

Rethinking Resource Sharing
RRSORG-L@LISTSERV.UCOP.EDU
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Dear Library Industry Partner,

You may have heard about the *GetIt!* Button (current working name) that is debuting at ALA. Sponsored by the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative (<http://rethinkingresourcesharing.org/>), *GetIt!* is an open source, vendor neutral tool that enables people to search the web using any popular search engine and view sources, including libraries and book sellers, to obtain a published item. *GetIt!* is a key resource for libraries who want to reach non-library users or who have pondered how to reach the 98% who, according to a recent OCLC study, do not begin information searches at their local library's catalog.

The Rethinking Resource Sharing Interoperability Working Group has developed an early version of the *GetIt!* button and will be talking about this to librarians at Annual ALA in Washington. *GetIt!* uses metadata (COInS) where it exists but it can also locate published materials via ISBN and other match points in the actual html. When a user presses the *GetIt!* button on their browser, a list of suppliers appears. This list shows the supplier, format, title, author, terms and cost. The user can then click on any one of the items in the list to be taken directly to the supplier they have chosen. Depending on the supplier, the user can order the item, place a hold, make an ILL request or view the data online. A brief *GetIt!* scenario follows, to help you visualize *GetIt!*'s simplicity and power.

We would like to enlist as many library industry vendors as possible in supporting the project. What does this mean? First, we request that each automation system or search tool vendor review the enclosed "Supporting the *GetIt!* button" document to determine in what fashion you will support the project, as a "source" web site that the *GetIt!* button extracts resources from and/or as a supplier website that the *GetIt!* button can take users to for obtaining items..

This button will be available as an open source project and, though in early development, is intended to operate with all interested sources and suppliers. We expect your customers will want to know your plans after we announce the *GetIt!* button at ALA.

If you have any questions about the *GetIt!* button or the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative, please contact either Gail Wanner (gail.wanner@sirsidynix.com, chair of the Interoperability Working Group) or Barbara Preece (bpreece@blc.org, co-chair of the Rethinking Initiative).

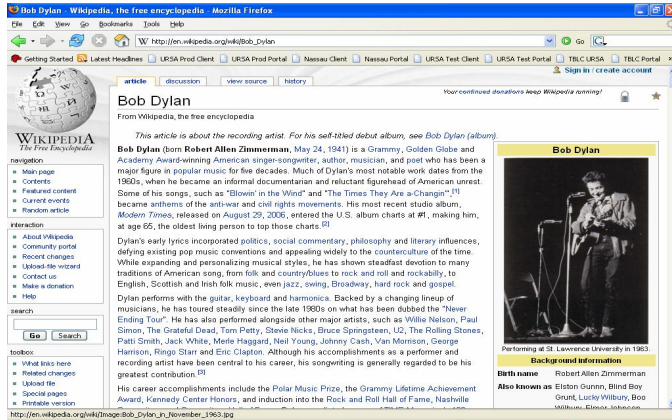
We hope that you will join us in demonstrating to libraries how simple tools can broaden their reach. We also trust you are open to enabling interoperation with freely-available tools such as the *GetIt!* button.

Sincerely,

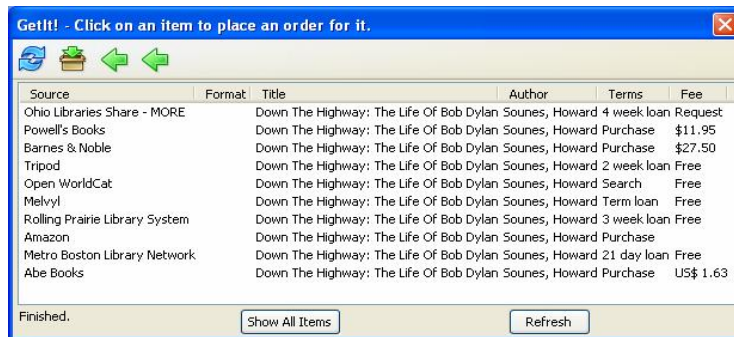
Rethinking Resource Sharing
Interoperability Working Group

A Simple GetIt! Scenario

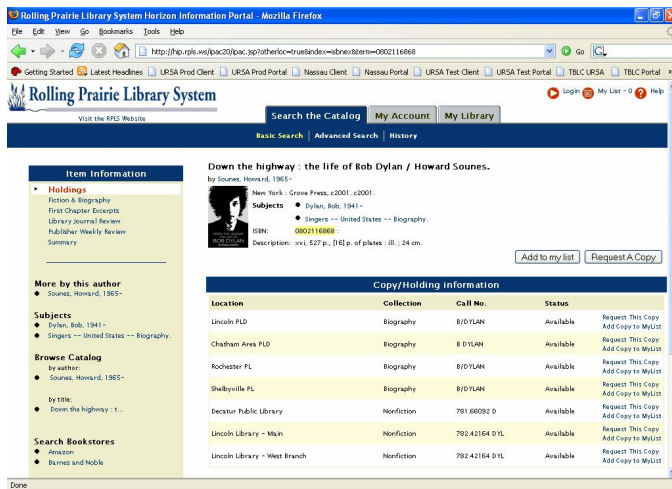
User performs an online search and opens a web page. In this case, the user is on a Wikipedia page but *GetIt!* works equally well with booksellers, media suppliers, library catalogs and bibliographies.



1 User clicks "GetIt!" from a web page



2 List of sources and terms appears



3 User is taken to the chosen source

In this case, if the user is a registered borrower at this library, he or she can request the item. If the selected Prairie supplier was a media rental system or a bookseller, the appropriate entry point for placing an order would be displayed.

Supporting the *GetIt!* button

Websites may support the *GetIt!* button in either or both of the roles of source or supplier.

A source website is one that the *GetIt!* button can extract descriptive information about an item such as a book, movie or music album. Typically the descriptive information is a unique identifier (e.g. ISBN or UPC) plus several other descriptive data elements such as author, title, publisher, and publication date. A few well-known websites that could serve as sources are Amazon.com, Open WorldCat, Wikipedia, IMDB.com and a library's OPAC.

A supplier website is one that the *GetIt!* button can send a query to and determine whether the item is available from that website. This query is formulated using the information extracted from a source website, so typically the query would be a URL such as <http://www.amazon.com/o/ASIN/0679600108>, which queries Amazon.com for the Modern Library Reprint edition of Moby Dick. A few well-known websites that could serve as suppliers are Amazon.com, Open WorldCat, a library's OPAC and a state-wide resource sharing service.

To support the *GetIt!* button as a source, your website must either insert COInS metadata in its item displays, or you will have to develop a "source description" XML file that instructs the *GetIt!* software how to extract the descriptive information using a combination of XPath and regular expressions.

To support the *GetIt!* button as a supplier, your website must either support OpenURL-style links to item displays (from where the user can place a request, order, etc.) or you will have to develop a "supplier description" XML file that instructs the *GetIt!* software how to link to the item's page on your website using a combination of XPath and regular expressions.

Technical documentation on developing "source description" files is being posted to the Rethinking Resource Sharing group's website at <http://rethinkingresourcesharing.org> .