Based on requirements gathered last spring, Bobbi Fox defined a Solr 4 schema (defining what fields are searchable, displayable, etc.) to serve as the NoSQL database for Course Reserves Unleashed! She also developed (in Java) both the RESTful infrastructure to support searching updating the database, code for updating the database, and a command-line application that can be run on a regular basis for uploading information from the Reserves Tool.

Bobbi’s goal is to keep the new database as small as possible while still enabling excellent search results. A transitional document of the URL patterns for the RESTful interface can be found in the 602 Course Reserves Unleashed “Straw person” URL patterns document found at https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/projectmanagement/documents/120.

In late August, Bobbi built a small search form with just enough styling to demonstrate searching (using JQuery) that accesses the new RESTful application. Gloria and her colleagues at HDS are currently using the form to test the Course Reserves Unleashed! database. The database is proving to be very searchable, enabling us to search for keywords in titles, authors, instructors, course names, and course numbers. The results display has three parts: summary, number of hits, and facets (school, holding library).

Gloria and Bobbi met twice with representatives from HDS Information Technology & Media Services to discuss on the functionality of the tool itself and what will eventually be required of the HDS and AWS teams in order to integrate the tool into the Andover-Harvard Theological Library home page search interface. Bobbi provided a live demonstration of the new database. Both the web designer and the Drupal developer on the HDS team feel optimistic that Course Reserves Unleashed! implementation will go smoothly. Dan Hawkins, Director of HDS Information Technology and Media Services, is also one of three Executive Sponsors of Harvard’s Learning Management Ecosystem Initiative. He is eager to bring our project to the attention of the LME Initiative to make them aware of the work done so far on the tool.

Dan requested a wireframe to a as a starting point to gauge the development and design of work necessary to implement a new course reserves tab on the home page of the Andover-Harvard Theological Library website, and to schedule the work. We hope to agree upon a schedule for implementation sometime this fiscal year. Gloria created these sketches and shared them with the HDS team:

Wireframe of the search box

Wireframe of search results

Gloria Korsman and Bobbi Fox