

Homework Set 5

COSC552 HCI

Byron Heads
E00062946

December 9, 2010

A

The design of the search interface is based on a mix between free-form and defined searching. The user is able to search for a keyword or phrase in the database, or they can limit the search to a single category. This allows a user to do complex searches without having to learning complicated search syntax and reduces the complexity of the program. This can reducing the programs development time.

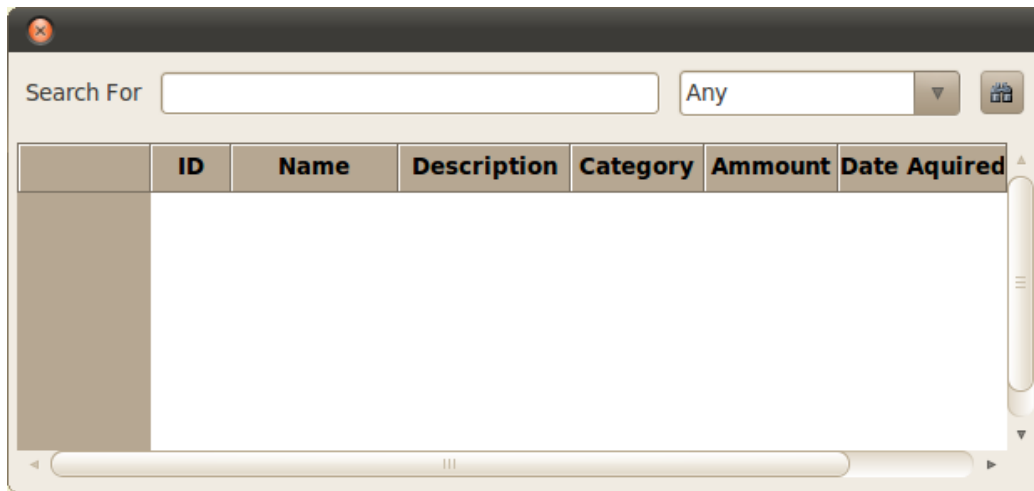


Figure 1: The search window.

The user can enter the keyword they want to search for in the first textbox and then select which category they would like to search. The default category "Any" searches the entire database.

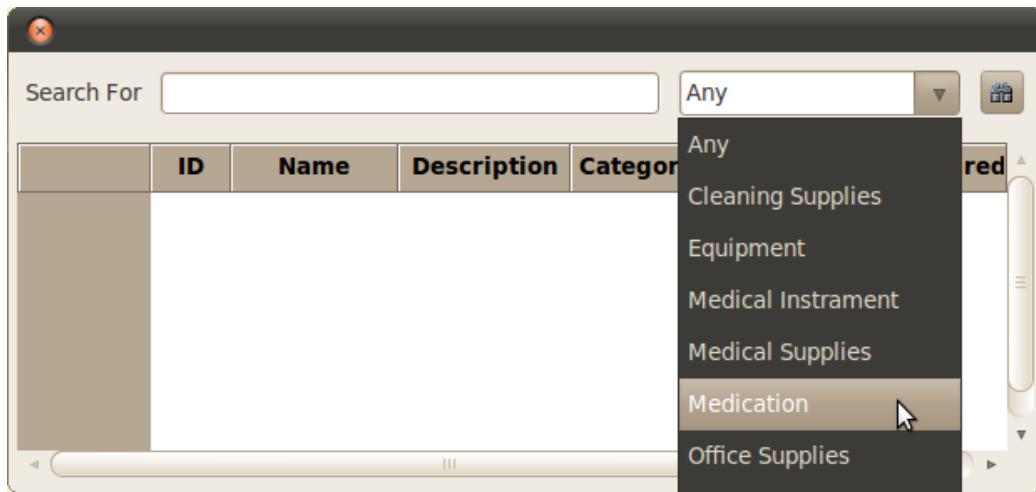


Figure 2: The category menu shows the top categories in the database. The number of categories shown is set in the configuration menu. The top categories are determined by the number of items in a category and how often that category is searched. The user can type in any category they want to search.

To run a search, the user enters the term or phrase to search, then selects the search category, and then presses the search button. To speed up entry input, the user can hit the tab key to switch to the next control. Pressing enter will run the search without having to click on the search button. The user can use the up and down keys to cycle through the list of categories or they can type in the category they want to search.

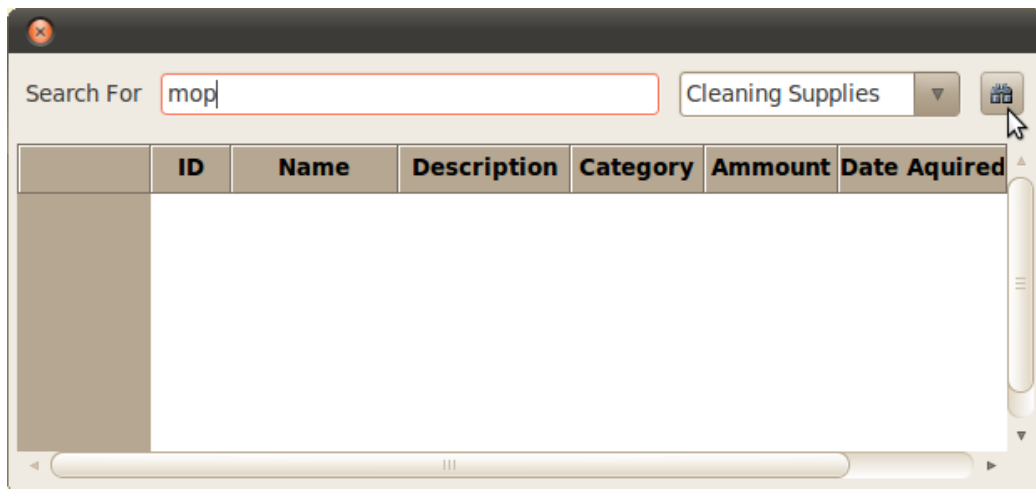


Figure 3: The user inputs a search to determine the number of mops in the office.

Search For: mop Cleaning Supplies

	ID	Name	Description	Category	Amount	Date Aquired
1	124	Mop	Mop used to clean the	Cleaning Supp	2	6/14/2010
2	224	Mop	Mop used to clean the	Cleaning Supp	1	6/14/2008

Figure 4: The search returns two entries for mop.

Search For: mop Cleaning Supplies

Name	Description	Category	Ammount	Date Aquired	Is Faulty
Mop	Mop used to clean the	Cleaning Supp	2	6/14/2010	NO
Mop	Mop used to clean the	Cleaning Supp	1	6/14/2008	Yes - Handle Broke

Figure 5: We see that the clinic has two good mops and one broken one.

The database search is carried out by converting the users search input into a SQL query. By using categories, we can reduce the number of results returned to the user. This makes reading the results easier for the user. The search is done case-insensitive, and the keyword is searched against the item name, item description, item ID, and the faulty description. For example, the search for mop in the sample images could possibly produce the following SQL:

```
SELECT *  
FROM "items"  
WHERE ( "name" LIKE "mop" OR "description" LIKE "mop" OR  
        "id" LIKE "mop" OR "fault" LIKE "mop")  
AND "category" LIKE "office_supplies"
```

B

Please answer the following questions to the best of your abilities.

SA - Strongly Agree

A - Agree

NO - No Opinion

D - Disagree

SD - Strongly Disagree

	SA	A	NO	D	SD
The icons are easy to see and understand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am often confused as how to do things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can find the help menu.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I often use the help menu.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using the program increase my stress.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inputting new items into the system is fast.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I often only have to search once to find an item.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The menu system is easy to get lost in.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I often have to ask my coworkers for help.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to input a defective item.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The item I am searching for is normally in the top ten results.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can add a new item into the system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am comfortable with removing an item from the system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I worry about the program crashing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can make a backup.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	SA	A	NO	D	SD
I often have to enter the same information twice.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It takes a long time to search for an item.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The system uses the same terminology that we use in the office.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My disability makes it difficult to use the system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I often have to restart the program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I spend more time inputting data then searching.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most of the data fields are useless.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I spend more then two hours a day on the system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The error messages are confusing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prefer paper over the computer.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I need to write down instructions to remember them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The screens look too similar.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I speak out loud to remember how to do things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The menus are easy to navigate.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It takes me several searches to find what I need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Removing items creates stress.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I only use the system a few times a week.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am often waiting for the system to complete a task.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel stress when using the system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand most buttons from the icon.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I rarely look up how to do things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I want more data fields for the items in the database.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The system does with I need it to do.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is easy to make a mistake.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I like the help system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What about the system do you find confusing?

If I could change one thing, what would it be?

What about the system causes the most stress?

What about the system do you find confusing?

What about the system do you like the most?

Comments ?
