don't list the latest edition of a book on their reading list
- The library routinely buys new editions of popular books and gets rid of the older editions

OCLC xISBN

www.oclc.org/developer/services/xisbn



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- Provides details of related editions, including basic metadata
- Free for up to 500 requests per day
- Ideal for linking together different editions of the same title

book » recommended reading



[Tungate, Mark \(2005\) - Fashion brands : branding style from Armani to Zara](#)

[details](#) [more like this](#) [options](#)

Links:

- [Ebrary](#) (electronic book)

Library holdings:

- [Huddersfield](#): 4 copies (all available now)

Bibliographic details:

- published in 2005 by Kogan Page (Sterling, Va, London)
- shelfmark: [687.0688 TUN](#)
- ISBN: [9780749442996](#)



Library Catalogue - all editions and related works:

- [Fashion brands : branding style from Armani to Zara \(2nd ed, 2008\) - Tungate, Mark](#)
- [Fashion brands branding style from Armani to Zara \(2005\) - Tungate, Mark \[electronic book\]](#)
- [Fashion brands : branding style from Armani to Zara \(2005\) - Tungate, Mark](#)

Purchase options:

- [search Amazon.co.uk](#)
- [search AbeBooks UK](#)



book » recommended reading



[Welters, L. and Lillethun, A. \(2011\) - The fashion reader \(2nd ed\)](#)



book » recommended reading



[Welters, Linda and Lillethun, Abby \(2011\) - The fashion reader \(2nd ed\)](#)



book » recommended reading



Tungate, Mark (2005) - Fashion brands : branding style from Armani to Zara

[private note from the library] A newer edition from 2008 is listed on the library catalogue.

details

more like this

edit

options

Links:

- [Ebrary](#) (electronic book)

Library holdings:

- [Huddersfield](#): 4 copies (all available now)

Bibliographic details:

- published in 2005 by Kogan Page (Sterling, Va, London)
- shelfmark: [687.0688 TUN](#)
- ISBN: 9780749442996

Library Catalogue - all editions and related works:

- [Fashion brands : branding style from Armani to Zara \(2nd ed, 2008\)](#) - Tungate, Mark
- [Fashion brands branding style from Armani to Zara \(2005\)](#) - Tungate, Mark [electronic book]
- [Fashion brands : branding style from Armani to Zara \(2005\)](#) - Tungate, Mark

update to this edition



Purchase options:

- [search Amazon.co.uk](#)
- [search AbeBooks UK](#)



book » recommended reading



Welters, L. and Lillethun, A. (2011) - [The fashion reader](#) (2nd ed)



book » recommended reading



Welters, Linda and Lillethun, Abby (2011) - [The fashion reader](#) (2nd ed)

#3

360 LINK

Serials Solutions 360 Link

serialssolutions.com/en/services/360-link



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The problem...

- Linking to articles is a pain in the ass!
- Academics don't understand URLs with session IDs, authentication issues, etc
- Legal issues around hosting article PDFs
- Library subscriptions and journal platforms keep changing

Serials Solutions 360 Link

serialssolutions.com/en/services/360-link



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- You've paid for a link resolver, so why not use it? ;-)
- 360 Link API provides current access options and basic metadata for a given OpenURL as XML

Sinha, Irahndaya - *Marginal Erotics: the politics of masculinity, imperialism and big-game hunting in Rider Haggard's She in Critical Survey* (2008)



journal article » background reading



Slifkin, Robert - *James Whistler as the Invisible Man: Anti-Aestheticism and Artistic Vision in Oxford Art Journal* (2006)

- details
- more like this
- edit
- options

Links (show more):

- [Oxford Journals Humanities Collection \(article\)](#)



Article details:

- volume: 29
- issue: 1
- pages: 55-75
- date: 01/01/2006
- DOI: [10.1093/oxartj/kci049](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxartj/kci049)

Article abstract from Summon:

- H. G. Wells' novel "The Invisible Man" (1897) and its title character in particular can be seen as a satire of the flamboyant and contentious public persona of James McNeil Whistler. ... [\[read more\]](#)

Journal details:

- Oxford Art Journal
- ISSN: 0142-6540 (print) & 1741-7287 (electronic)
- publisher: Oxford Publishing Limited(England) (Oxford)



journal article » background reading



Sussman, Herbert - *Arthur Conan Doyle and the Meaning of Masculinity / Conrad and Masculinity (Book Review) in Victorian Studies* (2002)



journal article » recommended reading



Tosh, John - *Masculinities in an Industrializing Society: Britain, 1890-1914 in Journal of British Studies* (2005)

Linda Dryden - Heart of Darkness and Allan Quatermain: Apocalypse and utopia in *Conradiana* (1999)

journal article » recommended reading

Luckhurst, Roger - The mummy's curse: a study in rumour in *Critical Quarterly* (2010)



details more like this edit options

Library notes:

- No subscription found for this journal

Links:

- 360 Link: Article
- Search Summa
- Search Google

Article details:

- volume: 52
- issue: 3
- page: 6
- date: 01/10/2010
- DOI: 10.1111/j.14

Journal details:

- Critical Quarterly
- ISSN: 0011-1562 (p
- publisher: Blackwe



journal article » recommended reading

Nagai, Kaori - God and His Doubles: Kipling and Conrad's 'The Man who would be King' in *Critical Survey* (2009)



journal article » recommended reading

Neill, Anne - THE SAVAGE GENIUS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in *Victorian Literature and Culture* (2009)



#4

COPAC

The problem...

- Getting good metadata for books the library doesn't have in stock
- Academics often want to add books that they have sitting on the shelf in their office

- Academics can type in an ISBN
- MyReading checks library catalogue first
- If not held in stock, we check COPAC
- See also:
 - *[OCLC WorldCat Search API](#)*
 - *[Amazon APIs](#)*
 - *[Perl WWW::Scraper::ISBN modules](#)*

#5

DOI

CrossRef Metadata Search API

search.labs.crossref.org/help/api



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The problem...

- An academic wants to add a reference manually but we want to avoid bad metadata, typos, etc
- If the academic has a DOI for the reference, we can check CrossRef to get accurate metadata



THE BAD



products

with

NO APIs

products
without a
free API

products
with hard
to use APIs



THE UGLY



#1

THE OPAC

Search: [Refine Search](#)

You're searching: **University of Huddersfield Library**

Search Results [RSS](#)

406 titles matched: XML

Search for **xml** combined with **java**.

Sort by:

Limit by:

[next results page](#)

- a copy of this item is owned by Huddersfield

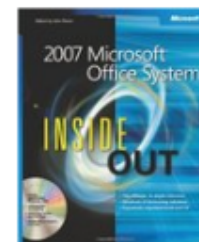
1. **101 Windows phone 7 apps**

by Nathan, Adam, 1977-
Indianapolis, Ind. : London : Sams ; Pearson Education [distributor], 2011.
004.165 NAT



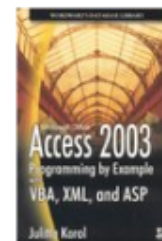
2. **2007 Microsoft Office system inside out**

by Boyce, Jim, 1958- ; Pierce, John, 1954-
Redmond, Wash. : Microsoft, c2007.
Format: **electronic book** (DawsonEra)



3. **Access 2003 programming by example with VBA, XML, and ASP**

by Korol, Julitta.
Plano : Wordware, 2005.
005.7565 KOR



4. **Access 2003 programming by example with VBA, XML, and ASP**

by Korol, Julitta.
Plano : Wordware, 2005.
005.7565 KOR



&GetXML=true


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="true"?>
- <searchresponse>
  <version>3.08</version>
  <session>13F89GX210160.4196</session>
  <profile>cls</profile>
  <lang>eng</lang>
  <expirepage>360</expirepage>
  <illurl/>
- <httpserver>
  <servername>127.0.0.1</servername>
  <host>webcat.hud.ac.uk</host>
  <port>80</port>
</httpserver>
- <browser>
  <type>MSIE</type>
  <majorversion>10</majorversion>
  <minorversion>0</minorversion>
  <os>Windows NT</os>
  <addr>127.0.0.1</addr>
</browser>
- <bookbag>
  <size>0</size>
</bookbag>
- <security>
  <auth>false</auth>
  <name/>
</security>
- <toolbar>
  <active_tab>search</active_tab>
  <bgcolor>#336699</bgcolor>
  <bg>null</bg>
  <userlimits/>
- <tab>
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- <tab>
  <name>My Account/Renewals</name>
  <alt>view your account information and renew items</alt>
  <value>account</value>
  <active>false</active>
</tab>
- <tab>
  <name>Ask a Librarian</name>
  <alt>email a question to a Librarian</alt>
  <value>tab13</value>
  <href>http://www.hud.ac.uk/library/help/askalibrarian/</href>
  <active>false</active>
</tab>
- <submenu>
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  <alt>basic search</alt>
  <value>subtab33</value>
  <active>true</active>
</submenu>
- <submenu>
  <name>Advanced</name>
  <alt>advanced search</alt>
```

#2

DATA

Issues around data

aka “The Can o’ Worms”

- Data ownership
- Data use, reuse and remixing
- Can we still make use of the data we’ve already collected/harvested if we cancel the vendor product?

Serialsolutions

XML API for OpenURL Requests

Version 1.0
12 June 2007

Table of Contents

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Usage Restrictions

Some restrictions on usage will be imposed. The exact specification of these has yet to be determined.

Overview

The purpose of this document is to describe the structure of the XML API for OpenURL requests. We outline here the [base URL](#), the [parameters](#), and the [response](#).

Access and Authentication

Access and Query Types

The base URL for this operation is

```
http://<client identifier>.openurl.xml.serialsolutions.com/openurlxml
```

Both HTTP POST and GET requests are supported.

Usage Restrictions

Some restrictions on usage will be imposed. The exact specification of these has yet to be determined.

#3

STANDARDS

- APIs allow developers to enrich existing library services and to rapidly develop new ones
- APIs allow you to “glue” together different services and products, and this then allows data to flow

- When purchasing new products, remember to ask the vendor...
 - does it have an fully-featured API?
 - is the product itself built on top of the API?
 - is the documentation publicly available?
 - **what have other libraries developed using your API?**

That's all folks!

Thank you for listening 😊



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- email: d.c.pattern@hud.ac.uk
- tweet: [@daveyp](https://twitter.com/daveyp)
- images taken from various trailers for *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* (1966), directed by Sergio Leone