

2020-11-18 Custom Search Tools Sync

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:02 AM

Recording accessible here:

https://dsva.slack.com/files/U01135ZLSDU/F01F1BZ816X/zoom_0.mp4

Host

John Hashimoto

Attendees

John

Denise

Zach

Sam

Brian

Nick

Kelson

Megan

Marci

Meeting Notes

- Several different search tools on VA.gov:
 - Resources & Support
 - Find a Form
 - Yellow Ribbon Program Schools
 - GI Bill Comparison Tool
- It's not search.gov, but will that play a part at some point down the line?
 - If it is, there are a LOT of trade-offs. Very "basic" search - we can't search tags, search custom fields, etc.
- **Yellow Ribbon**
 - High-level of how Yellow Ribbon works
 - ★ ■ We have the schema per John
 - Yellow Ribbon doesn't use Lighthouse API
 - School data - GI Bill Comparison Tool - basically an extension of that
 - Using the same data source as the GI Bill - va.gov/gids - we don't have credentials. Platform may have staging credentials
https://dsva.slack.com/archives/C011K1VSTC3/p1605712378021100?thread_ts=1605712368.021000&cid=C011K1VSTC3
 - People upload CSV docs that are manipulated into a database
 - There's a whole separate repo for GIDS; Kelson worked with it
 - Kelson build a different method to get only schools enrolled in Yellow Ribbon
 - Generally owned by a different set of contractors
 - ★ □ Booz Allen team - we may need to connect with them; let John know if I need help connecting
 - Yellow Ribbon won't be integrated into the GI Bill anytime soon. The question of whether the separate search will still be needed.
 - Jen gave us some info about getting additional metadata ("approved" school abbreviations)
 - ★ □ Maintaining a years' worth of data
 - ◆ Follow up with Jen
 - ◇ What month does the update occur?

- ◇ Who does those updates?
- ◇ How do we preserve the previous year's data?
 - ▶ Nick thinks they just clone a page in Drupal
- ◇ Who are the stakeholders
- ★ □ Kelson did a diagram that is in the Yellow Ribbon deck - look at that for reference.
 - This was a long-standing project; trying to understand their process, bottlenecks, etc. were the real pain points for Nick and Kelson.
 - Building the API into the GI Bill system was a no-brainer
- ★ □ Booz Allen was their go-to resource; they are in that repo every day
- ★ □ Exploring the repo will be the first step when we are ready to start on this.
 - Comparison tool - team determined there wasn't enough value to do this per Jen. Something may have been built out for it ages ago. There were some comps done per John

• Find a VA Form

- Question - Zach
 - What is the engineering process for looping in Jennifer Strickland and the crew?
 - Jen Strickland - you can maybe ask her to code review your work; there isn't an easy way for her to see it before you merge it.
 - If it's high-risk, you can do a feature flag and let her look at it in staging.
 - Once it's merged and live, the engineer runs the Axe checks locally at every state change
 - Once it's merged, ping Jen Strickland on your ticket and ask her to validate the ticket and confirm that it was done right
 - If there's still something wrong, she'll let you know. Otherwise she will close it.
 - Per John, they do a design review with design comps for Jen to review. They will weigh in on things that need to be considered
 - Engineering generally doesn't question the design
- Search experience
 - We always knew there would need to be iterations on the search results
 - What are some of the tweaks Nick things would be ideal to improve the relevancy? And how much flexibility is there to improve?
 - This is Jen Lee's forte since she had the vision for how it would improve over time
 - Speculation recently to use Search.gov - there could be some kind of integration. Drawback would be that we wouldn't have the fancy links like downloadable
 - Weighted search results have also been in the backlog for a while, but the method of weighting is not currently stored anyway. In theory there should be a field in Drupal to indicate that certain popular forms should appear first. That also creates a dependency on CMS
 - There are a substantial number of additional fields that comes back in the JSON response that are not currently being used. This will would be a big win that would be relatively easy to implement
 - Example - if you do a search for "change", it also brings up the word
 - ★ □ We need to know exactly the conditions are for the current search - where does that logic currently reside?
 - There is a search channel
 - Lighthouse API is intended for one more than one consumer - mobile applications and other applications. Each has its own token
 - Marci would need to coordinate with Lighthouse API if we need to make any changes - Nick posted in a slack channel -

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