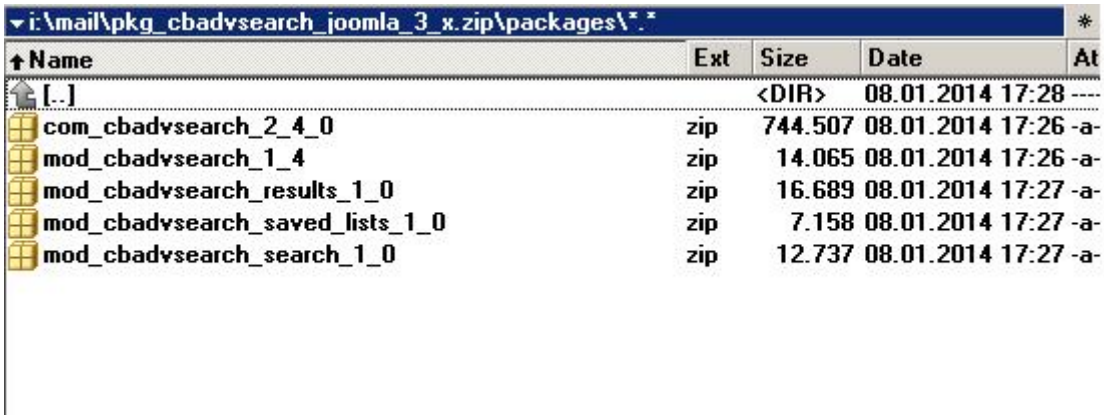
CB Advanced Search

(Joomla Component – Help File)

Overview

CB Advanced Search is a Joomla component and some Joomla modules that enables you to search any field in CB (Community Builder) and CB lists. Using this component and the modules you can show a CB Search form in the frontend and control the available fields or the CB lists (you can use either the fields either the lists) for search and the sequence of these fields in the search results. There can be configured an unlimited number of different searches (with there own fields and description) in the backend, but in the frontend the component is preset to the first search. You can access the other defined searches using the modules (they can be set to the search you want).



One of the module (mod_cbadvsearch) contains the form and the search results in the same place, other modules contain only the search form (mod_cbadvsearch_search) and only the search results (mod_cbadvsearch_results) in order to place them on different parts of the sites. You can point the search form (for the module cbadvsearch) in order to access the page with the results (mod_cbadvsearch_results). The last module (mod_cbadvsearch_saved_lists) allows the CB user to manage his / her saved forms (fields and values), saved search results and ignored search results – you can do this starting version 2.4 for the component.

When you search by fields this component automatically decides the field type to be shown in the frontend, for example if you have created a dropdown field in CB and if you choose to use that as a search parameter in the frontend then the component will automatically show a dropdown to users in the search page.

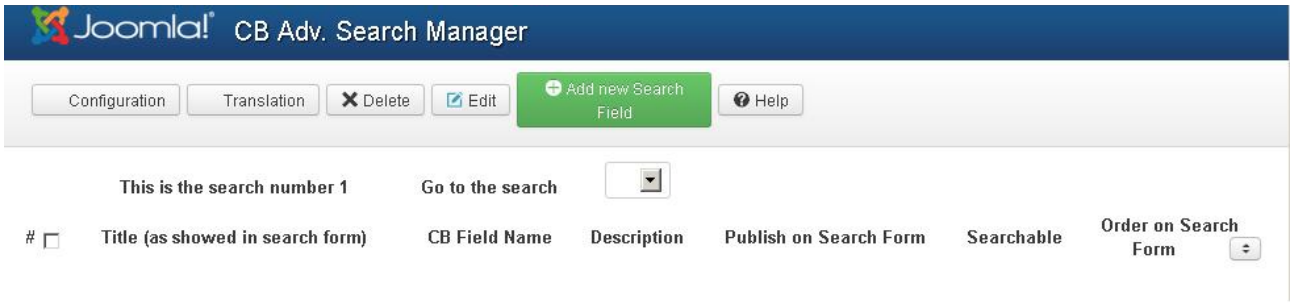
When you search by CB lists you use the field defined in the list (both for search and listing). You just have to select the CB list you want to use.

Installing this component is very easy, just download the zip file containing a package (a copy of the component and all the modules) from our website and install it using the 'Install/Uninstall' link in the 'Extensions' menu.

Once installed, the component can be accessed within the Joomla administration from the "Components" menu on the top. The modules can be configured in the module list. We advice to set the module mod_cbadvsearch_saved_lists to 'Registered' in order to be accessed only after the CB user is logged in – it does nothing otherwise.

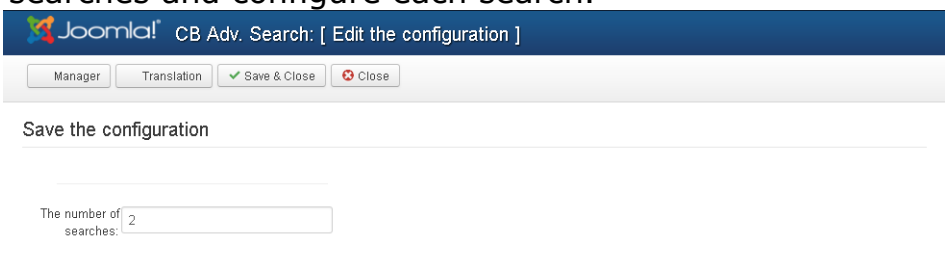
CB Adv. Search – Backend User Interface for the component

Once you click on the "CB Adv. Search" in Joomla administrator, Component menu, you will screen will show the backend interface of the component. In the following example I've chosen the package for Joomla 3.x. The interface of Joomla 2.5.x is different, but the steps are the same.

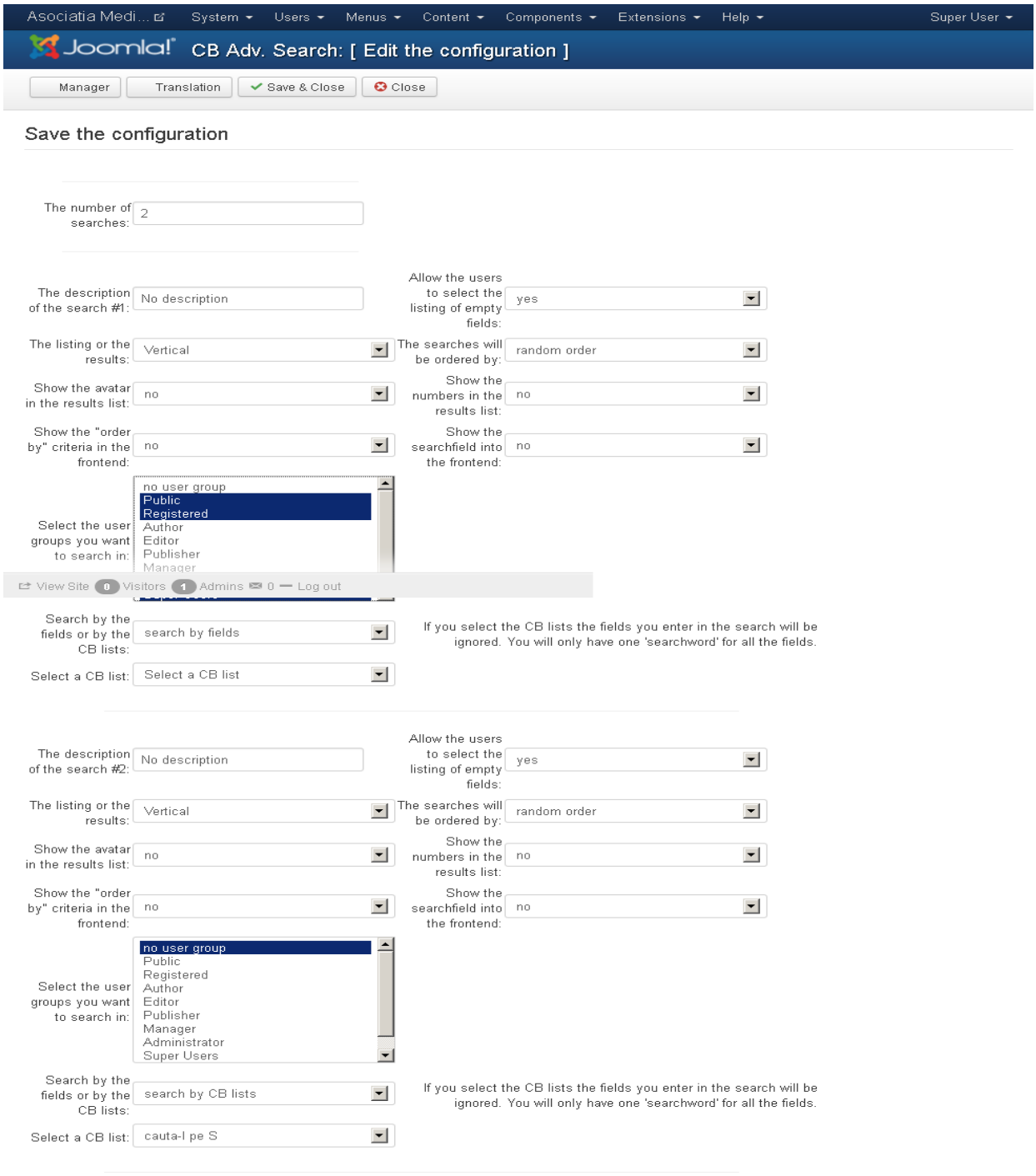


Configuration

Before adding the fields you have to go to Configuration in order to define the number of searches and configure each search.



For example I've chosen 2 searches. Press “save and close” then return to Configuration in order to configure the searches.



Using the form you can add a description to each search, you can set the listing of the search results as horizontal or vertical, you can set the order (by a particular field or random), you can let the users to change that ordering

(show the "order by" criteria). The "listing of empty fields" option is noticeable when the results are listed vertically: in some cases will appear empty fields, not filled in by the users – so, it will appear empty spaces. You can include (or not) in the list.

When you set the avatar to be shown the image will appear in the results list. Same thing will happen with the number of each row in the list.

You can select a specific users group or more groups to search for users. If there is no group selected the option will be ignored.

The last 2 options are about the CB lists. Since component version 2.4 you can search by CB lists, you have to make a choice: you can select by CB fields (and from the moment you save the configuration you can start adding the fields) or you can search by CB lists. In the case you add some fields to a search and, later, you decide to use that specific search for searching through a CB list, the added fields will be ignored. You don't have to erase them, you can let them there and use them later. You also have to select a predefined CB list from the drop down "select a CB list". In the case you don't do that you won't be able to search – it will trigger an error.

Adding and editing search fields

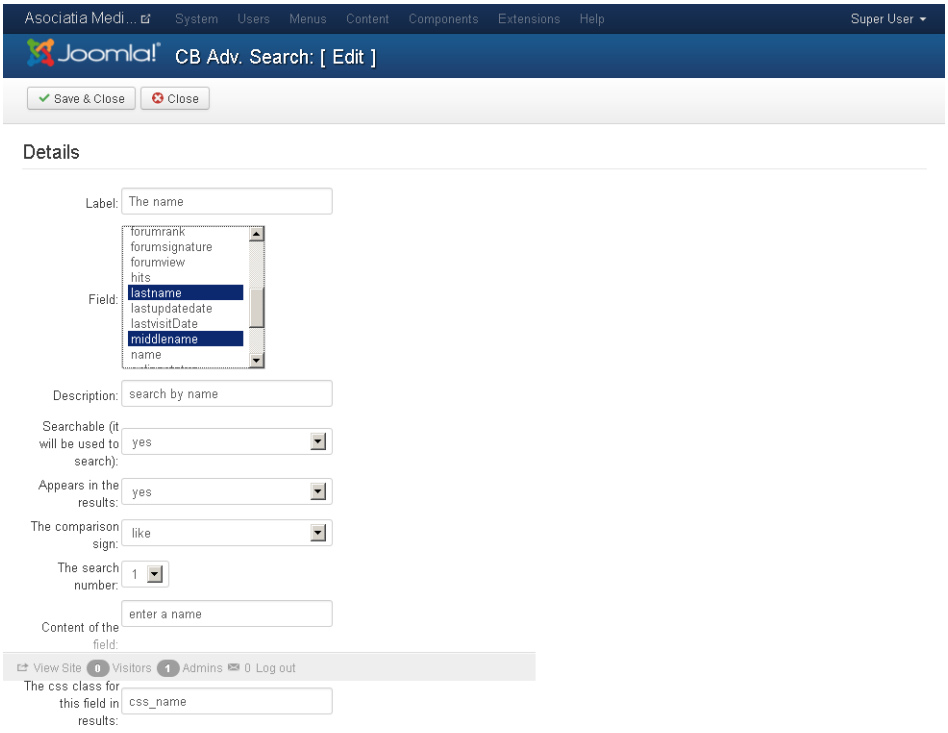
After saving the configuration you can start adding fields. Remember that if you have the searches defined to search by CB lists these fields will be ignored.

The form used for adding/editing fields is the same (as the image below).

- **Label** – this shows the label / title of the search fields as defined by you,
- **Field** – this column shows the actual names of the CB fields as defined in the Community Builder field management form, you can select several fields (**more than one!**) in order to search the same value for these fields. Example: *firstname like john or lastname like john or middlename like john.*
- **Description** – The description of the field (maximum length is 250 chars).
- **Searchable (it will used in the search)** – you can define fields that appear only in the search form and fields that appear only in the results list. For example, you can search by first name, middle name and last name (that will appear in the search form) and you want to list only the last name.
- **Appear in search results** – this columns indicates whether a particular field will be visible in the result list on the frontend (the public place) or not.
- **The comparison sign** – this sets the comparison sign between the field and its value. For example: weight < 100 kg (less than), height >= 150

cm (greater than), age = 18 years, name like John (this will list all the name that include John – for example Johnson).

- **The search number** – I think that's clear: you can define a large number of searches and any fields you want for every search.
- **Content of the field** – it's like the description of the field, but it's inside the field. This works only on textfields.
- **The css class for the field results** – helps you to set a better view for the users. For example, if you want to make a column or a row in different colors (background and letters) or different font size and weight in the result list this give you that option.

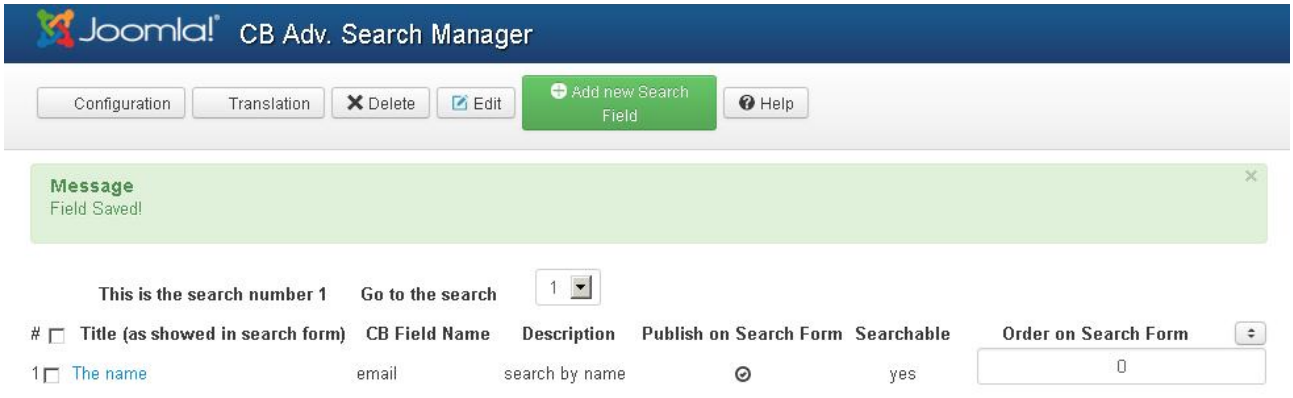


The description of the other buttons of CB Adv. Search backend

After saving the first field you will return to the defined fields list (as the image below). In this section of the component backend you can add new fields, edit and delete existing ones, and access this help.

a. **Delete** – delete one or more selected search field
b. **Edit** – Edit search field options like name, email, etc. This can be done by clicking on the title elements in the table
c. **Add New Search Field** – adds a new search field from CB
d. **Help** – This help

The search select will list the other searches you have defined (the default one is number 1).

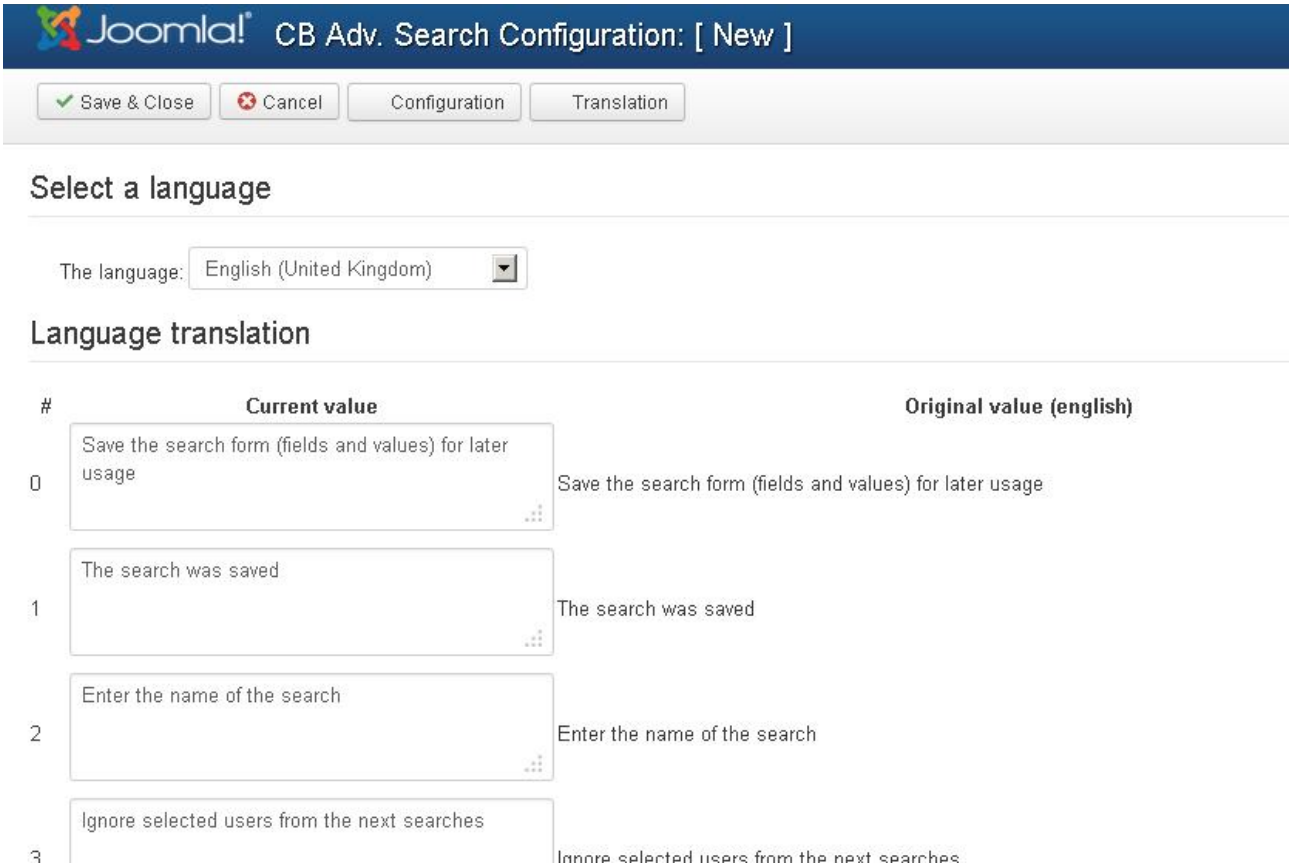


Translation section

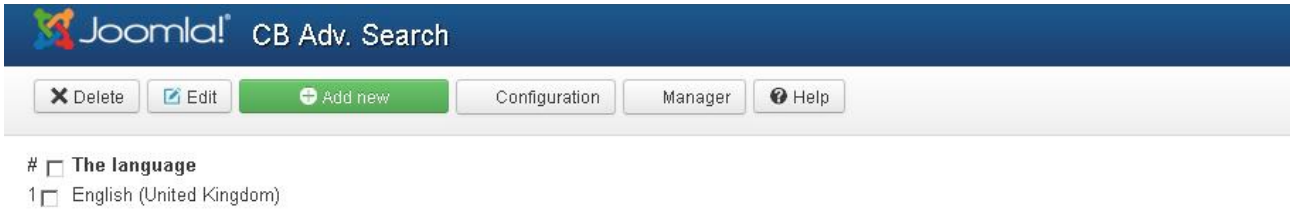
The purpose of translation section is to manage the texts of the component and the modules. A lot of people uses other languages than English as the default languages or have more than one languages on sites. Using this section will allow you to define the texts for every language on site.

In the beginning the component and module use the predefined text (hard-coded).The **list of the languages** in the translation is predefined.

Using the **translation form** you can select a language from the list and modify



the predefined values accordingly to what you want. If you don't have installed the multi-language components for joomla the default languages is English.



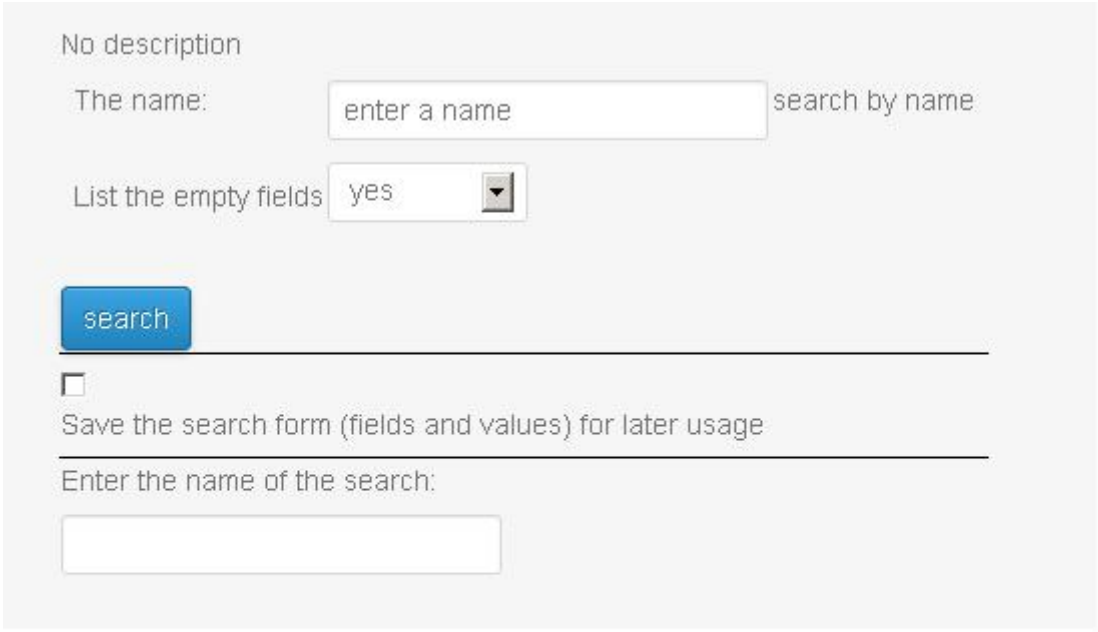
Finally, after adding the English language, it appears in the translation list. When you add the other languages on your site they will appear also there.

The result: search form in the frontend

The result looks like the following image. Filling in the name of the form and checking the checking the checkbox "Save the search form (fields and values) for later usage" allows you to save the form (fields and values).

The ckeckboxes that appear in the search results can be used to save the results list as a different list (using the "Enter the name of the search" textfield to give it a name) or to ignore a part of the results and to select only the ones that are interesting.

The module mod_cbadvsearch_saved_lists allows the CB user to manage his / her saved forms (fields and values), saved search results and ignored search results. Publish it as "Registered" in order to give Community Builder users full option to manage their CB advanced search.


No description
The name:
enter a name
search by name
List the empty fields
yes
search
Save the search form (fields and values) for later usage
Enter the name of the search: