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Transitioning to the New *NoveList* Interface

We want to devote this *NoveList* Note to providing you with some suggestions for transitioning to our new interface and its search capabilities. It has been almost six years since the *NoveList* interface has changed and we know that transitions like these can be challenging for everyone. We hope that you will find the strategies listed below helpful as you continue to discover the flexibility and power of the new *NoveList*.

Why the change?

We know many of you are wondering why we made the changes we made. In short, we needed to take advantage of technology that would allow us to bring fixes and enhancements to you much faster than we ever could before, as well as allow our users to take advantage of enhancements created for other EBSCO applications. To do so, we had to completely rewrite the *NoveList* application. In addition, we had to make many changes to the configuration settings at the site level (your "profile"), application and database level.

The new interface has additional power, features and information. For example, for the first time, through one search, you can access all of the rich content that *NoveList* has to offer on an author, title or topic.

Top 8 Ways to Transition to the new *NoveList* World --

1. Tour *NoveList*

Select this link from the "My *NoveList*" section to access the Training Help page with training and support materials that will help smooth the way to maximum use of this version of *NoveList*. In addition to a five-minute animated presentation that provides an overview and basic navigation tips of this version's home page and search results ("Tour *NoveList*"), there is a Quick Start Guide and Help Sheets on Series, Printing and Searching. Based on the feedbacks we received, we are also developing a training PowerPoint that you can use with your colleagues. Also, check out our New Release Notes FAQ linked from the Spotlight section of the homepage which addresses some of our most asked questions that have come up with the release of the new interface.



2. Where Is My Favorite Search?

All searches--Author, Title, Describe a Plot, Series Name, Boolean and Article and List Search--can be done from the main search box on the homepage. You can just type the author name, title and/or subject term(s) in the Find box, and click the Search button. For power users, you can perform Boolean searches (AU Crichton AND TI Airframe) without clicking to the Advanced Search (or the Freehand Boolean Search found in the previous version).

As a side note, we found that our searching needed to be tightened up a bit after launch (thanks to many of you who sent us searching examples to look at). These changes are in effect and we encourage you to continue to send us examples when search results are not what you expected.

3. Searching Across All Content

Searching from a single search bar is a little different. When you enter an author or a title, it now searches not only the designated fields in the MARC record that make up our title database, but it also searches across all of our enhanced content (such as Series, Author Read-alikes, Book Discussion Guides, Grab & Go Book Lists.) Searching on "baseball" finds books related to baseball, as well as relevant items among the feature content, all of which is displayed in a tabbed Result List. The default tab brings you to the list of books retrieved by your search, but there will be additional tabs when your search finds relevant feature content.

The *NoveList* Tour contains a section on Results Lists and this new tabbed results feature.

4. Searching Styles and Approaches

The single search bar allows a tremendous amount of flexibility and accommodates a wide-range of searching styles. Whether you are a type-and-go searcher (like many of our Describe a Plot fans) or someone who appreciates the power of Boolean, all of these options are available to you from *NoveList's* home page. To learn more about searching in the current version of *NoveList*, you can consult the Help files or the Searching Tips Help Sheet contained in the Training page of Help.

5. Search Broadly and then Narrow Down Your Search

This concept was a mainstay of the previous version's Describe a Plot feature. When you are searching in the Basic Search box, your search terms will automatically be "ANDed." So for example, if you were searching by subject (or "Describe a Plotting"), for "women detectives New York" all of these terms would be joined with a Boolean AND. If you retrieve too few results, you can either reduce the number of terms you are searching on or re-enter your search terms separated with the Boolean OR operator ("women or detectives or New York"). If you retrieve too many results you can also narrow down your search using the Narrow Results By Subject feature to the left of your Result List. When you select a link from this column, the terms you selected will be added to your search and will work to reduce your results.

6. Browsing for Information

Many of you commented that in the previous version, you had difficulty remembering which home page tab the Book Discussion Guides or Author Read-alikes were behind. Now all of the customized feature content is accessible from the homepage organized by reading level:

Adults: 19 and above

Teens: 13-18

Older Kids: 9-12

Younger Kids: 0-8

All of the Explore reading lists have been updated and enhanced and are now called Recommended Reads. They are still organized by genre or topic as well as sub-genre or sub-topic.

In addition to the materials organized by reading level, we also have materials organized for adults who are **Working with Kids**. This section has content that teachers, media specialists, children's librarians and parents would like to access, grouped in a single area.

Finally, we have an updated **Readers' Advisory** section at the homepage. If you haven't checked out the Genre Outlines yet, you are in for a treat. We will continue to enhance this and all of our feature content as we have in the past.

7. Browsing vs. Searching

In the old version, you did not have a choice. You searched the title database for books but had to browse various pages for any of the additional rich content such as Author Read-alikes or BookTalks.

If you are looking for an idea or don't really know the name of the item you are looking for, browsing may still be the right tool for you. However, if you are looking for a specific feature such as the BookTalk for *Stormbreaker*, you can just enter *Stormbreaker* in the search bar. Entering the title returns a tabbed Result List with all of the books and content related to your search. You can find the BookTalk you are looking for by clicking on the BookTalks tab, as well as explore all of the other content *NoveList* has relating to this title.

8. Fine-tuning Your Searches

NoveList's Advanced Search capability gives you even more flexibility and power when it comes to finding both books and *NoveList's* renowned lists and features. In addition to the limiters that were available in the old version, such as Lexiles, page numbers and publication dates, *NoveList* now offers limiters on author nationality and gender, as well as limiters to search titles with reviews and "NoveList Best" (all titles that are mentioned or featured in any of our features). Visit the Advanced Search Help page to learn more about how to use these limiters to find even more of the material you and your readers want to read.

Summary:

We know that the new version of *NoveList* not only has a different look, but sometimes requires you to re-think how to use our product. We apologize for any inconvenience or extra time it has taken you to navigate this new version. We are committed to supporting you in this transition and while *NoveList* has a new look, we remain committed to supporting you in your work with readers and to delivering the best possible product to help you in that important work.