

**Course Reserves Unleashed!**  
**Final Report**  
**November 15, 2013**  
**Gloria Korsman and Bobbi Fox**

Bobbi completed a “proof of concept” version of the ecru (electronic course reserves unleashed) database, and designed a simple search interface for live demonstrations of **Course Reserves Unleashed!** The database is an instance of Apache Solr 4.\* which backs a robust RESTful API pattern set for querying the books, articles, and weblinks that are “reserved” for a particular course.

The ecru database includes data from the Reserves List System (a.k.a., the “reserves tool”). A job runs nightly to update the database, but the underlying software is designed to support reserves data from other sources as well, such as reserves data from HKS where a third-party, commercial course management solution is in use.

The search page uses AJAX to query the database via the APIs and processes the JSON response with JavaScript, specifically the jQuery library. The default search is “keywords anywhere”, but it is easy to achieve more precision by limiting to “author keywords”, “title keywords” or “course keywords”. Results may include readings (specified by a book icon) or courses (indicated by a podium icon). Results may be refined by school (FAS, Law, Divinity...) or by location (Lamont, Countway, Gutman...).

**Search screen:**

**Course Reserves Unleashed!**  
**Proof-of-Concept**

Course Reserves Unleashed! consists of the ecru (electronic course reserves unleashed) database, an instance of Apache Solr 4.\*, which backs a robust RESTful API pattern set for querying the books, articles, and weblinks that are “reserved” for a particular course.

At Harvard, a job runs nightly that updates the ecru database with data from the Reserves List System (aka the “Reserves Tool”), but the underlying software is designed to support reserves data from other sources as well.

This page is a “proof of concept” using AJAX to query the database via the APIs, and processing the JSON response with JavaScript (specifically, the jQuery library).

Let your cursor linger over each of the choices below to see the underlying API pattern endpoint.

Search:

Keywords anywhere  Author keywords  Title keywords  Course keywords

**Search results and facets:**

Search: buddham and ministry

Keywords anywhere  Author keywords  Title keywords  Course keywords

1 - 10 of 7728 found

**Refine Your Results**

**Courses by School**

- Faculty of Arts and Sciences (3729)
- Law School (242)
- Edwin S. Redkey School (197)
- Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) (139)
- Graduate School of Education (130)
- Harvard Divinity School (94)
- Divinity School (84)
- Graduate School of Design (78)
- Harvard Business School MBA Program (41)
- Harvard School of Dental Medicine (40)
- Kenan School (16)
- School of Public Health (12)
- Harvard Business School Doctoral Program (11)
- HLS (11)

**Readings by Location**

- Lamont (1270)
- Andrews Hall and (240)
- Countway Medicine (297)
- Fine Arts (237)
- Gutman Education (174)
- Loeb Music (151)
- Harvard-Yenching (146)
- Loeb Drama (108)
- Sumner (75)
- Cabot Science (65)
- Law School (56)
- Chemistry (10)
- Modern Applied Sci (9)
- Museum Comparative Zoology (3)


- 1. Eucharistic Theology and Ministry. (Matthew Lawrence Potts) [HDS-HDS 2173] (Spring 2014)**  
 No readings available at this time  
 No Course site available at this time
- 2. The Arts of Buddhist Ministry: Teaching, Leadership, and Pastoral Care in Buddhist Community. (Willa B. Miller) [HDS-HDS 3004] (Fall 2013)**  
 Readings  
 Course Site
- 3. Church Ministry in a Digital Age: Preaching, Worship, Teaching, Communication, and Administration. (Duffley Corwin Ross) [HDS-HDS 2871] (Spring 2014)**  
 No readings available at this time  
 No Course site available at this time
- 4. Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding of Buddhism and Japanese Culture (Ryuzichi Abe (East Asian Languages and Civilizations)) [FAS-1001] (Spring 2014)**  
 No readings available at this time  
 No Course site available at this time
- 5. LaFoue, William R. The karma of words / Buddhism and the literary arts in medieval Japan. University of California Press. (1993) xvii, 294 p. ; (Fall 2013)**  
 Reading Status: available  
 ISBN: 0520046503
- 6. Mohr, Michel. Buddhism, Universalism, and the Meiji competition for universality. 1st (edition). (2012) pages cm. (Fall 2013)**  
 Reading Status: Being processed  
 ISBN: 978067466946 (hardcover : alk. paper)
- 7. Kim, Giovanni Ilma. Empire of the Dharmas: Korea and Japanese Buddhism, 1899-1912. (2012) xvii, 416 pages (Fall 2013)**  
 Reading Status: available  
 ISBN: 978067466718 (alk. paper)

**Hollis Record**  
 Course Information All readings for the course

“Course” records link to all course “readings” and also the course site:

 **2. The Arts of Buddhist Ministry: Teaching, Leadership, and Pastoral Care in Buddhist Community. (Willa B. Miller)**  
 [HDS-HDS 3004] (Fall 2013)  
[Readings](#)  
[Course iSite](#)

“Reading” records link to HOLLIS, course information, and all readings for the course. The display also indicates that a reading is online:

 **8. Cole, Alan. Homestyle Vinaya and Docile Boys in Chinese Buddhism.. Positions: East Asian Cultures Critique 7.1 (1999): 5-50 (Fall 2013)**  
 Reading Status: Available  
 online  
[Hollis Record](#)  
[Course Information](#) [All readings for the course](#)

The “proof of concept” search page is accessible to the Harvard intranet at <http://cicero.lib.harvard.edu:8080/ecru/poc.html>

Bobbi also created a “GSE/Gutman Library restricted” search page, which is also available to the Harvard intranet at <http://cicero.lib.harvard.edu:8080/ecru/gut.html>

Because these pages were just created as “proof of concept”, they are lacking many features (such as being able to go “back”) that a well designed page would have. In addition, such a page should be created using Responsive Web Design principles, so that it could be easily used on mobile devices. If we had more time, we would also provide seamless connections to WorldCat and Borrow Direct to facilitate access to other available copies of printed books.

Gloria continued conversations with HDS IT and Media Services. Although HDS remains interested in a course reserves search “widget” for the library home page, the school is unable to commit to hosting and supporting the database, so we continue our quest for a permanent home, preferably with LTS.

Bobbi met with Annie Rota and Colin Murtaugh, who are investigating new course management platforms, and they have expressed interest in taking advantage of **Course Reserves Unleashed!**

Bobbi and Gloria participated in the Library Lab Showcase and Movie Extravaganza on November 5. Gloria specifically invited members of the core Learning Management Ecosystem team to see a live demonstration of **Course Reserves Unleashed!** Our work was well received because it could work with Canvas, or another course management platform.

The Library Director’s Group invited Gloria and Bobbi to demonstrate **Course Reserves Unleashed!** at their meeting on November 14. Our work was very well received. Representatives from Countway, Law, Education, and Government were enthusiastic, adding to the early support we received from Divinity and Design.

Future plans, pending continued institutional support:

- Publish the code on Github
- Add reserves data and links from Gutman and HKS.
- Link cross-listed courses when iCommons frees up the data
- Find someone to design the patron interface.

We spent funds on Bobbi’s time and on publicity materials. The funds set aside for HDS IT and Media Services were not spent.