

Bloomsbury Collections Search/Retrieve via URL service

Introduction

Bloomsbury Collections provides a Search/Retrieve via URL (SRU) service that provides a means to automate basic queries, using a standard syntax to represent queries, and a standard protocol for returning results. For more information on SRU standards, see www.loc.gov/standards/sru/.

Results are returned in XML using the Dublin Core (DC) schema (see www.dublincore.org). This makes the service appropriate for federated searching and similar automated query tasks.

SRU conformance

The service implements SRU version 1.1 (see www.loc.gov/standards/sru/specs/ for full specifications).

The service implements the two required SRU operations: searchRetrieve and explain. It does not implement the scan operation.

The SRU provides a single result schema: DC (Dublin Core).

The following SRU parameters are not supported:

- recordPacking = string (only XML is supported)
- persistent result sets (as requested by resultSetId, resultSetTTL)

Transport

The SRU service is only accessible via HTTP transport. The service URLs are:

<http://www.bloomsburycollections.com/sru/explain>

This is the service URL for retrieving the service Explain record for the SRU. For more details about SRU Explain records please see the following link: www.loc.gov/standards/sru/misc/simple.html.

<http://www.bloomsburycollections.com/sru/search>

This is the service URL that should be used to perform search queries.

Search query syntax and examples

The SRU service does not utilize SOAP but instead uses HTTP GET Request parameters to communicate search queries to the service and XML within the HTTP Response body to send back search results from the service.

A simple query takes the following form (where 'test' is the query string):

<http://www.bloomsburycollections.com/sru/search?operation=searchRetrieve&query=test&maximumRecords=100&startRecord=1>

The set HTTP Request parameters that should be sent to perform a search query are as follows:

operation

This is mandatory. The value must be 'searchRetrieve'

query

This is mandatory.

The function of the SRU service is similar to that of a basic search query. The main parameter is the 'query' parameter whose value can be a word or phrase. Any matches for the query string are returned as result records.

As with all HTTP parameters, the value of this parameter must be fully URL encoded.

As in normal Quick Search, query handling is insensitive to case, diacritics, spaces, and hyphens.

Wildcards may be used, as in normal Quick Search queries. Wildcards are represented by the '*' character within the query parameter values:

http://www.bloomsburycollections.com/sru/search?operation=searchRetrieve&query=*ize&maximumRecords=100&startRecord=1

Multi-word query strings should be double quoted:

<http://www.bloomsburycollections.com/sru/search?operation=searchRetrieve&query=%22global%22+%22world+education%22&maximumRecords=100&startRecord=1>

Single-word query strings may be quoted, but it is not necessary to do so.

maximumRecords and **startRecord** parameters:

maximumRecords

This parameter sets an upper limit to the number of records returned.

startRecord

This parameter specifies the number of the first record that will be returned from the full list of records. This parameter is optional. This provides a means to 'paginate' through large numbers of result records. For example, if there are 15

results in total, then the following maximumRecords and startRecord values will return the results from 5 to 9:

startRecord=5&maximumRecords=5 .

If the startRecord value is higher than the total number of records, then no results will be returned.

Records

The records returned by an SRU query correspond to the set of results returned by a basic search query. Each record is contained in a <record> element. The key sub elements of each <record> element are:

<dc:title>: the entry headword (and lemma, where relevant)

<dc:creator>: the author or contributors of the record

<dc:identifier>: the full entry URL of the record

<dc:subject>: the classifications of the record.

The SRU service may return parts within books (chapters and other sections) as well as the books themselves, dependent upon the relevance of the books and chapters available.

If there are no results, the XML returned will contain the element <numberOfRecords>0</numberOfRecords>, with an empty records element. No alternative suggestions or nearest matches are returned.