

German VuFind Community Meeting 2015

We as the German VuFind Users Community have talked about features we would like to see in VuFind3.

Architectural Considerations

Here are some considerations about the basic architecture of VuFind 3. We think that the upgrade to VuFind3 could be a good chance to refactor VuFind in these points. Günter Hipler (Swissbib) has done some considerations about these points, his slides should be available in english this weekend. He is probably willing to discuss them in more detail on demand.

- **Continuing separating components into separate modules**
This could be a step towards making VuFind a catalog framework with a frontend-API, that would make it easier to integrate VuFind with existing Content Management Systems such as Typo 3 without using the complete VuFind interfaces. This had been started in VuFind 2 a couple of years ago by David Maus by preparing a VuFindHTTP component.
Interested developers: finc Team Leipzig, SLUB Dresden
- **Simplification of Code base**
Some easy use cases (adding a new search tab on Solr basis, for example, i.e. using two search tabs with the same backend, but different parameters) are hard to implement in VuFind2. We would really like to see a simplification for these cases in VuFind 3. Cornelius Amzar has done some work on this problem. While the search tab extending itself can be solved by adding/extending quite a lot files, it is impossible to solve problems like the /Author/Home links which still points to the default Solr tab. Another issue is that the SolrAuthor backend does not use hiddenFilters defined in Search/Solr/Options.php. So, author search might find authors which are not actually in the index subset.
Interested developers: Oliver Goldschmidt (although I'm not sure, how much I can really contribute on this)
- **Independence from certain Frameworks**
Modularization (for example as created in item 1) could make VuFind independent from only one framework (for example ZF3) - only the components would need to get adjusted in case of a framework change. Simplification can also help to get a framework-independent environment. But perhaps this should be treated as a separate point. (PSR-7?)

Other Considerations

Here are some minor things we think we (as the german-speaking community) could (or would like to) contribute to.

- **Improving performance**
This could be accomplished by improving and reducing JavaScript usage, for example.

VuFind 2 uses far too many different JS files. All of them are included into the head. This slows down HTML parsing and is a major problem according to Google Page Speed. Async and deferred loading should be used. Scripts should be refactored and put together into one large file.

Interested developers: Cornelius Amzar

- **Cover interface for buchhandel.de**

buchhandel.de is a german supplier for books and is also offering bookcovers. We could contribute an interface to get buchhandel.de into the supported cover suppliers. BSZ Konstanz can offer a working Buchhandel.de cover service.

Interested developers: BSZ Konstanz

- **Vendor links for covers**

Some cover suppliers (for example Buchhandel.de or Amazon) require users to show links to their bookstores. In VuFind 2 it's not distinguishable, which vendor supplied a certain cover and thus it's not possible to set an appropriate link. VuFind 3 should be able to address this problem.

- **NCIP-authentication/NCIP driver**

Some (german) libraries would need support for NCIP, allowing authentication for example.

- **A module or component for displaying library holdings on a map**

The interactive map developed by David Uspal for Villanova University Library should become a part of VuFind3. As this is a solution, which is in use only at Villanova University (as far as we know), this needs probably some adjustment to become more general. UB Braunschweig is willing to help with that and could also provide a document in which they reviewed several other mapping systems.

Interested developers: UB Braunschweig, finc Team Leipzig

Of course we are also willing to continue maintaining the german translation files.

Other remarks / wishlist

- **ILS Driver for Alma (Ex Libris)**

Alma from ExLibris is used by more and more libraries. It's the successor of Aleph. It would be great if there would be a default Driver for Alma in VuFind3.

- Make solrmrc a (optional) two-step process: 1) dump processed data (after beanshells, translation maps) as JSON/XML to disk, 2) import JSON/XML into SOLR
- Offer Elasticsearch as index-provider
- Hierarchical facets