Delivering E-Resources with LibX

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March 24, 2006

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Delivering E-Resources with LibX

- LibX is a localized Firefox extension that integrates access to electronic resources into the browser
- Motivation – why do we need it?
- Background – why did we build it?
- Demonstration – what does it do?
- Editions – how to get one for your library?

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The Age of Google

- Study by Fast & Campbell 2004
  - *I still like Google: university student perceptions of searching OPACs and the web*
- Tampa Tribune article July 11, 2005
  - Professors frustrated with students relying solely on Google for research
  - Students respond that using the library is "work"

What Users May Not Know About Google

- Google does not vet sources
- Google's page ranking algorithm does not reflect relevance
- Google lacks metadata
- Google does not provide access to all possible sources (e.g., print holdings)
- Google does not know about local resources

What Users Like About Google

- Google is easy to use and convenient
  - Handles queries robustly
- Google is a one stop information resource
  - Web, Print, News, Scholar
- Google is fast and available 24/7
  - Search is integrated in most browsers

Our Challenge

- Can librarians provide patrons with resources that are
  - Relevant
  - Authoritative
  - Complete
  - Accessible
- while providing the ease of use, integration, and availability of modern search engines?

LibX History

- Idea developed in summer of 2005
- Researched existing library toolbars & extensions, scripts, bookmarklets,…
- Found a number of toolbars
  - FASTJack, HALbar, etc.
- Web localization services
  - Library Lookup project (Bookmarklets, Greasemonkey scripts)
  - WAG The Dog project

However…

LibX History (cont'd)

- Existing toolbars were not adaptable (or adoptable!) for use by other libraries
  - Or it wasn't easy to do so
- Existing toolbars were limited in functionality
- We wanted an easily adaptable infrastructure on which to deliver a wide variety of services

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LibX

- Provides shortcut to library resources
- Uses Firefox browser extension technology
  - Integrated into the browser's user interface
  - Installed on the client-side

What LibX Provides

- Direct Access to OPAC(s)
  - Integrated toolbar
  - Smart context menu
- Direct access to OpenURL resolver to find appropriate copy
  - Directly via toolbar or indirectly through Google Scholar
- Localization
  - Research companion that “hints” at library resources
  - Support for COinS

OPAC Access

- Toolbar User Interface
  - Supports single & multi-term searches
  - Not intended to replace “advanced search page” – captures common search pattern
  - User can set display preferences
- Right-click context menu
  - Adapts to selections
- Support of different OPACs
  - Millenium, Dynix/Horizon, Voyager, Aleph
  - Configurable to support multiple OPACs simultaneously

Demonstration 1

Toolbar, Context Menus

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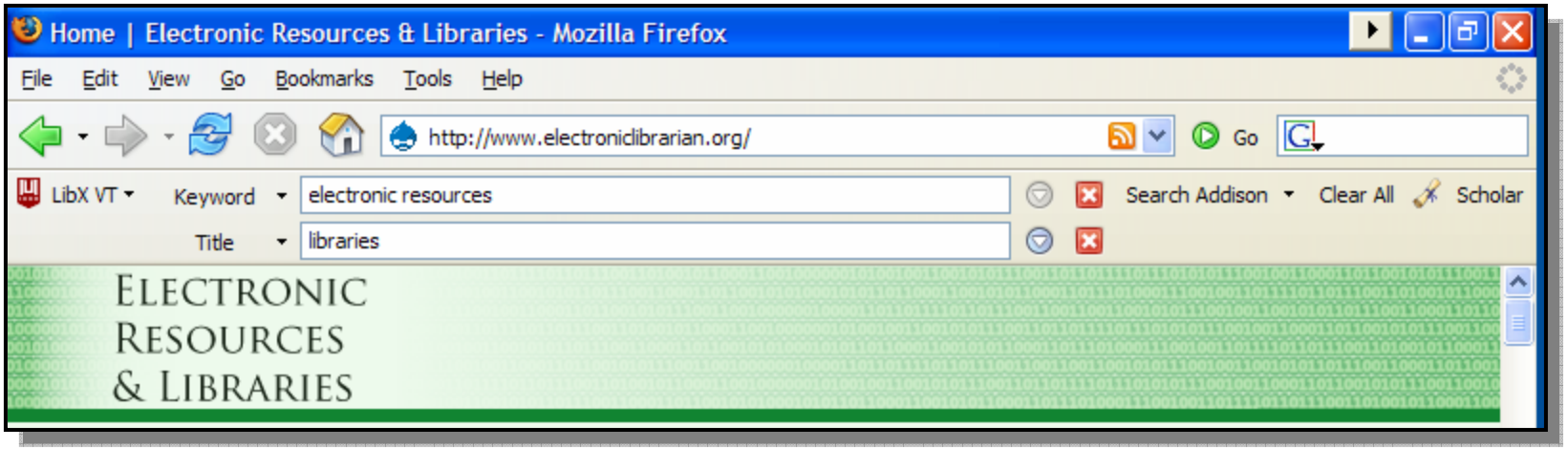
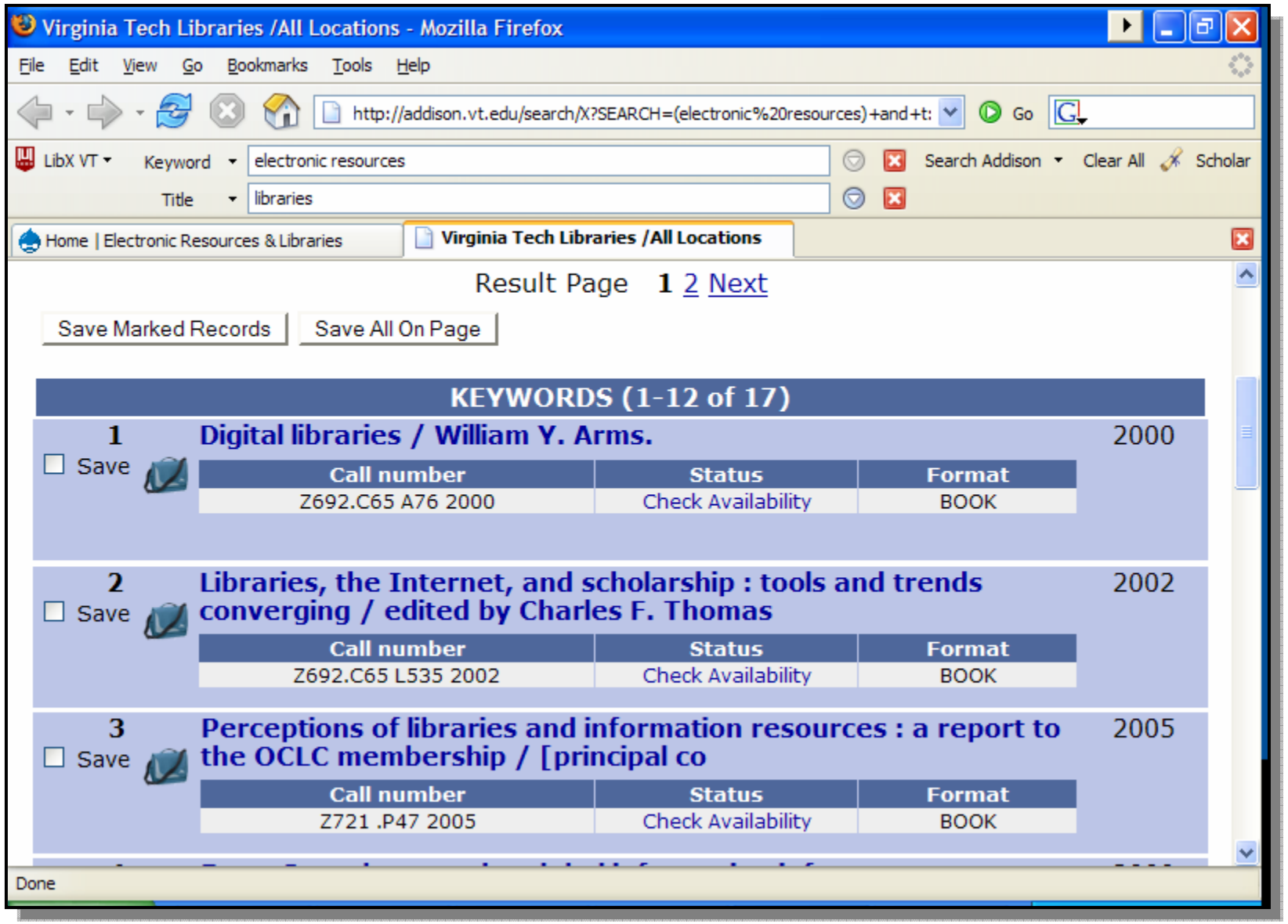
OPAC Toolbar



- Expands automatically for multi-term searches
- Offers commonly used search types:
  - Keyword, author, title, isbn, call number



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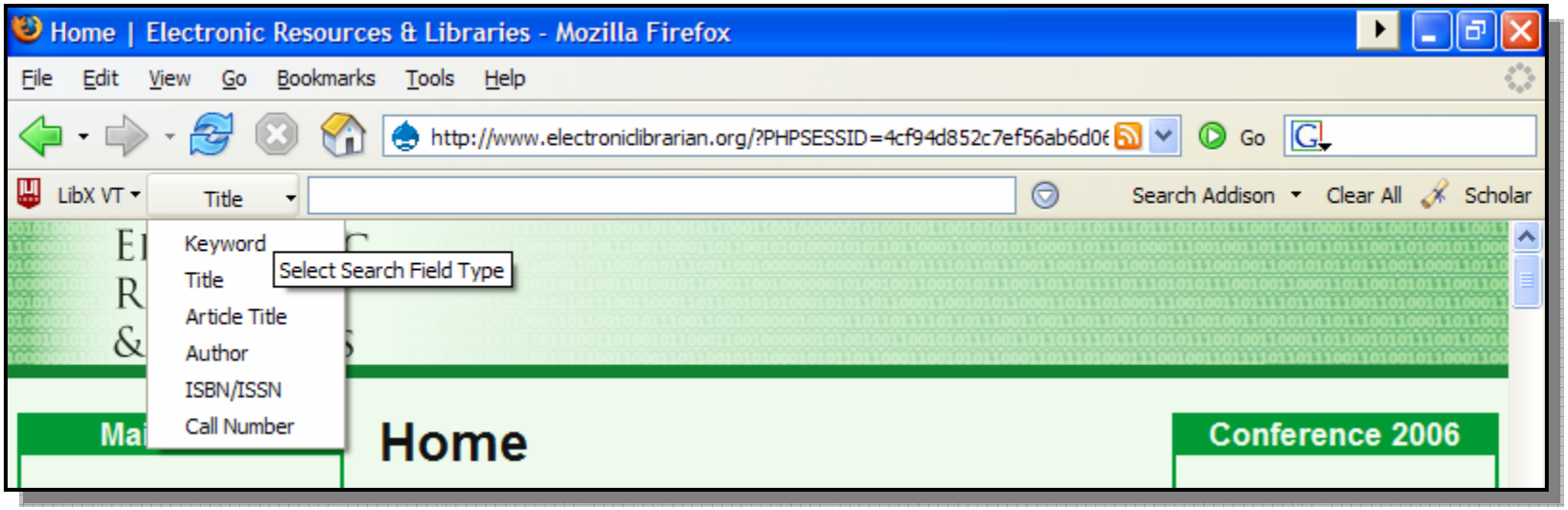
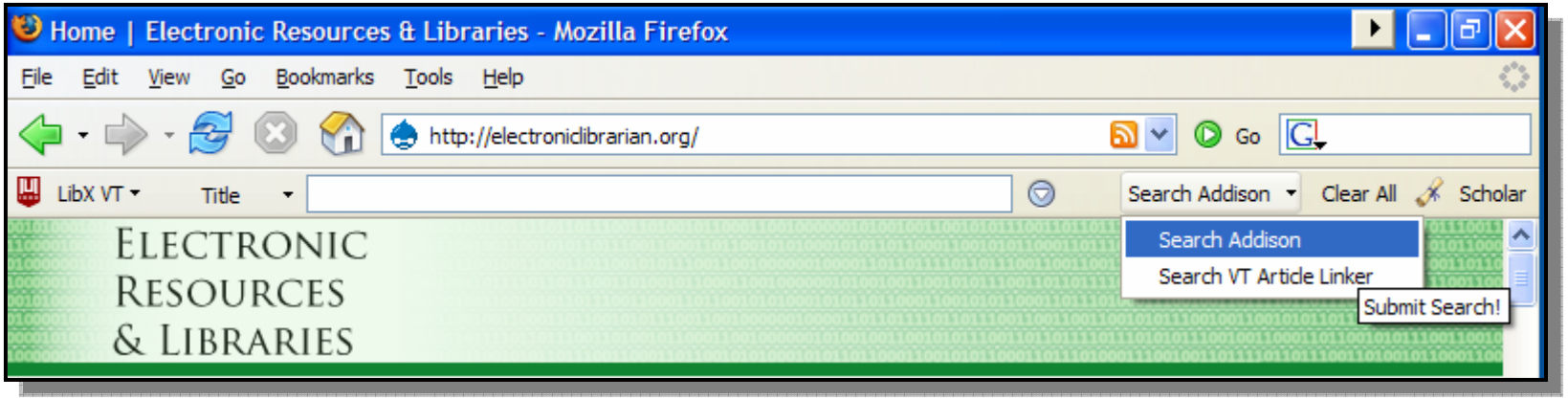
OPAC Toolbar (2)





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Context Menu

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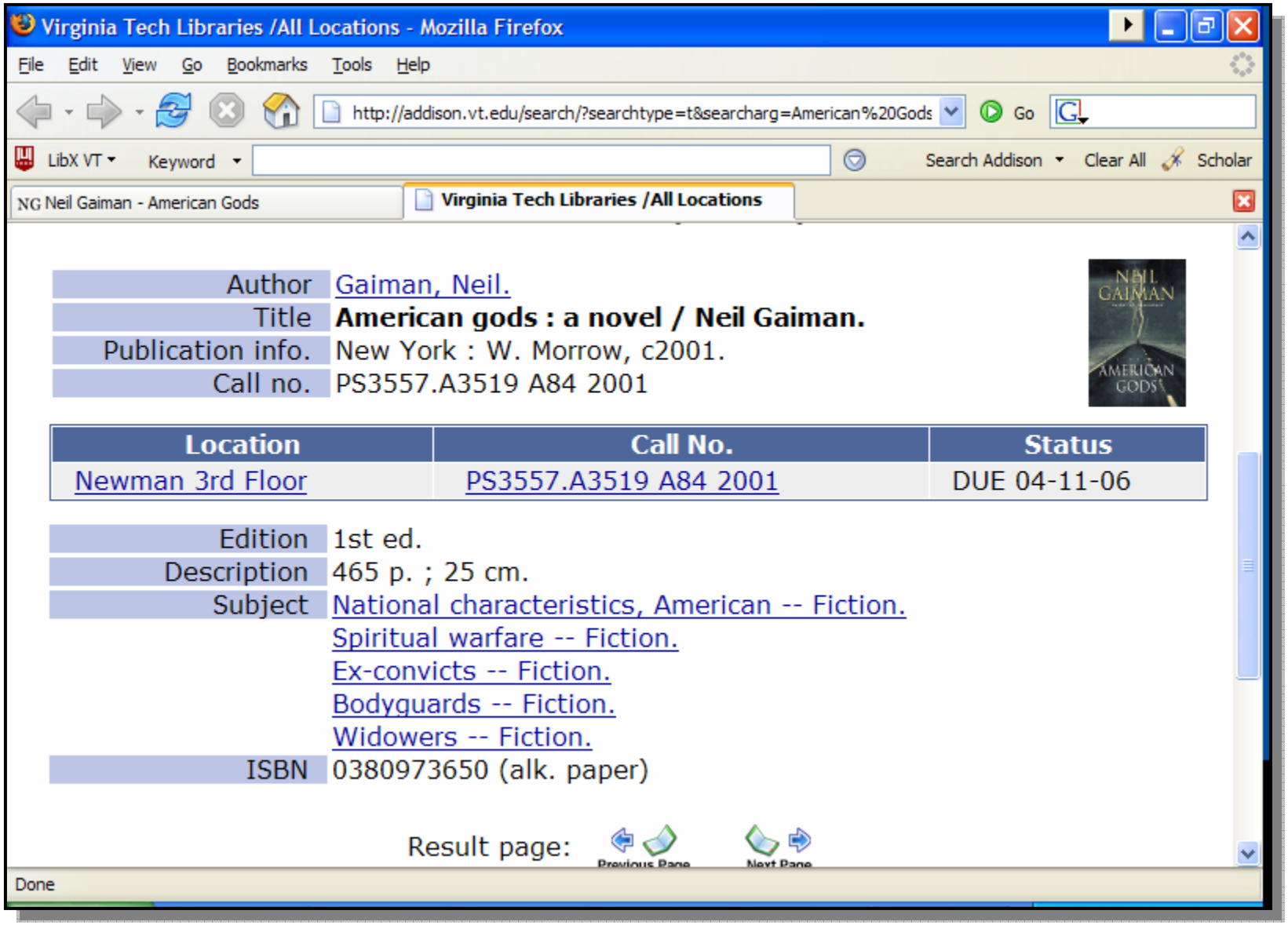

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Nested Context Menu

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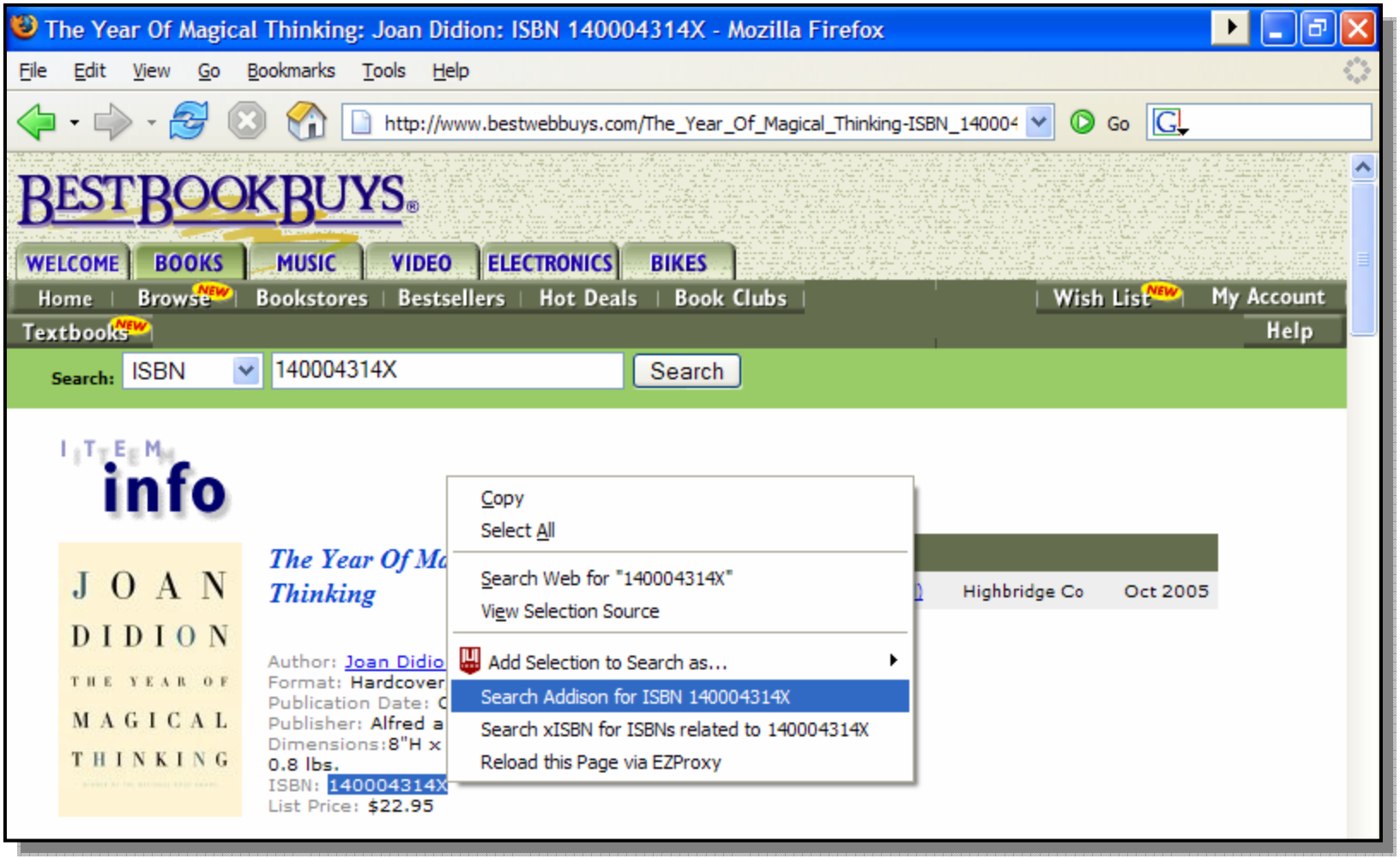
Adaptive Context Menu



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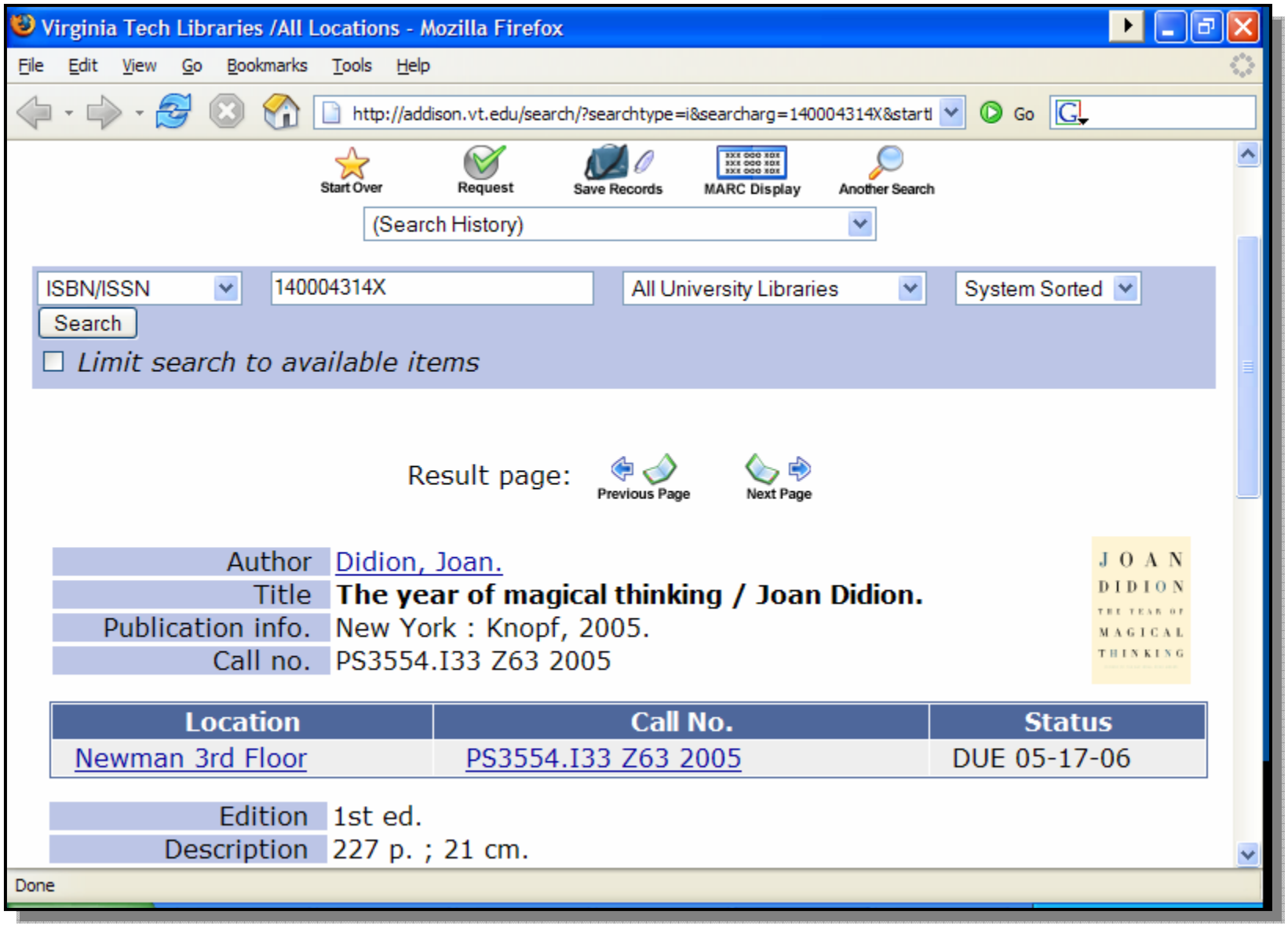
Virginia Tech Libraries /All Locations - Mozilla Firefox
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All University Libraries
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Limit search to available items
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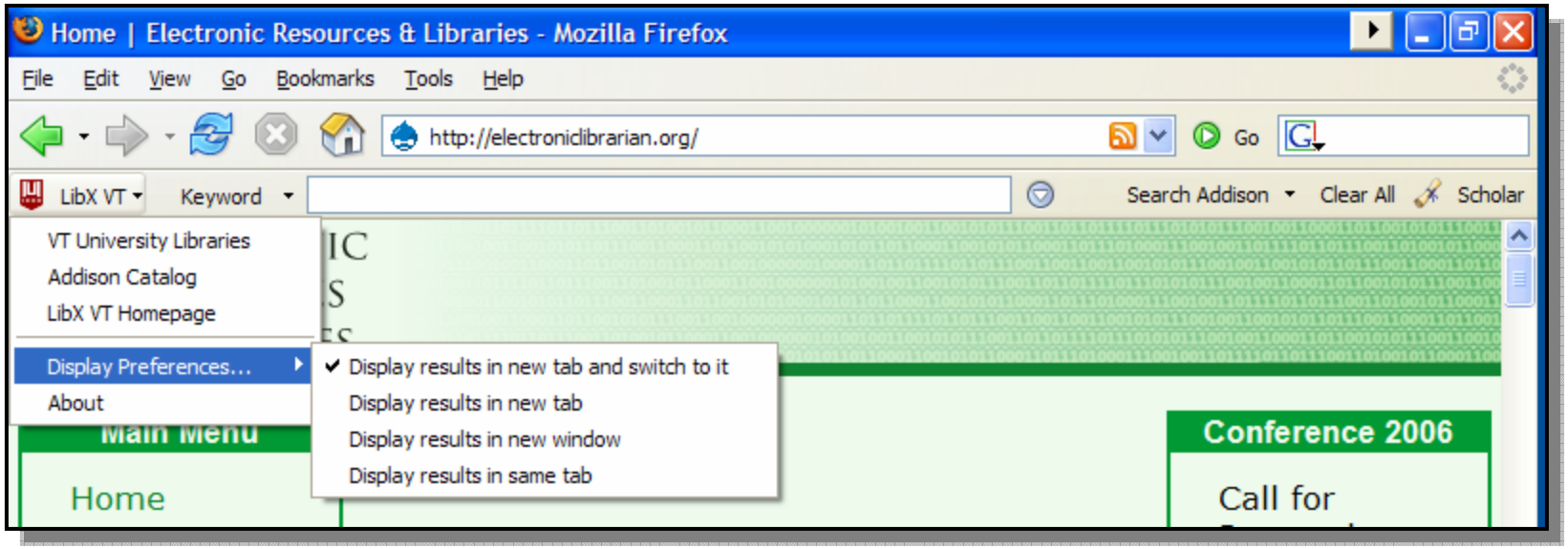
Previous Page
Next Page
Author Didion, Joan.
Title The year of magical thinking / Joan Didion.
Publication info. New York : Knopf, 2005.
Call no. PS3554.I33 Z63 2005
JOAN DIDION THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING
Location
Call No.
Status
Newman 3rd Floor
PS3554.I33 Z63 2005
DUE 05-17-06
Edition 1st ed.
Description 227 p. ; 21 cm.
Done

Display Preferences & Links



- Users can set preferences on how results should be displayed
- Libraries can configure links that are being displayed to users

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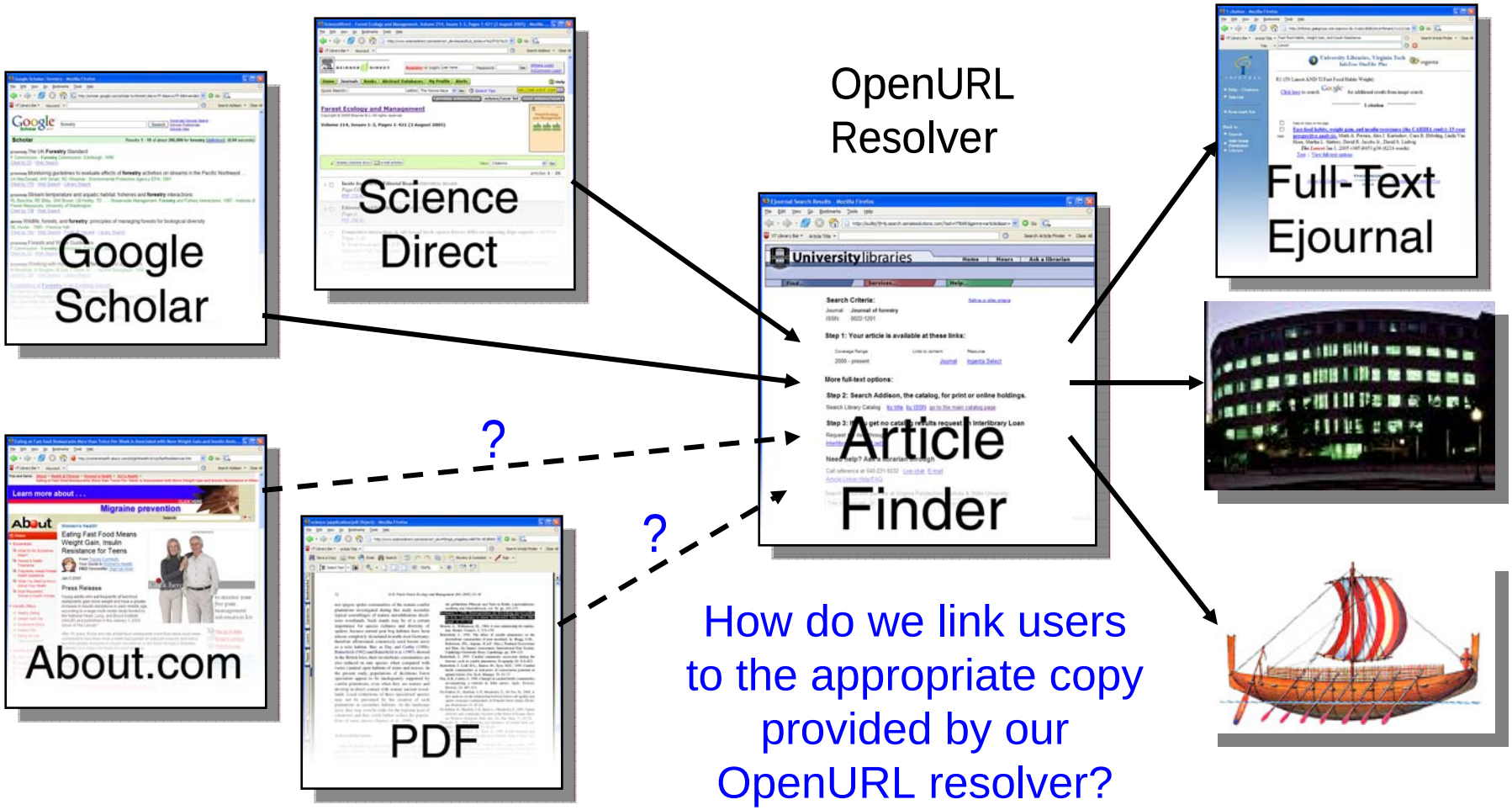
OpenURL & Appropriate Copy



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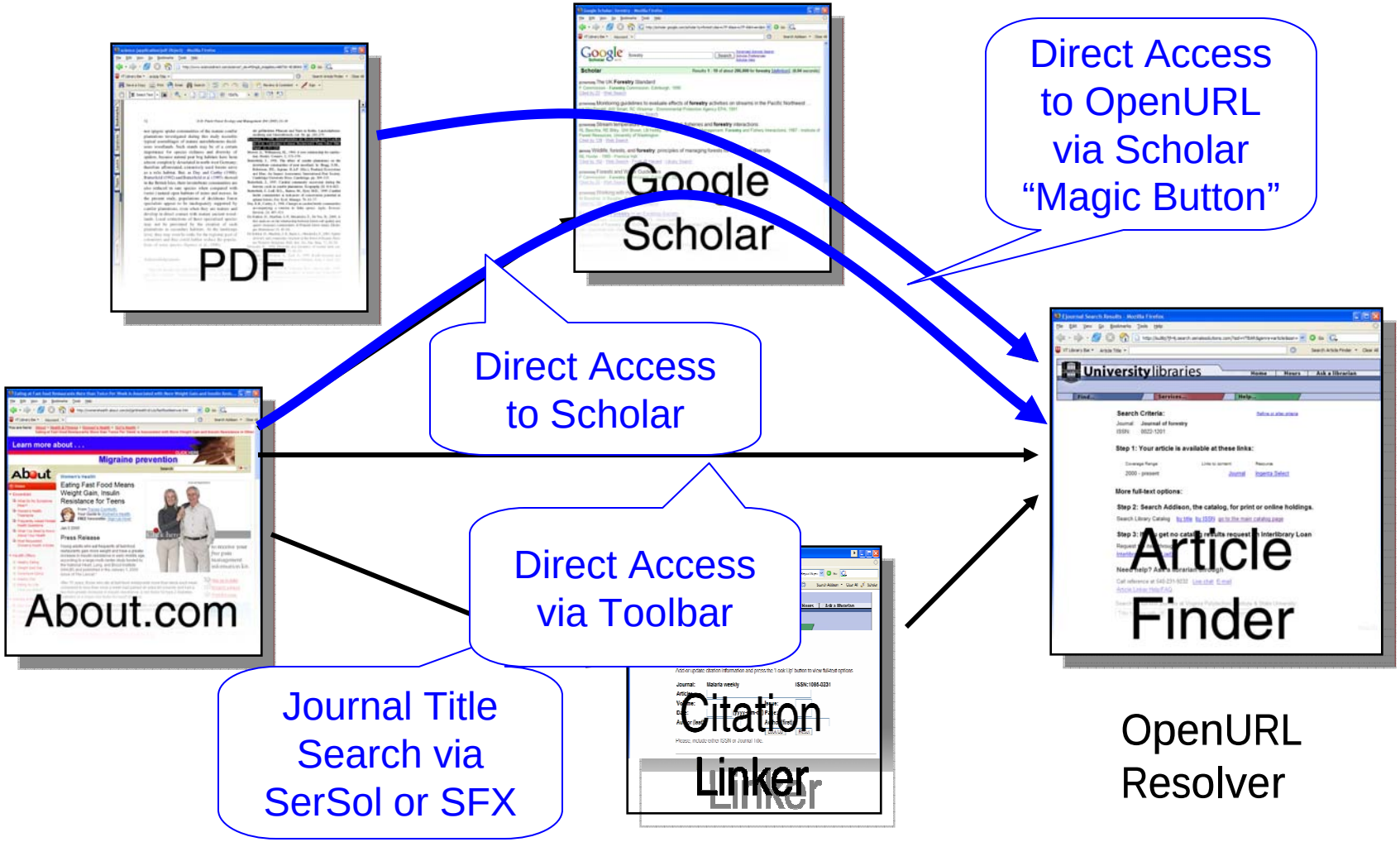
OpenURL Access Options in LibX



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Demonstration 2

OpenURL Access &
The “Magic Button”

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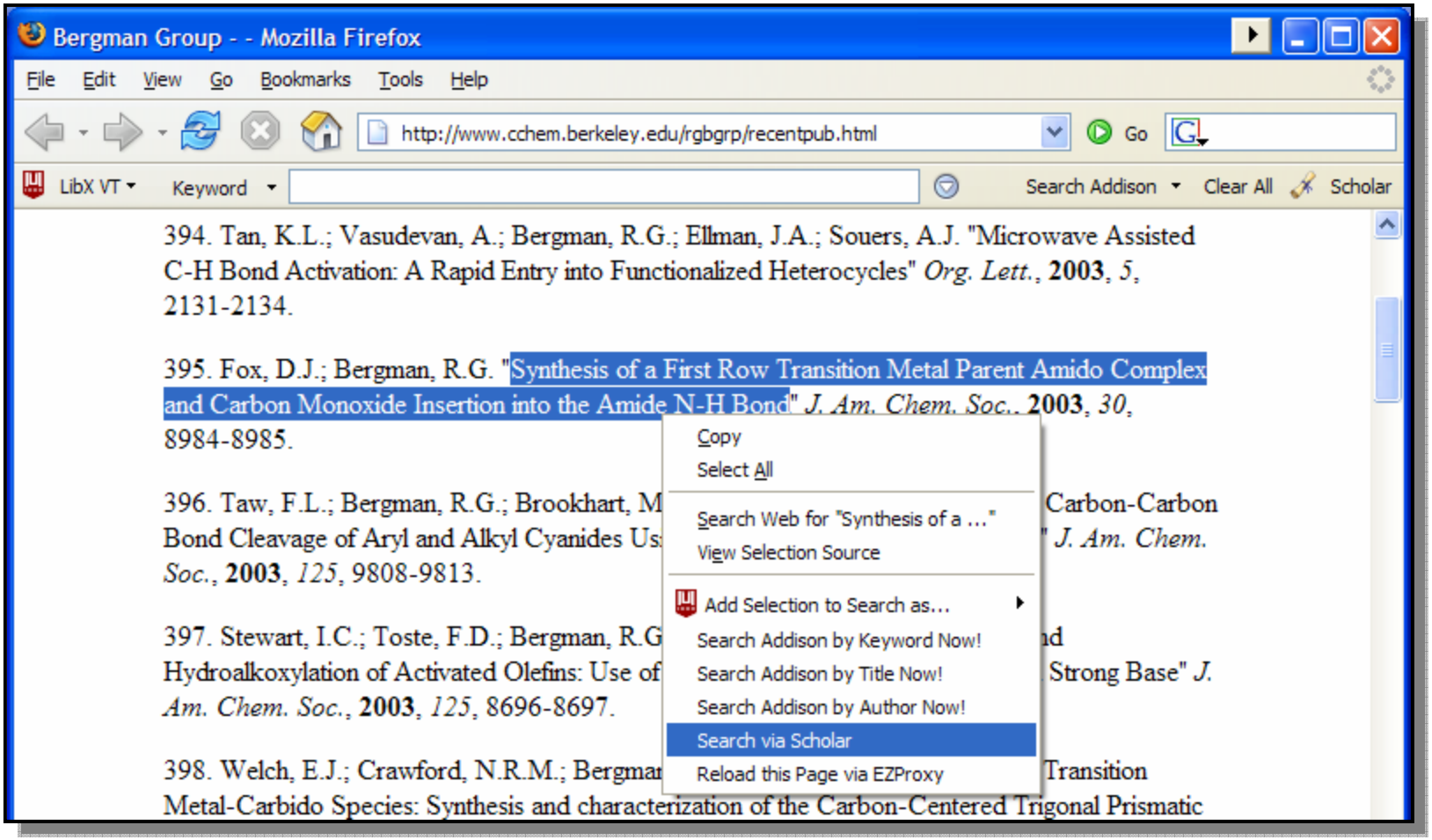
OpenURL Access via Scholar



Source: http://www.cchem.berkeley.edu/rgbgrp/recentpub.html

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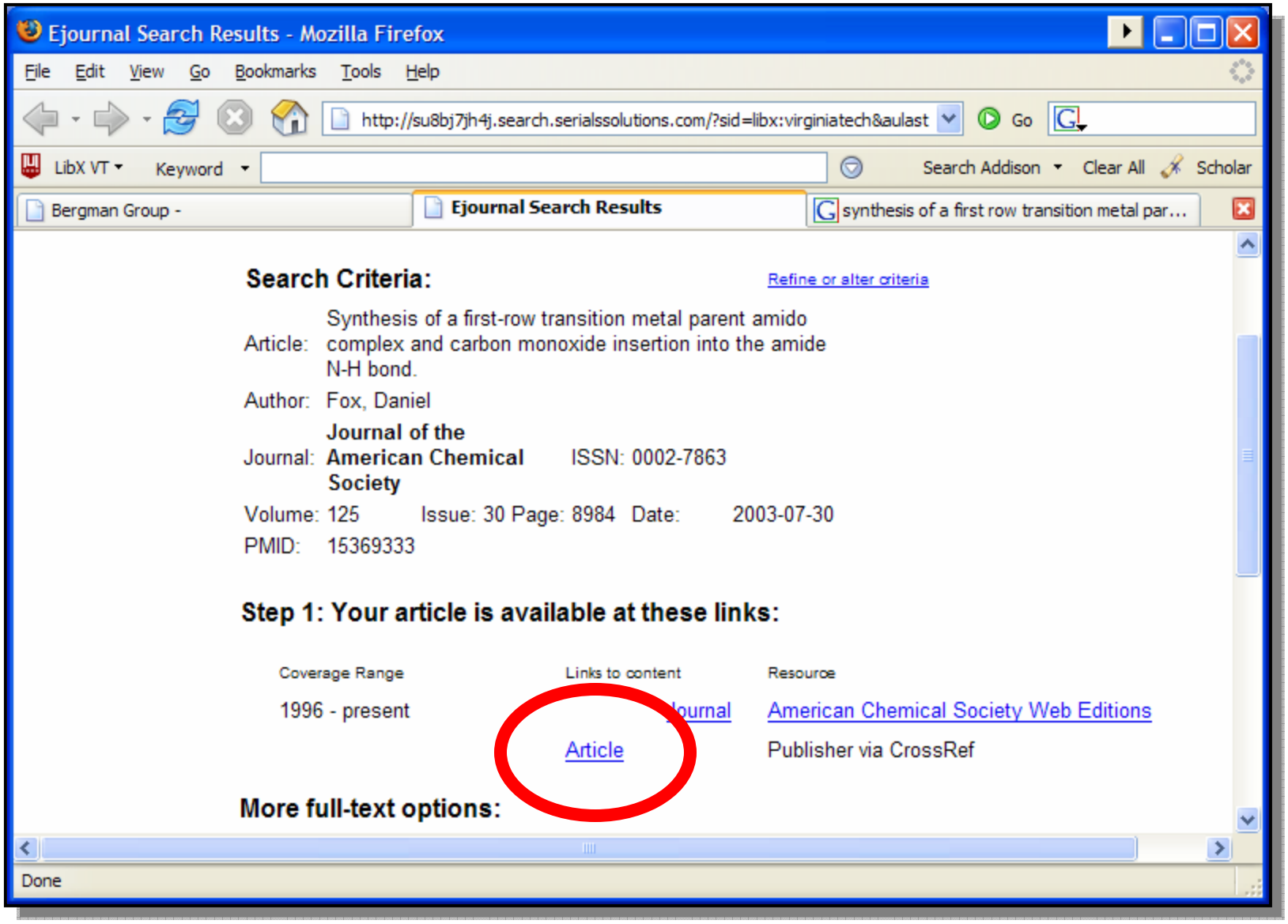

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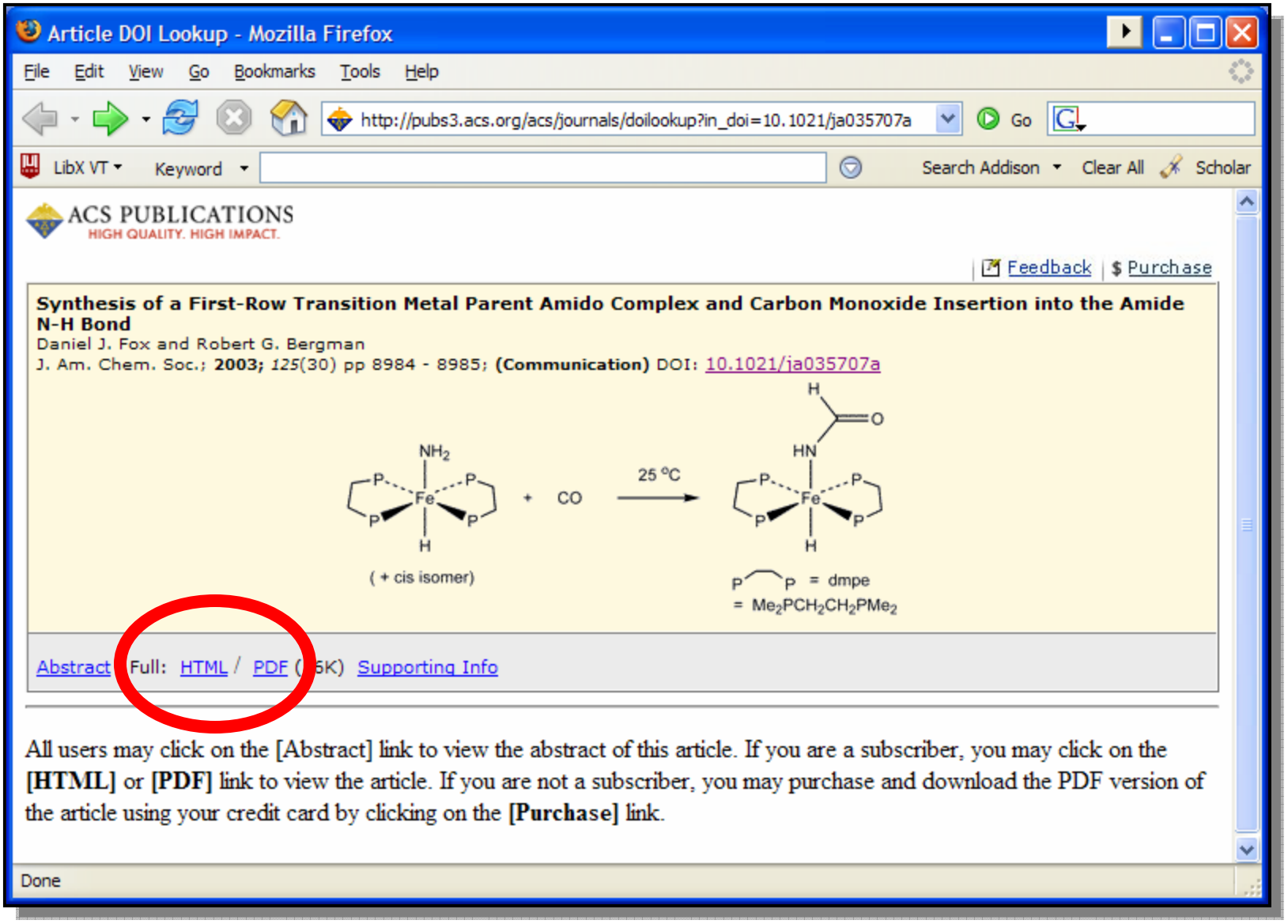
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Daniel J. Fox and Robert G. Bergman
J. Am. Chem. Soc.; 2003; 125(30) pp 8984 - 8985; (Communication) DOI: 10.1021/ja035707a
NH2
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+ CO
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= Me2PCH2CH2PMe2
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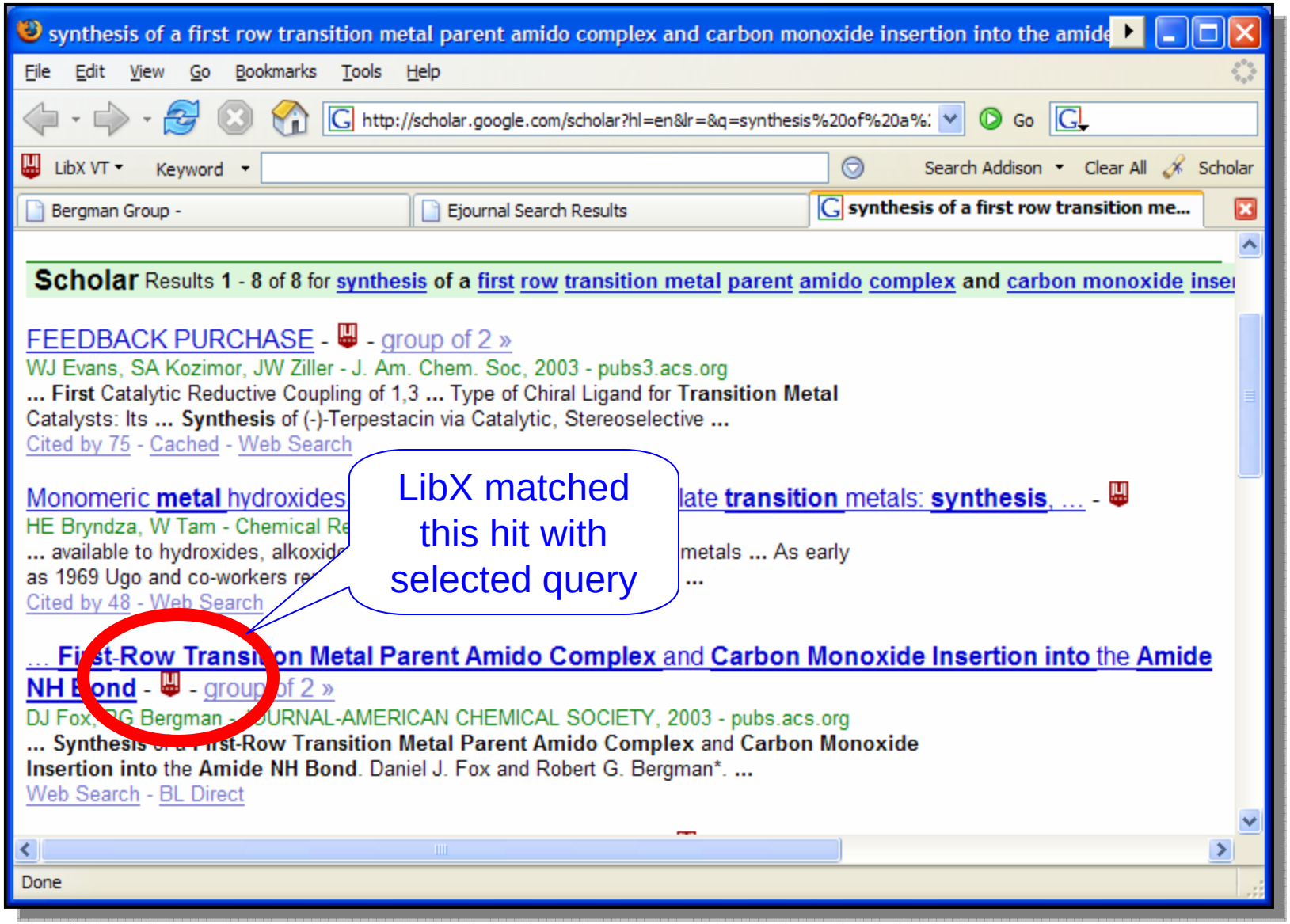

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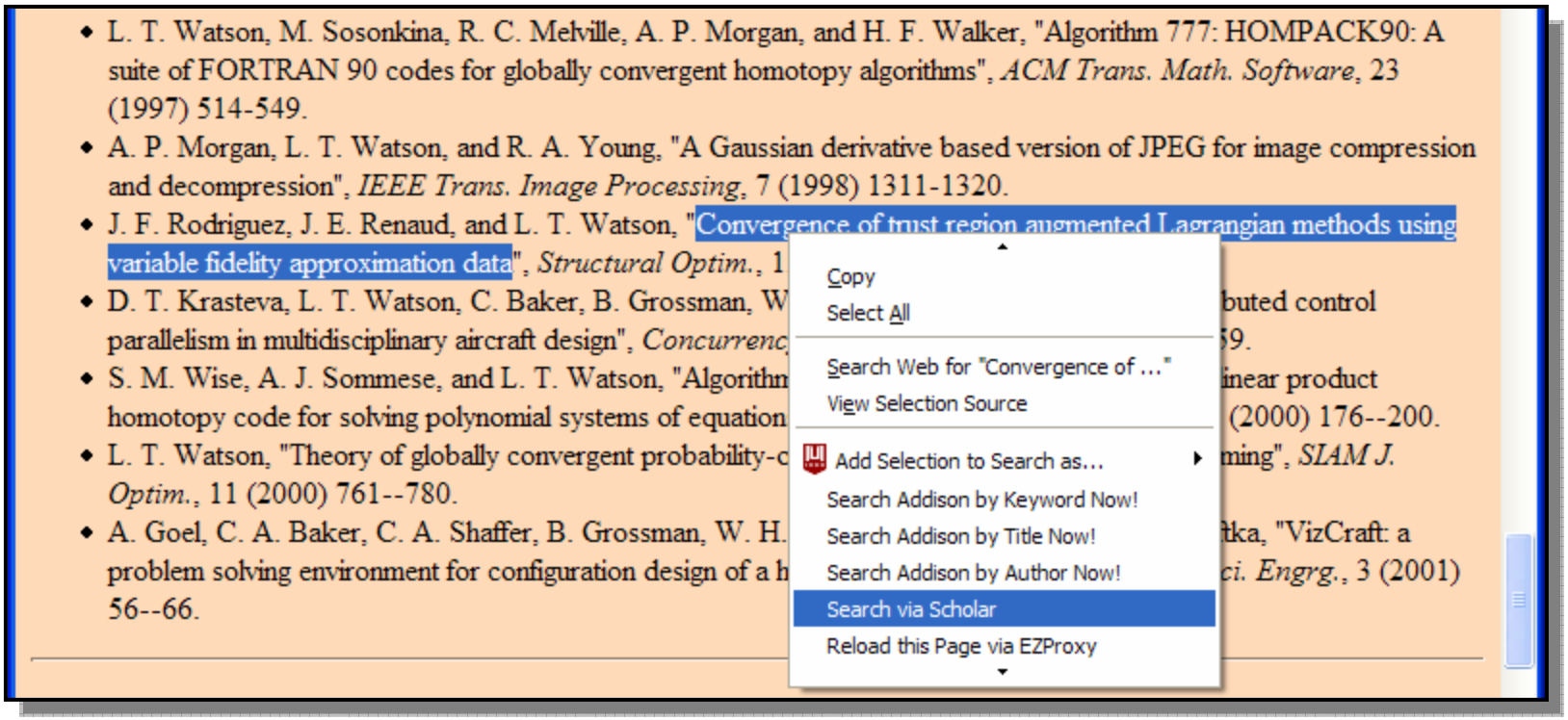
OpenURL Access via Scholar (2)

OpenURL can lead user to print resources if no electronic copy is available



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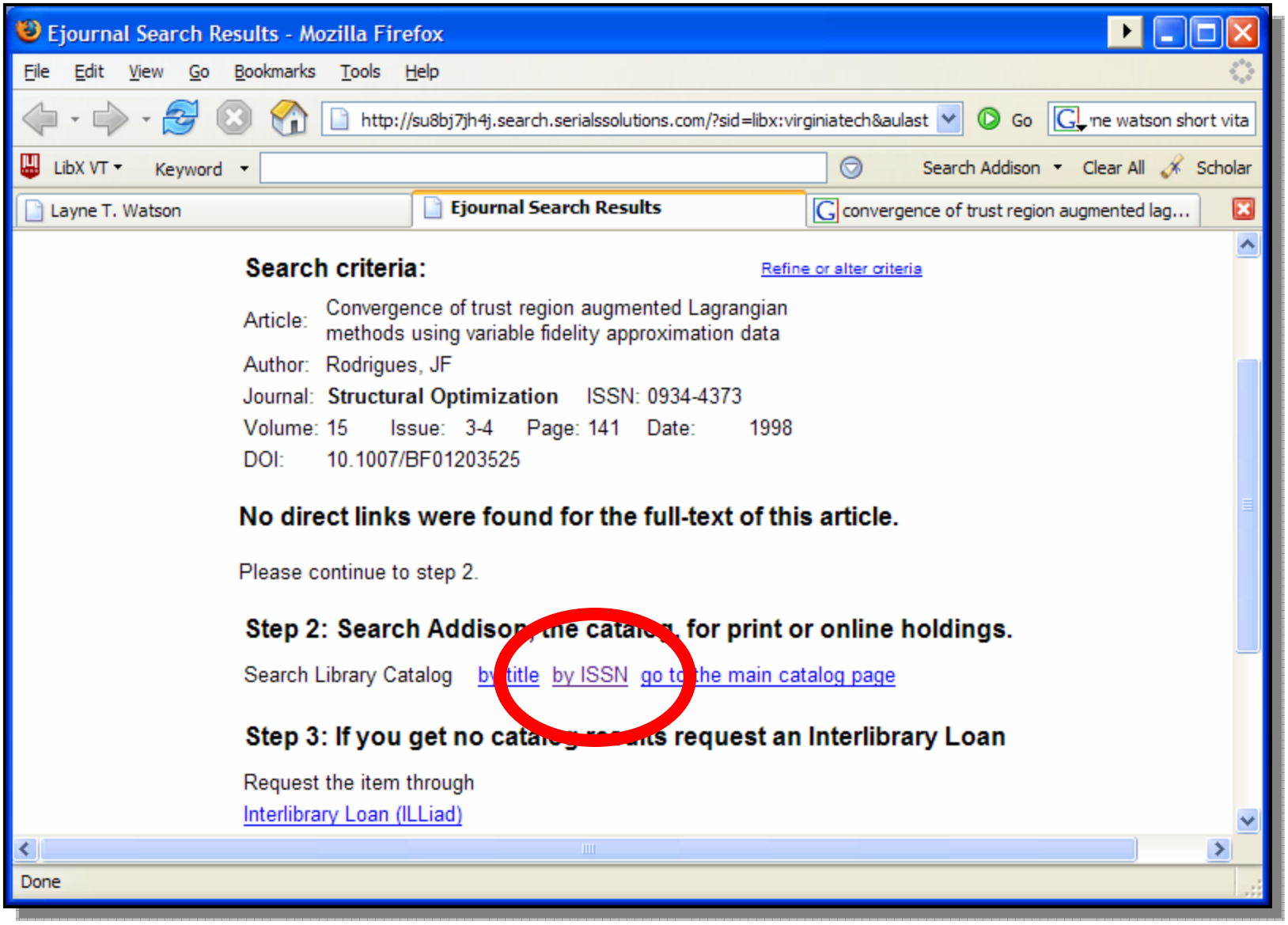
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Layne T. Watson
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Refine or alter criteria
Article: Convergence of trust region augmented Lagrangian methods using variable fidelity approximation data
Author: Rodrigues, JF
Journal: Structural Optimization ISSN: 0934-4373
Volume: 15 Issue: 3-4 Page: 141 Date: 1998
DOI: 10.1007/BF01203525
No direct links were found for the full-text of this article.
Please continue to step 2.
Step 2: Search Addison the catalog for print or online holdings.
Search Library Catalog by title by ISSN go to the main catalog page
Step 3: If you get no catalog results request an Interlibrary Loan
Request the item through
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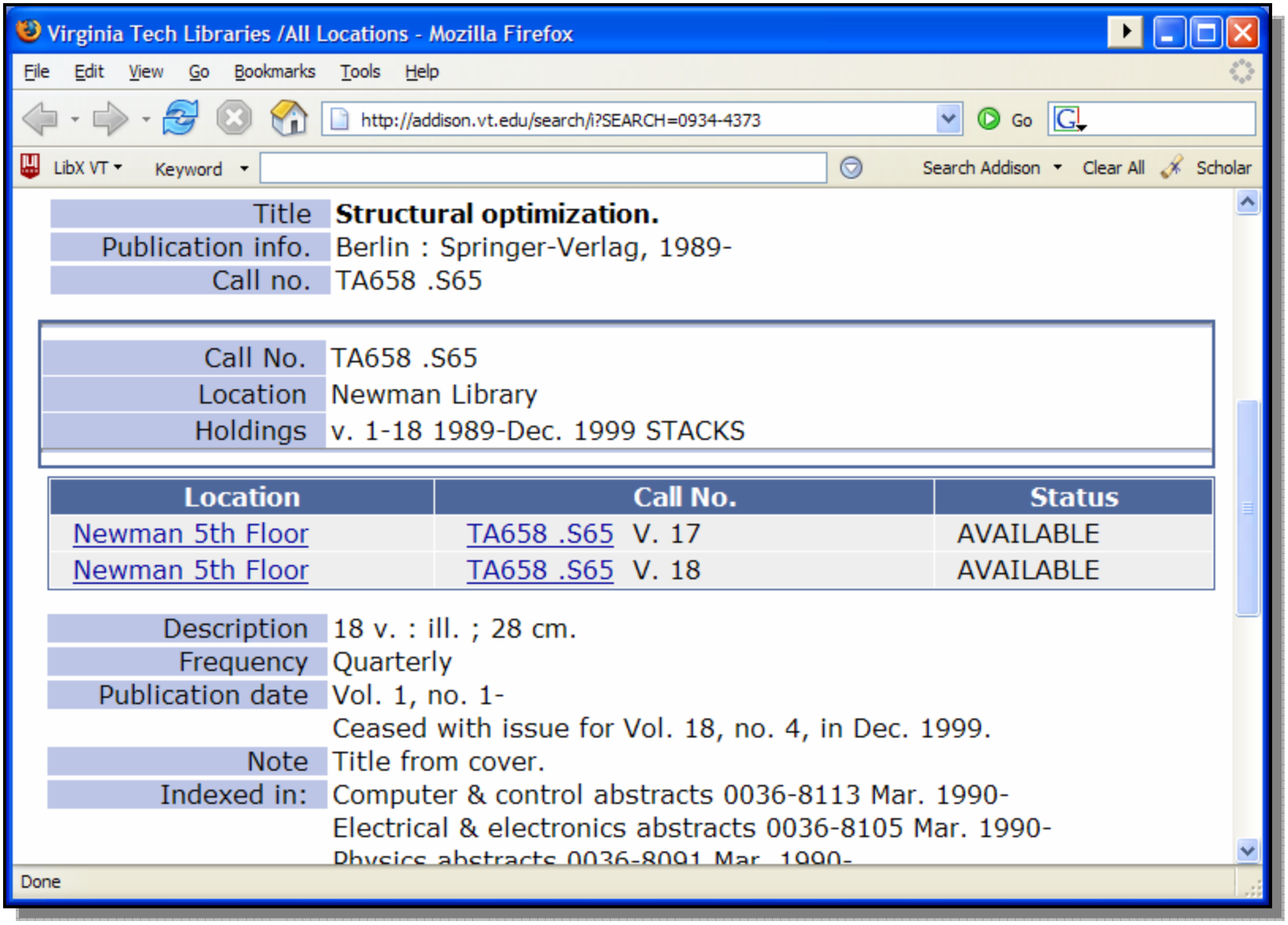
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Call No. TA658 .S65
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AVAILABLE
Description 18 v. : ill. ; 28 cm.
Frequency Quarterly
Publication date Vol. 1, no. 1-
Ceased with issue for Vol. 18, no. 4, in Dec. 1999.
Note Title from cover.
Indexed in: Computer & control abstracts 0036-8113 Mar. 1990-
Electrical & electronics abstracts 0036-8105 Mar. 1990-
Physics abstracts 0036-8091 Mar. 1990-
Done

Localization via LibX

- LibX enriches web pages before they are displayed to the user
- Inserts hyperlinked “cues” that point at local library resources
  - E.g., amazon.com page points at library record of same book
- Implemented for: google.com, yahoo.com, bn.com, NY Times, Books in Print, …
- Includes support for COinS (ocoins.info)

Demonstration 3

Localization using Cues

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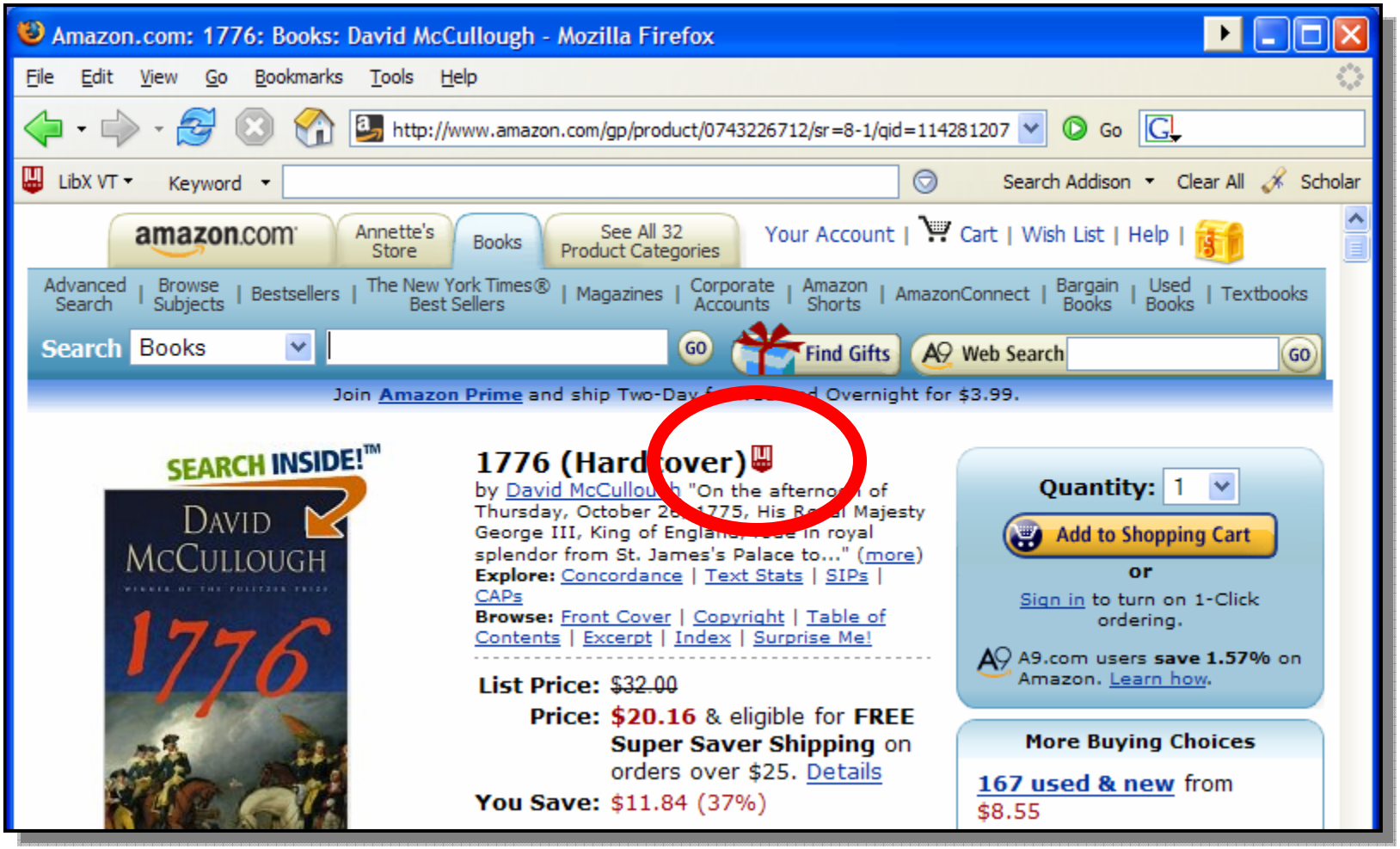
Cues on Amazon



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New York Times Book Review

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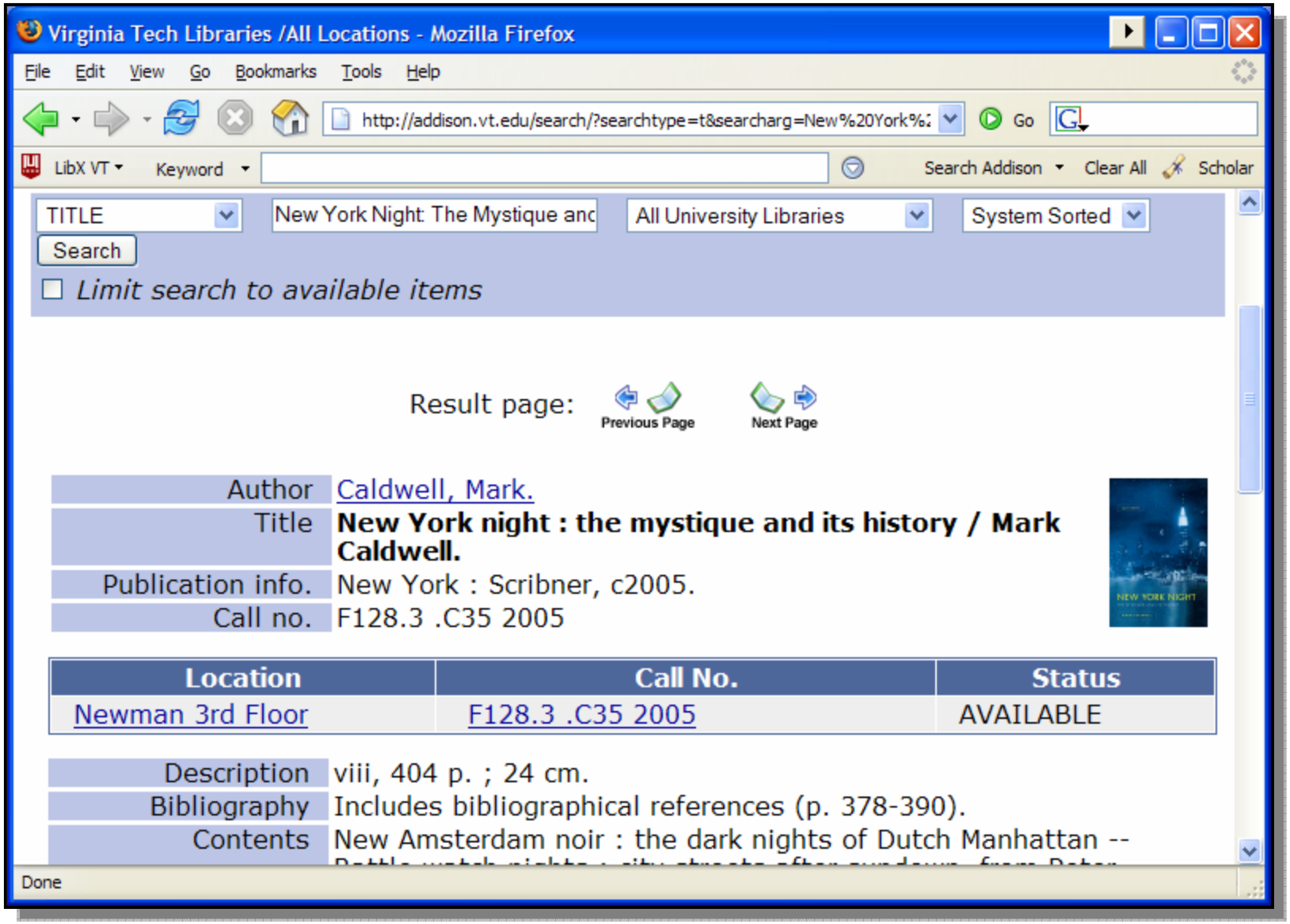

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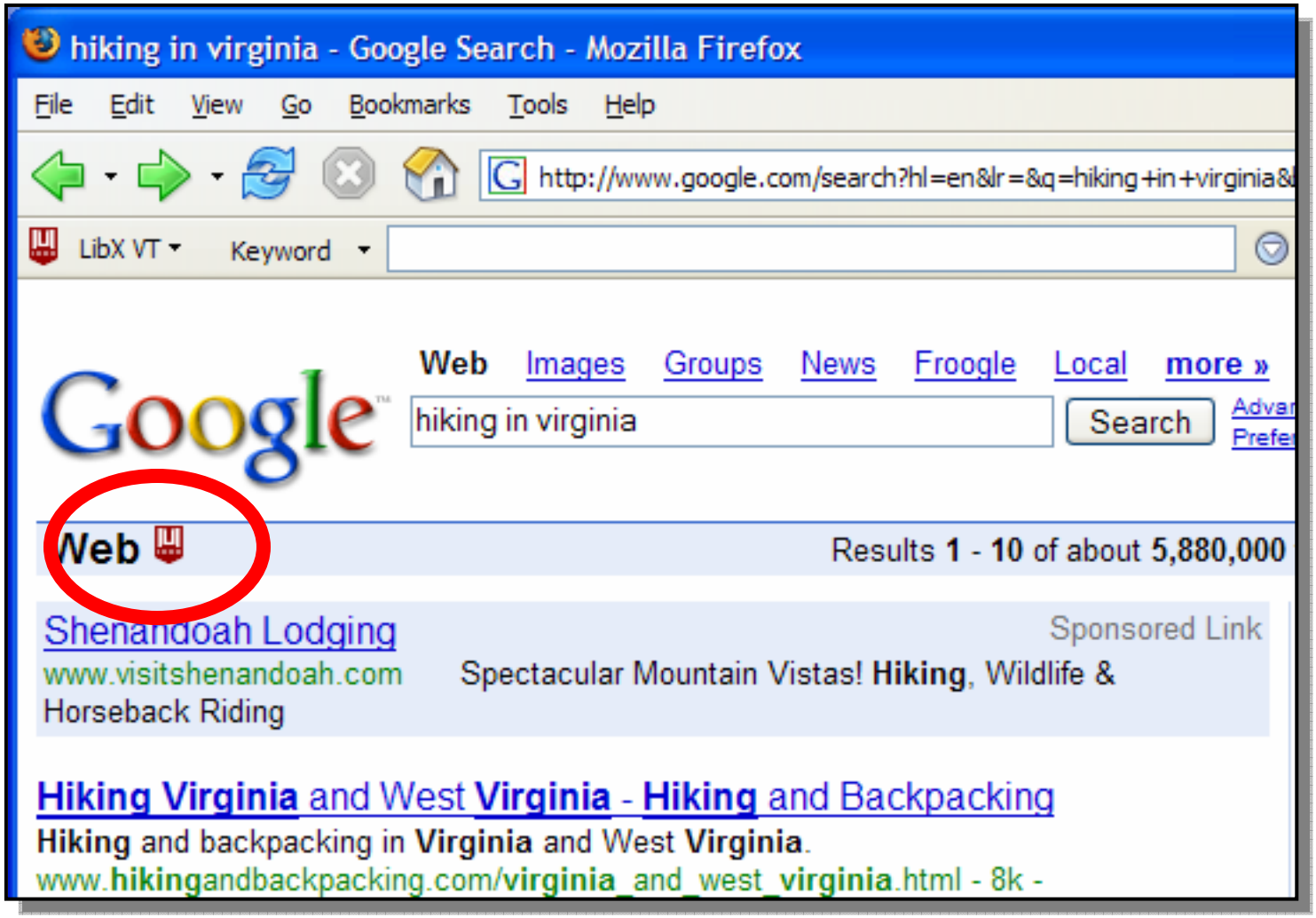
Google



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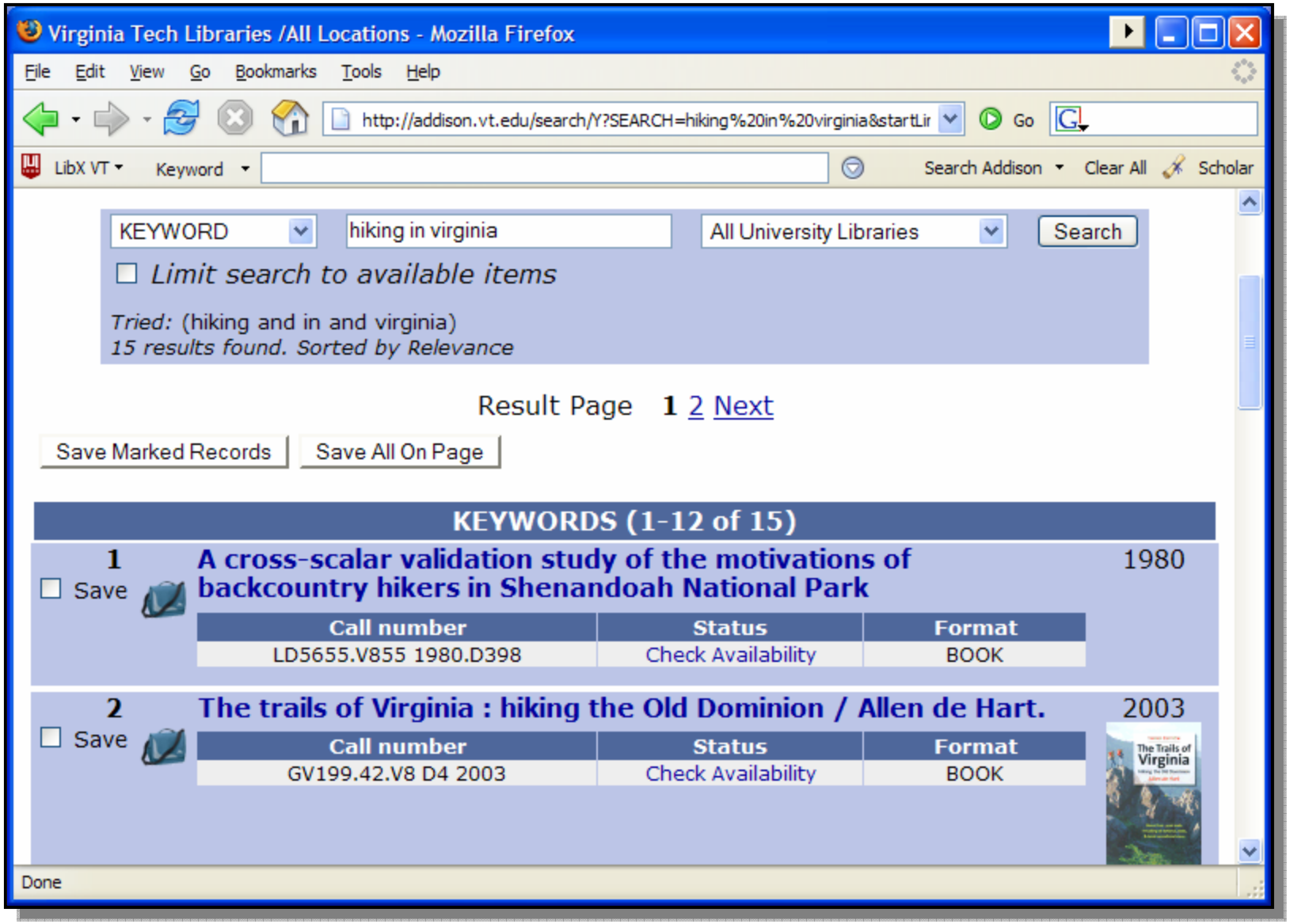

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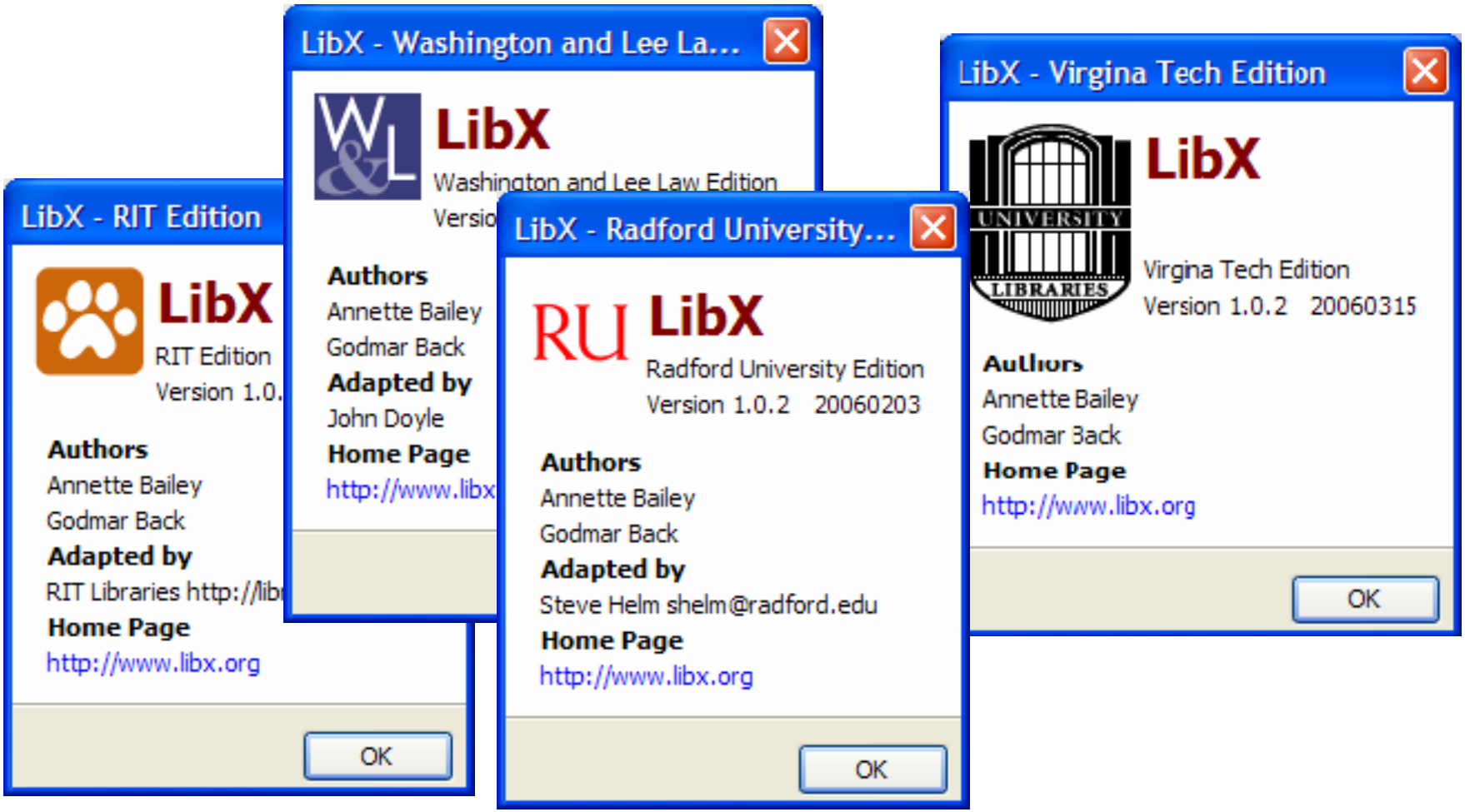
Try LibX!

- LibX is available for your library!
- It's nifty
- It's free
- It's Open Source
- Go to http://libx.org for more information

Currently Deployed Editions



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Future Work

- Edition builder interface
  - Currently building an extension requires creating a config file which must be uploaded and checked
  - Goal: develop a wizard-type web interface where libraries can build a LibX edition interactively
- Create a LibX plug-in for Internet Explorer

Questions?

- Thank you from the LibX Team

Annette Bailey
Godmar Back
Kiri Goldbeck

libx.org@gmail.com

Additional Material

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LibX & Privacy

- Key goal: protecting LibX users' privacy
- Users do not reveal more information than they would if they used the library catalog
  - Exception: Referrer URL
- Tenet: Do not run queries unless user explicitly clicks on a link
  - E.g., no automatic holdings checking if user visits amazon
- Trade-off Privacy/Convenience

LibX & Security

- Firefox extensions are trusted
- Users must trust that extension is not malicious
- LibX does not support user-provided scripts
  - More secure than Greasemonkey
- Source code is available for anybody to inspect
- Future: sign extensions