Multiuser Bibliography

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The following use cases describe typical bibliographic tasks for a researcher: adding to the bibliography, searching it, and so on. They're described in a relatively technology-neutral way, to reduce assumptions about what the planned application (the Multiuser Bibliography) might do, and focus instead on what users want to do, how they might expect to do it, and what impediments they might face.

My reviewers (Kristen and Joy) asked how the system accommodates new users and visitors. I don't think that can adequately be described with a use case (“new user attempts to use system”? “user tries application for first time”?), but it should be addressed, if only briefly. First, note that some of the actions described in these use cases (such as searching) do not require a signed-on user (as can be seen in the preconditions), so visitors can perform those use cases. Second, while these use cases don't address user error in any great detail, they do note that when users perform invalid actions (eg submitting an empty form), the system will provide an error message and explanation and give the user the opportunity to correct the problem; that encourages learning by experimentation.

USE CASE 1	adding an entry to the bibliography	
Goal in Context	User wishes to add an entry describing a resource to the bibliography	
Scope & Level		
Preconditions	User is known to the system	
Success End Condition	New entry is added with the data the user intended to supply	
Failed End Condition	No new entry is created	
Primary, Secondary Actors	User Bibliographic information contained in resource	
Trigger	User identifies new resource to add to bibliography	
DESCRIPTION	**Step**	**Action**
	1	User instructs application to enter “add” mode
	2	Application displays form for entering bibliographic data
	3	User locates a relevant datum in the resource (author's name, title, etc)
	4	User enters datum in appropriate field in the form
	5	User repeats steps 3-4 until no more relevant data are available (or user decides not to enter any more)
	6	User submits form
	7	Application processes addition request
	8	Application confirms addition to user
EXTENSIONS	**Step**	**Branching Action**
	1a	User is not signed on : 1a1. User is directed to sign on
	6a	User did not enter data in any of the key fields : 6a1. Application displays error message and explanation 6a2. Application returns user to entry form, with existing data retained 6a3. User returns to step 4
	7a	Addition fails due to system failure : 7a1. Application displays error message and explanation 7a2. Application returns user to entry form, with existing data retained 7a3. Application lets user modify data and/or retry addition
SUB-VARIATIONS		**Branching Action**
	6b	User tries to navigate away from form without submitting. If any data has been added, application should warn user that data will be discarded, and give user an opportunity to avoid navigating away.

USE CASE 2	searching the bibliography by keyword (quick search)	
Goal in Context	User wants to search for entries matching a single word. (More complex searches are described in Use Case 3.)	
Scope & Level		
Preconditions	User has a keyword to search for (a name, possible title word, etc)	
Success End Condition	User gets a reasonable number of results, including the desired entry or entries	
Failed End Condition	No entries match; too many entries match (so finding the desired one is infeasible)	
Primary, Secondary Actors	User Bibliography	
Trigger	User wants to quickly and easily find an entry	
DESCRIPTION	**Step**	**Action**
	1	User enters keyword in quick-search field and hits Enter
	2	Application searches for entries containing the keyword in author, title, other relevant fields
	3	Application displays list of matching entries
EXTENSIONS	**Step**	**Branching Action**
	3a	No matching entries found : 3a1. Application displays “no results” page
	3b	Search fails due to system failure : 3b1. Application displays error message and explanation
SUB-VARIATIONS		**Branching Action**

USE CASE 3	searching the bibliography by field (full search)	
Goal in Context	User wants to search for entries matching data in a specified field (title, author, etc)	
Scope & Level		
Preconditions	User has a query in mind for a particular (sub-)string in a particular field	
Success End Condition	User gets matching entry or entries	
Failed End Condition	No entries match; too many entries match (so finding the desired one is infeasible)	
Primary, Secondary Actors	User Bibliography	
Trigger	User wants to find an entry based on a query against a particular field, such as title or author	
DESCRIPTION	**Step**	**Action**
	1	User instructs application to enter “search” mode
	2	Application displays form for entering bibliographic data
	3	User enters data for one field in the form
	4	User submits form
	5	Application searches for entries containing the user's data as a substring in the field corresponding to the one in the form where the user entered the search phrase
	6	Application displays list of matching entries
EXTENSIONS	**Step**	**Branching Action**
	3a	User enters data in two or more fields : 3a1. Application indicates that currently only single-field searches are supported. 3a2. User removes data from fields until only one has data.
	4a	User submits form with data in two or more fields (this may not be caught in step 3, depending on technological limitations) : 4a1. Application indicates that currently only single-field searches are supported. (More complex searches may be supported in future releases.) 4a2. User removes data from fields until only one has data, and re-submits form.
	4b	User submits empty form : 4a1. Application indicates that data must be entered in one field. 4a2. User returns to step 3.
	6a	No matching entries found : 6a1. Application displays “no results” page
	6b	Search fails due to system failure : 6b1. Application displays error message and explanation
SUB-VARIATIONS		**Branching Action**

USE CASE 4	commenting on an entry in the bibliography	
Goal in Context	User wishes to add a comment to an entry in the bibliography	
Scope & Level		
Preconditions	User is known to the system	
Success End Condition	Existing entry is updated with the user's comment	
Failed End Condition	User's comment is not added to the entry	
Primary, Secondary Actors	User Bibliography	
Trigger	User has a comment (annotation, etc) for an entry in the bibliography	
DESCRIPTION	**Step**	**Action**
	1	User identifies entry to comment on while browsing
	2	User tells application to add comment
	3	Application displays new-comment box
	4	User enters comment text in box
	5	User submits comment
	7	Application processes request to add comment to entry
	8	Application confirms addition to user
EXTENSIONS	**Step**	**Branching Action**
	2a	User is not signed on : 1a1. User is directed to sign on
	5a	User did not enter anything in comment box : 6a1. Application displays error message and explanation 6a2. Application returns user to entry view with comment box 6a3. User returns to step 4 (or abandons action)
	7a	Addition fails due to system failure : 7a1. Application displays error message and explanation 7a2. Application returns user to entry view with comment box, with existing data retained 7a3. Application lets user modify comment and/or retry addition
SUB-VARIATIONS		**Branching Action**
	1a	User may also find the entry by searching (use cases 2 and 3).
	7b	User tries to navigate away from form without submitting. If any data has been entered in the comment box, application should warn user that data will be discarded, and give user an opportunity to avoid navigating away.