Library Discovery:
Evolution of the Single Search Box

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Solutions Consultant
Ex Libris

Ex Libris Users of North America

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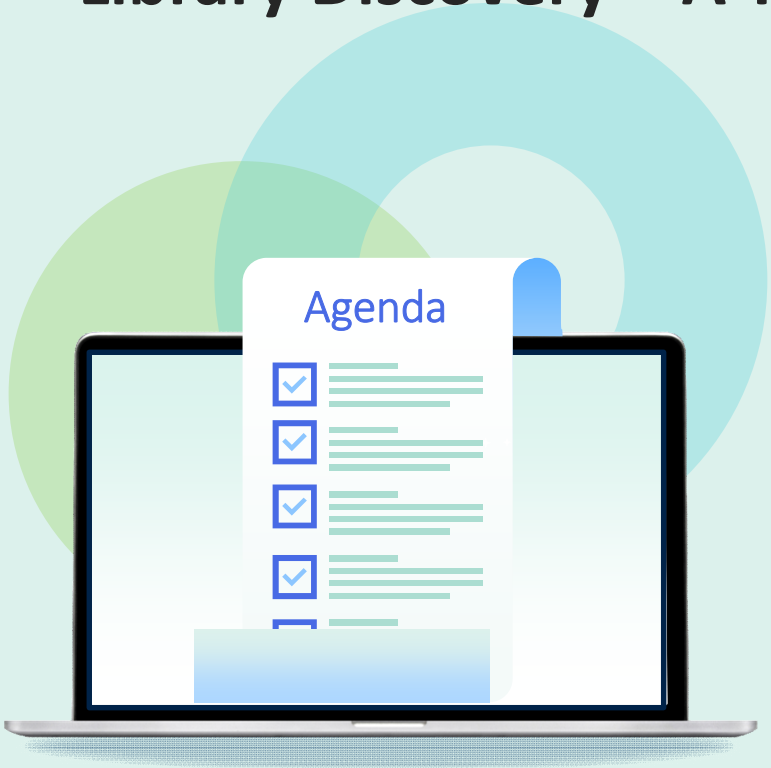
Library Discovery – A Trip Down Memory Lane



- OPAC / Databases / A-Z List
- Federated Search
- Discovery
- Analytics

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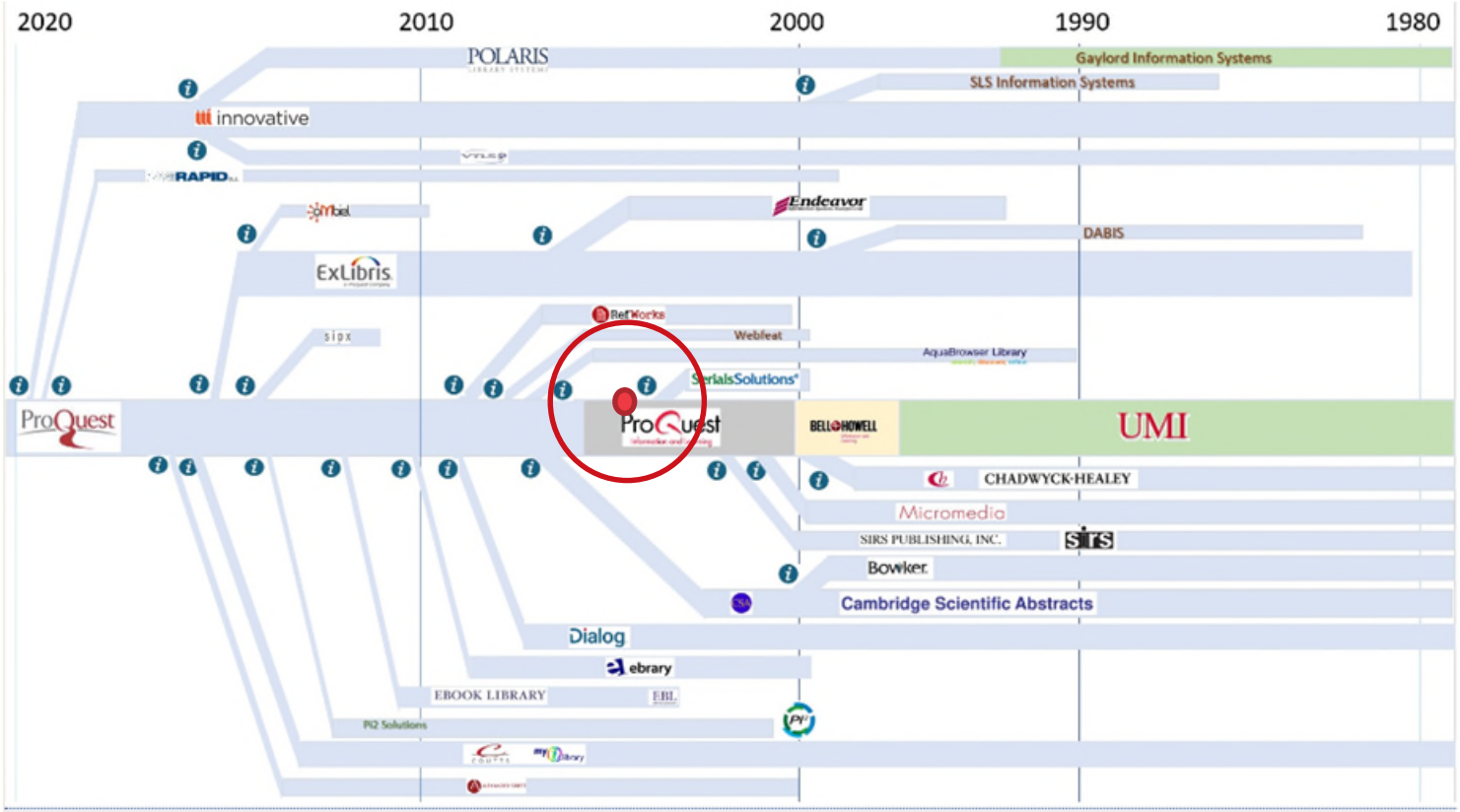
A Brief History…



"Mergers and Acquisitions." *Library Technology Guides.* Web. 04/07/2023 <https://librarytechnology.org/mergers/>

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Question from a Librarian

- So what's new with discovery?

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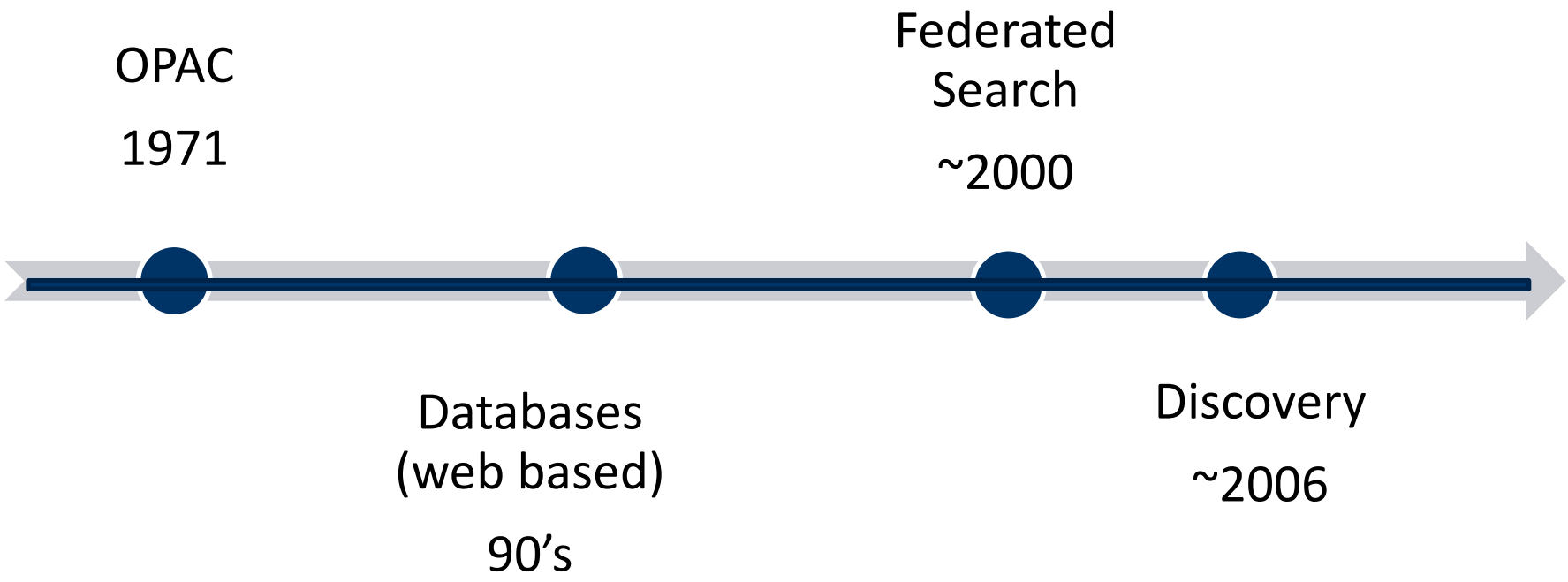
An Overly Simplified (Approximate) Timeline



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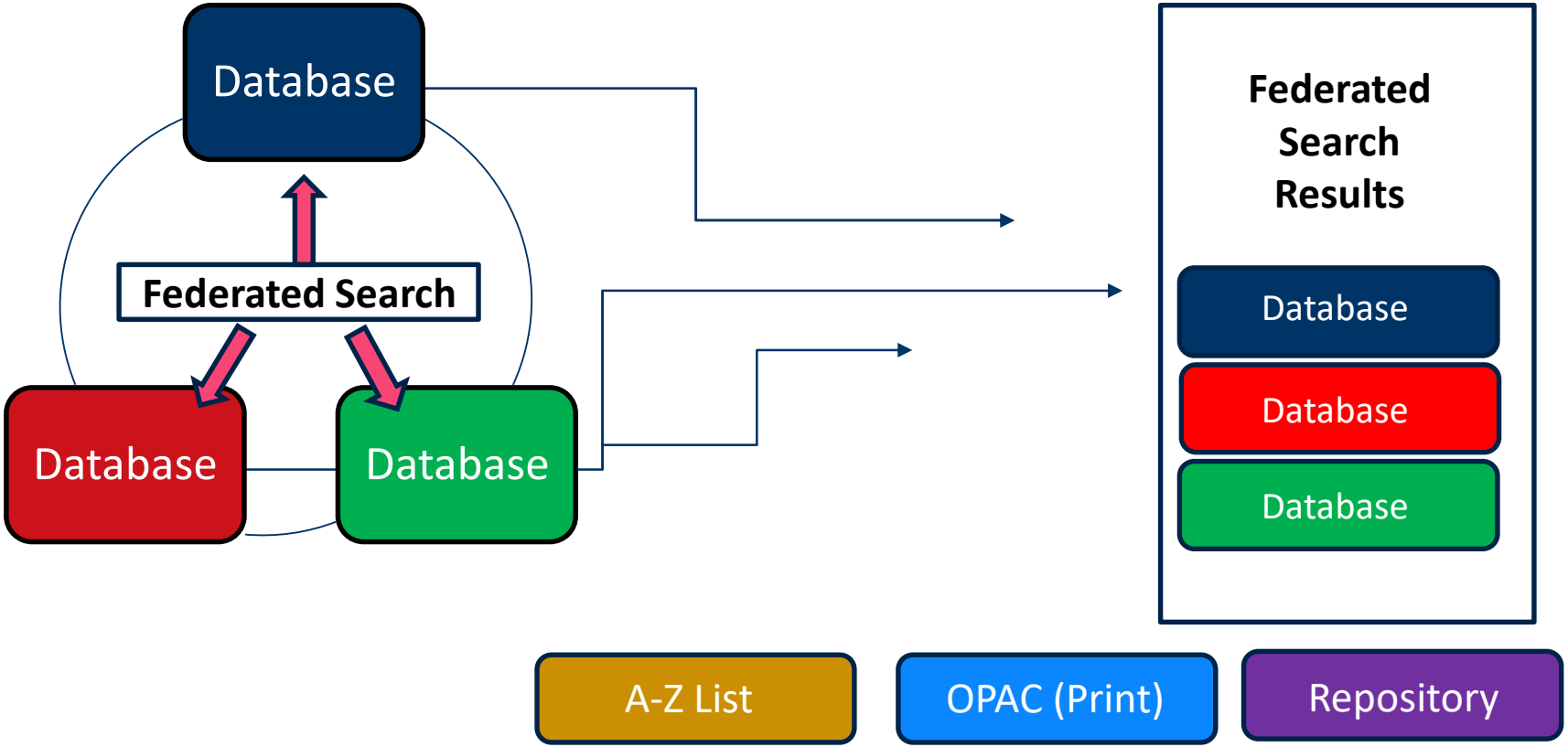
Federated Search



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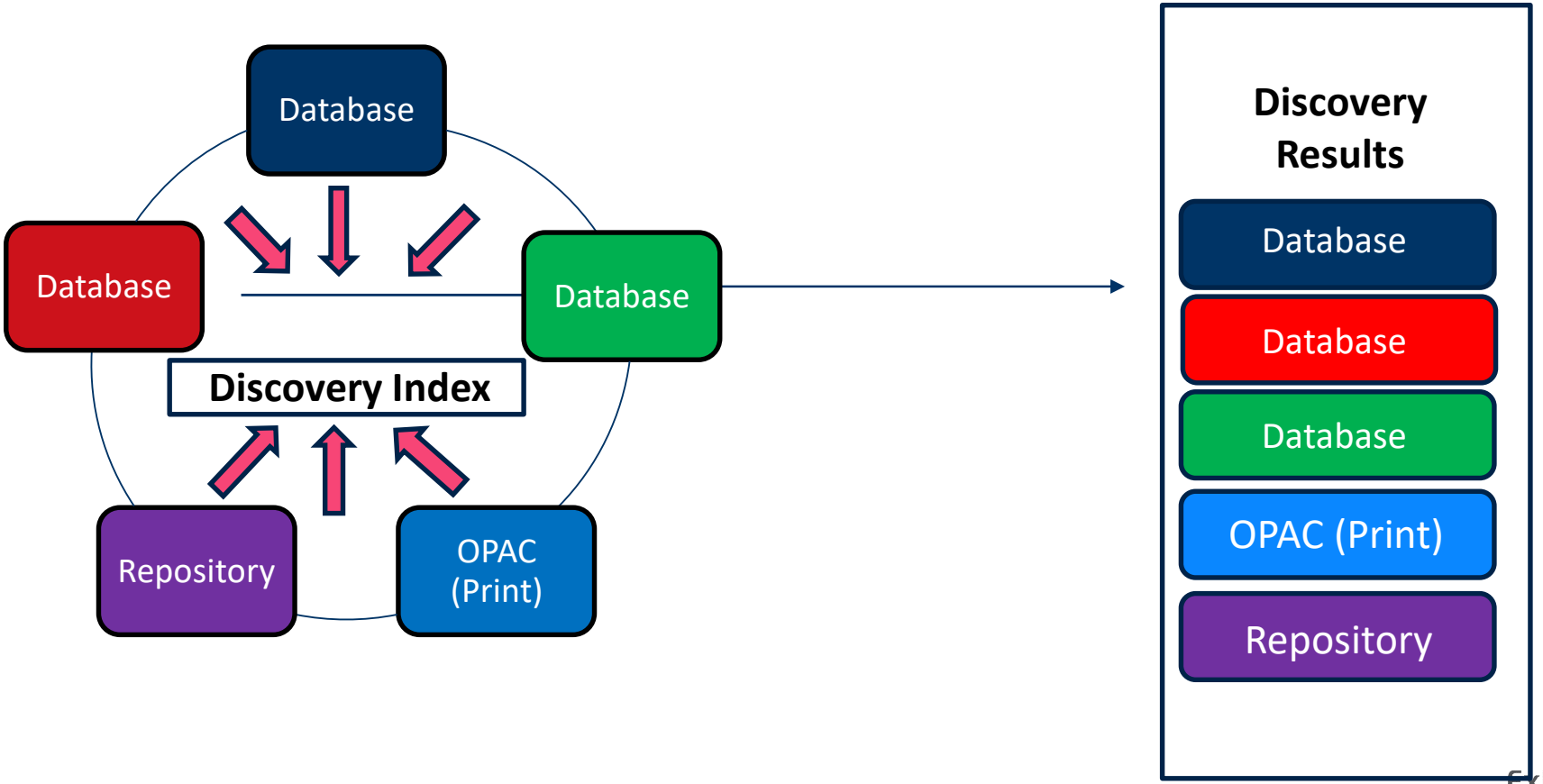
Discovery



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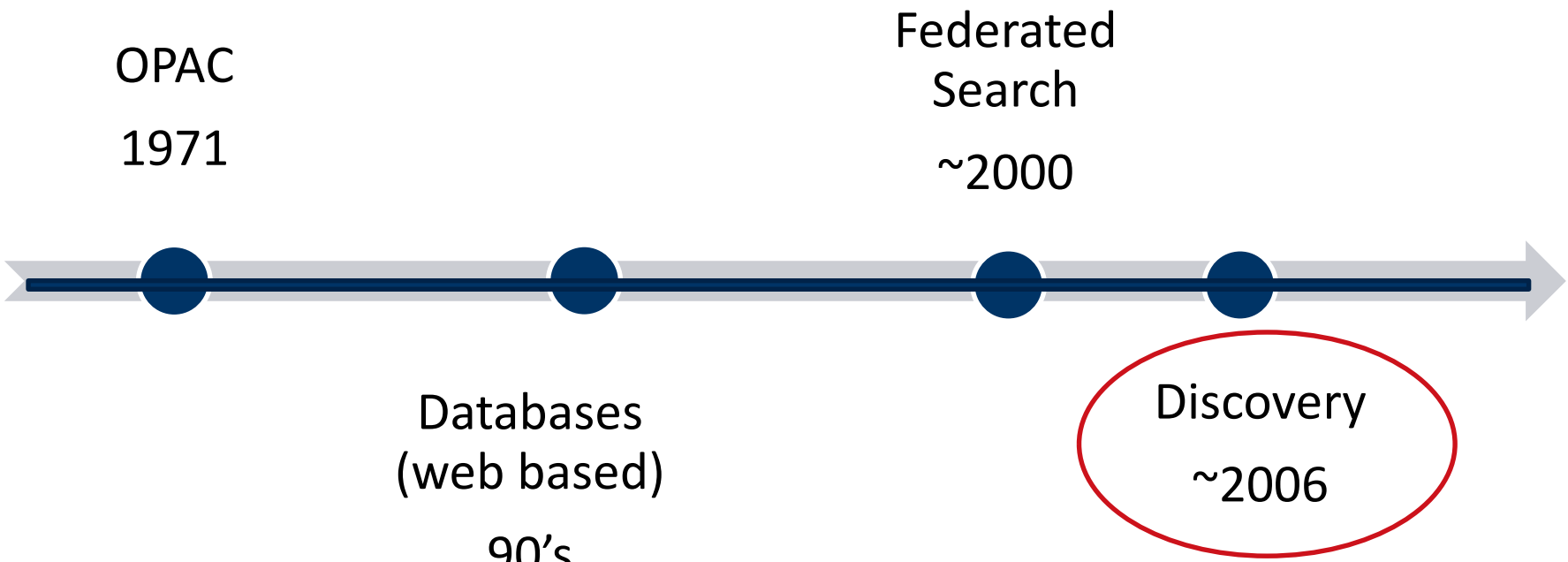

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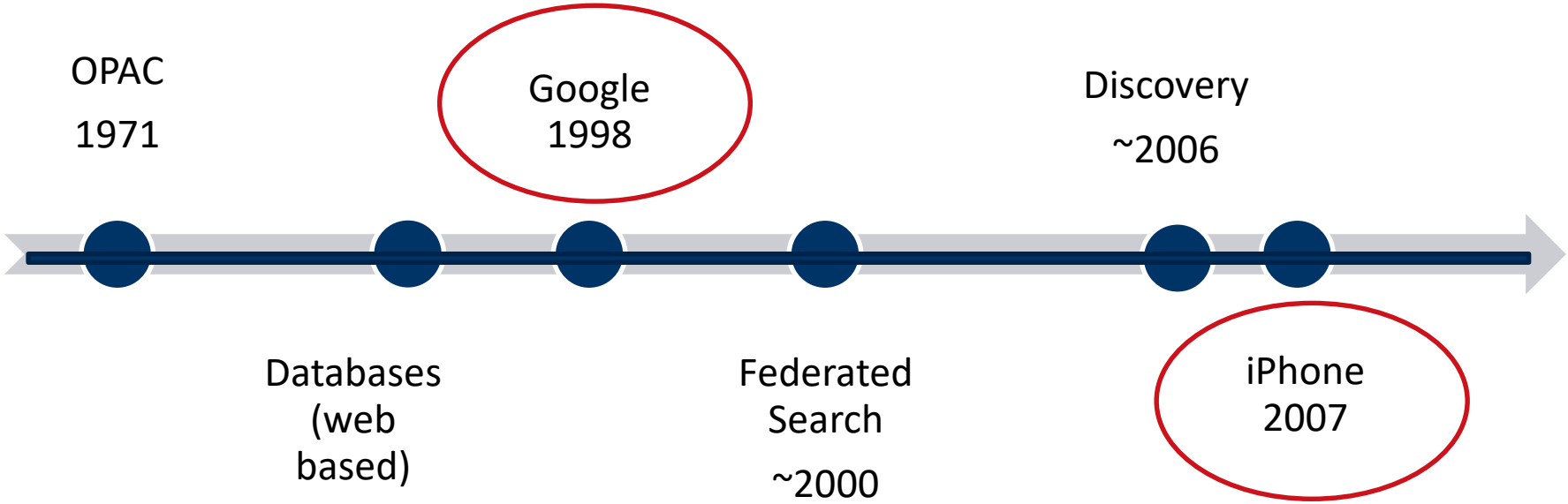

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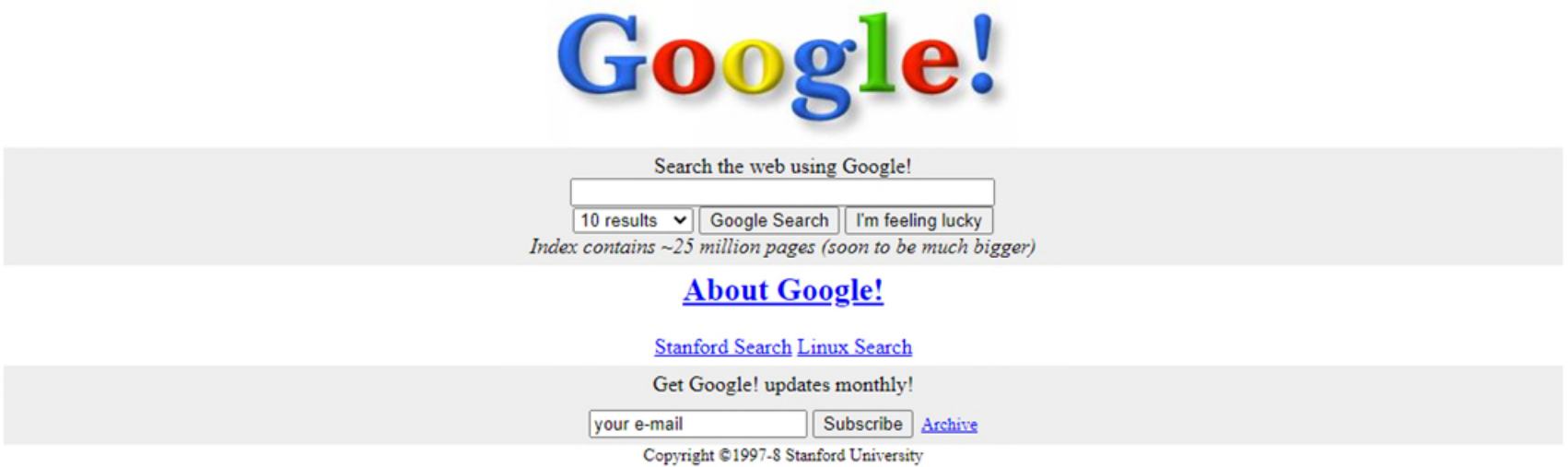
In the Beginning… 1998



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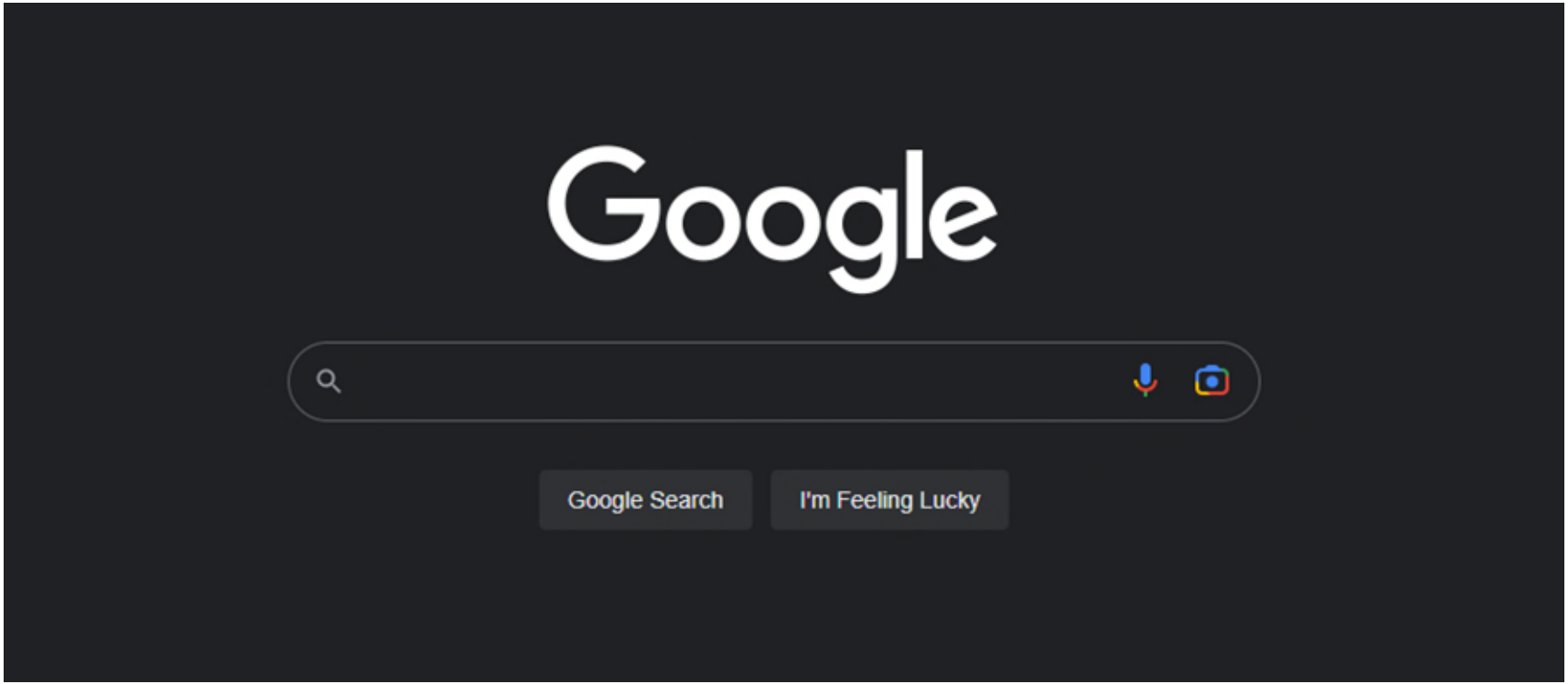

"Google 2023." *Google.com.* Web. 04/07/2023 <https://google.com>

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2008

"Apple 2008." *Internet Archive.* Web. 04/07/2023 <https://web.archive.org/web/20080731010230/http://www.apple.com/>

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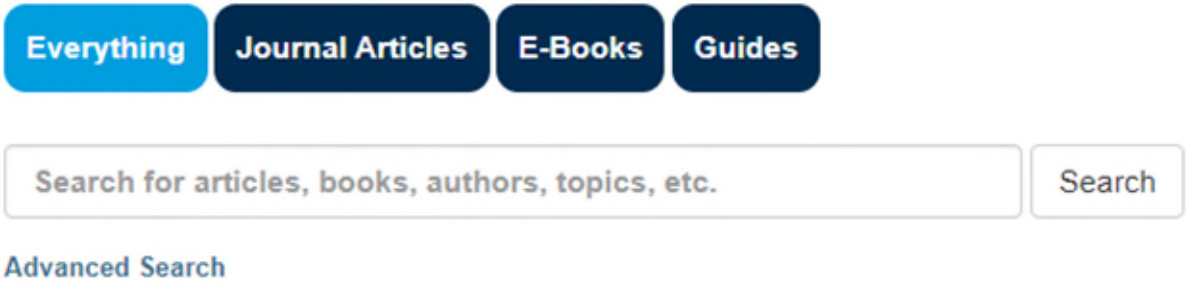
The Library Single(ish) Search Box



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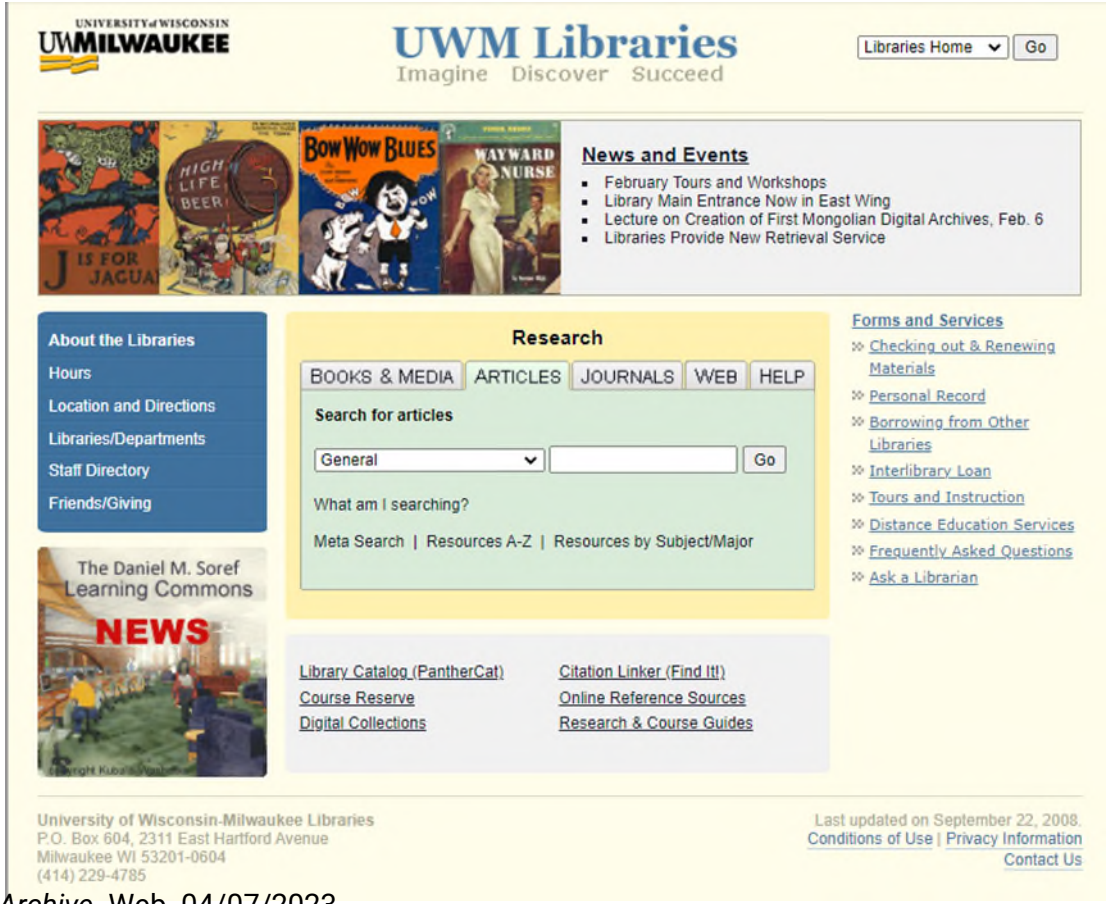
2008



"UWM 2008." *Internet Archive.* Web. 04/07/2023 <https://web.archive.org/web/20090207162303/http://uwm.edu/Libraries

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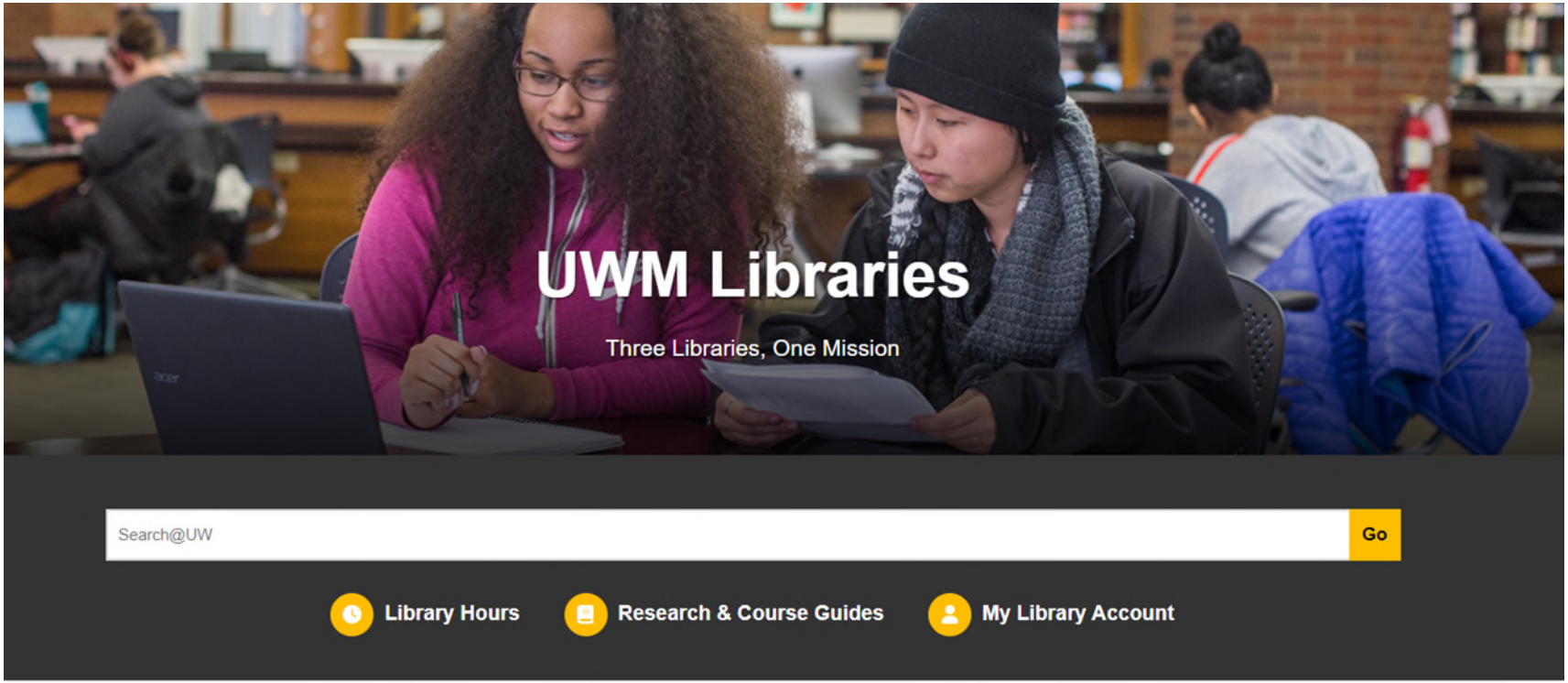
2023



"UWM 2023." *uwm.edu/libraries*. Web. 04/07/2023 <https://uwm.edu/Libraries>

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Library Discovery Today – More…

Publisher and aggregator content
E E.g.: Springer, Wiley, ProQuest

Digital repositories
E.g.: ContentDM, Rosetta

Research outputs & data
E.g.: Esploro, Fedora, Dspace

Open Access content
E.g.: DOAJ, hybrid collections, IRs, unpaywall

Single Search Box

Exploration and Learning Gateway

Library catalog
E.g.: Alma, Sierra, WorldShare

Audiovisual content
E.g.: Alexander Street Press, Kanopy

Special Collections
E.g.: Manuscripts, images

Discovery enrichment
E.g.: Altmetrics, Syndetics Unbound

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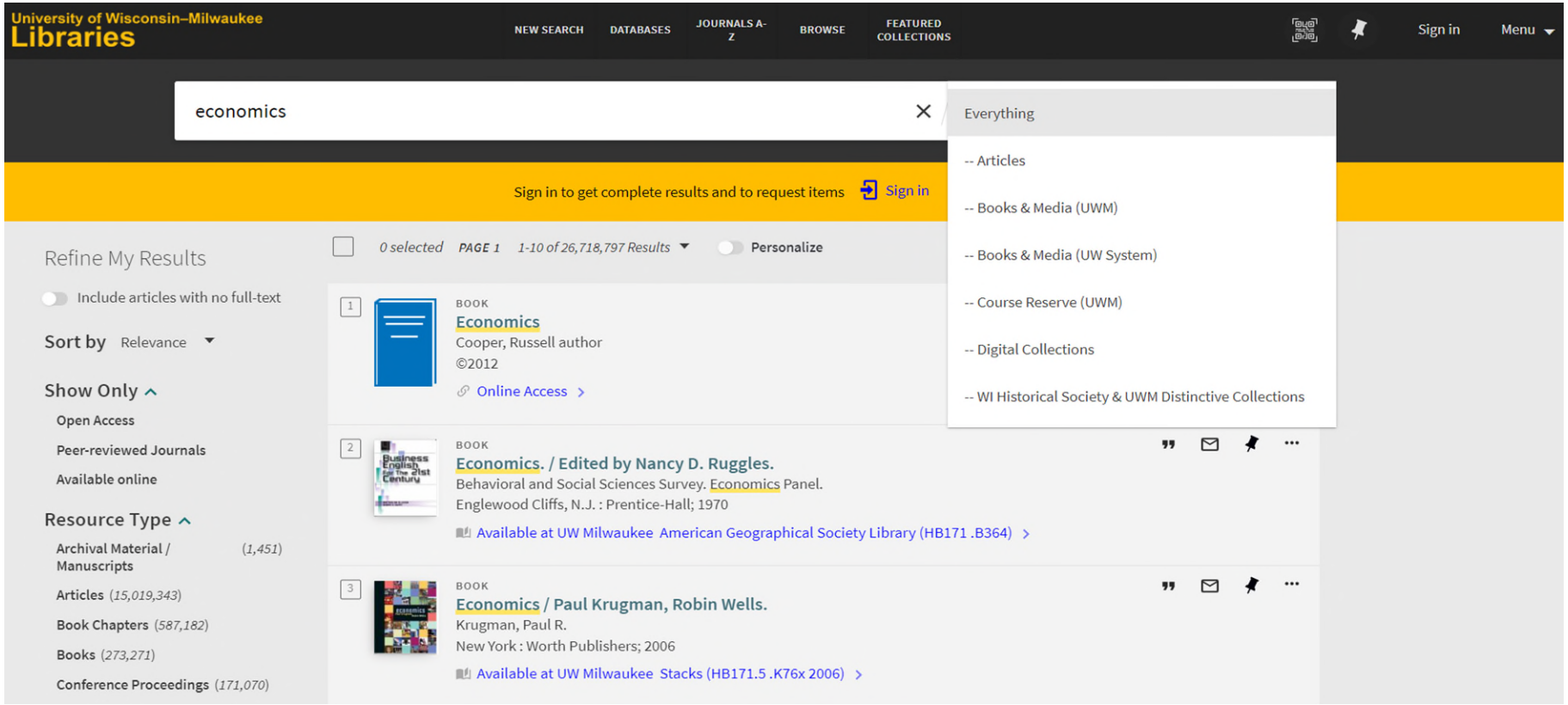
More Single(ish) Search Box



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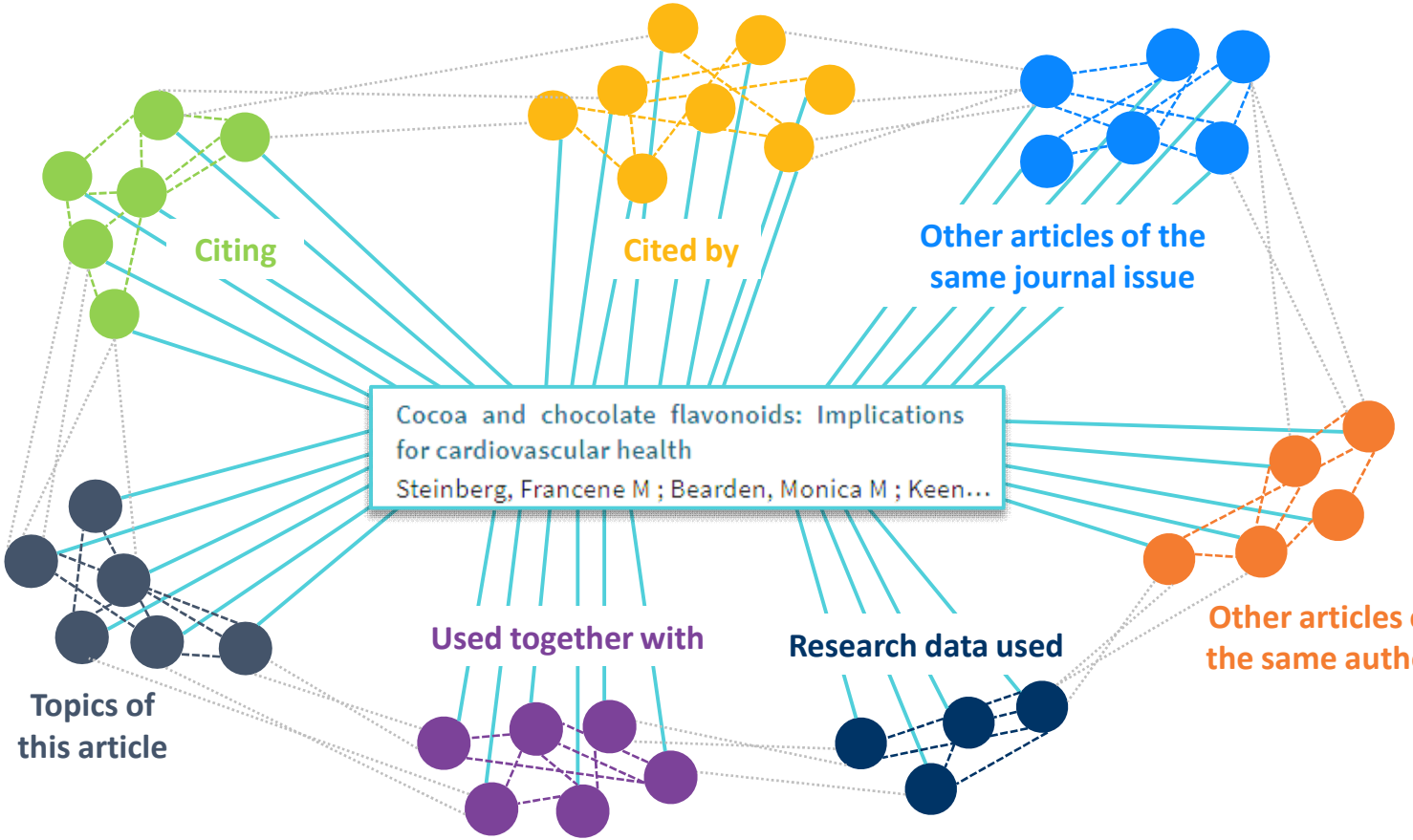
Formal and informal relationships



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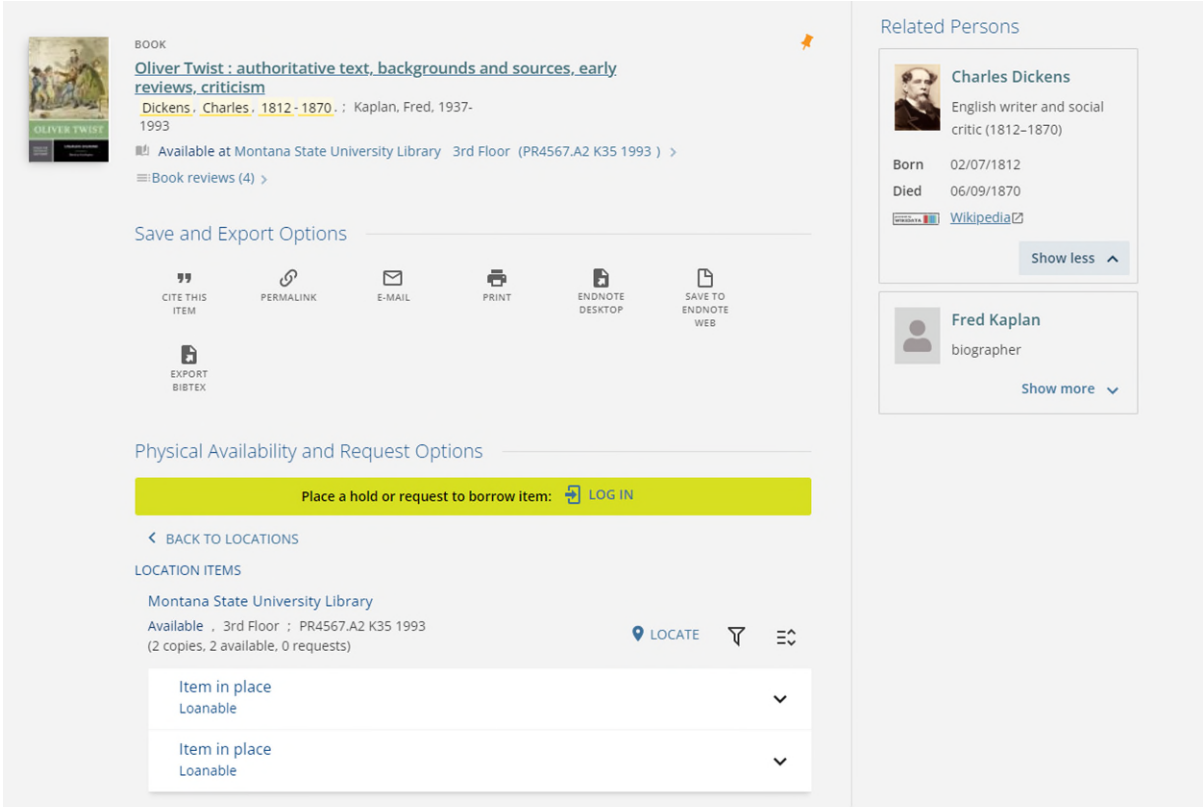
Related Persons



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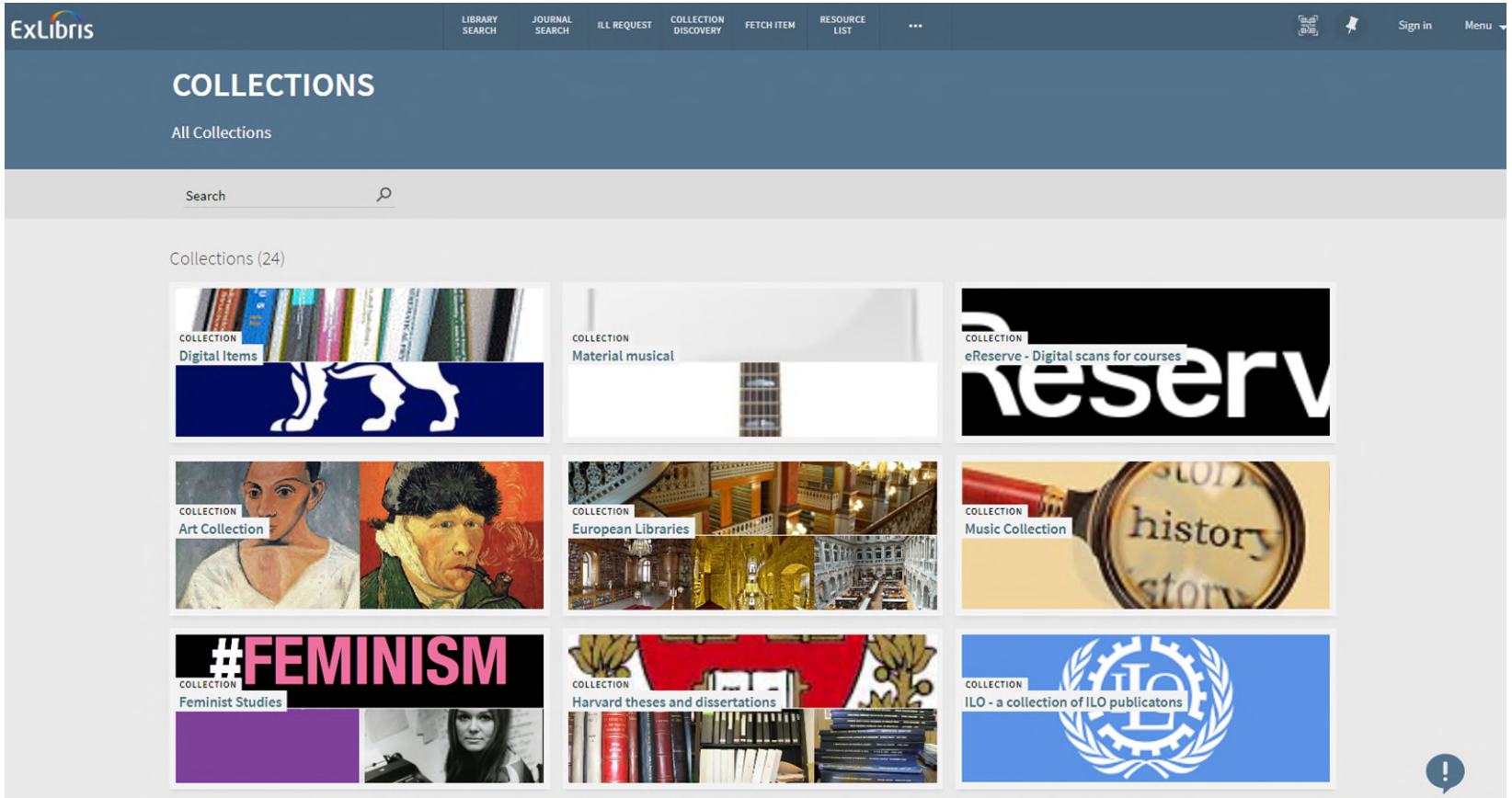
More than “More”… Collection Discovery



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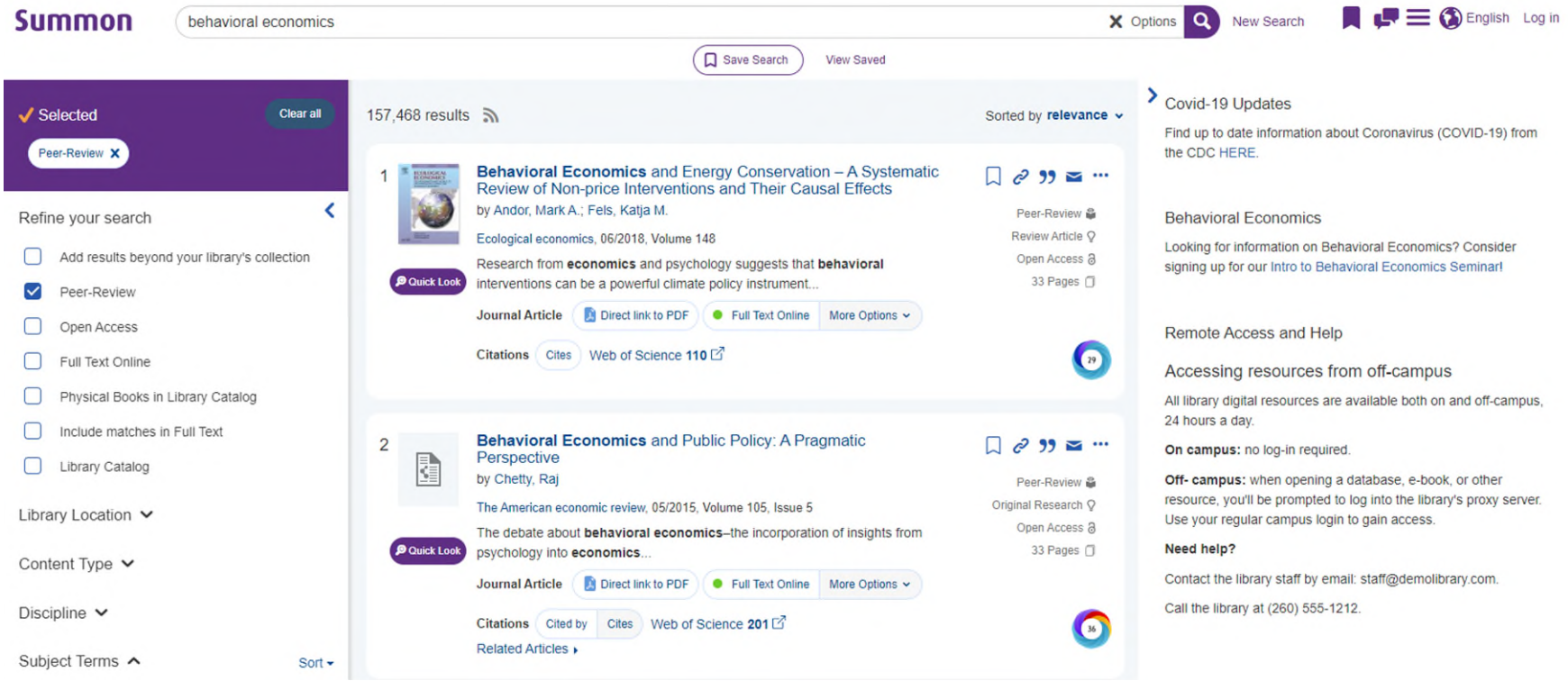
More than “More”… Integrated Linking, Plug ins..



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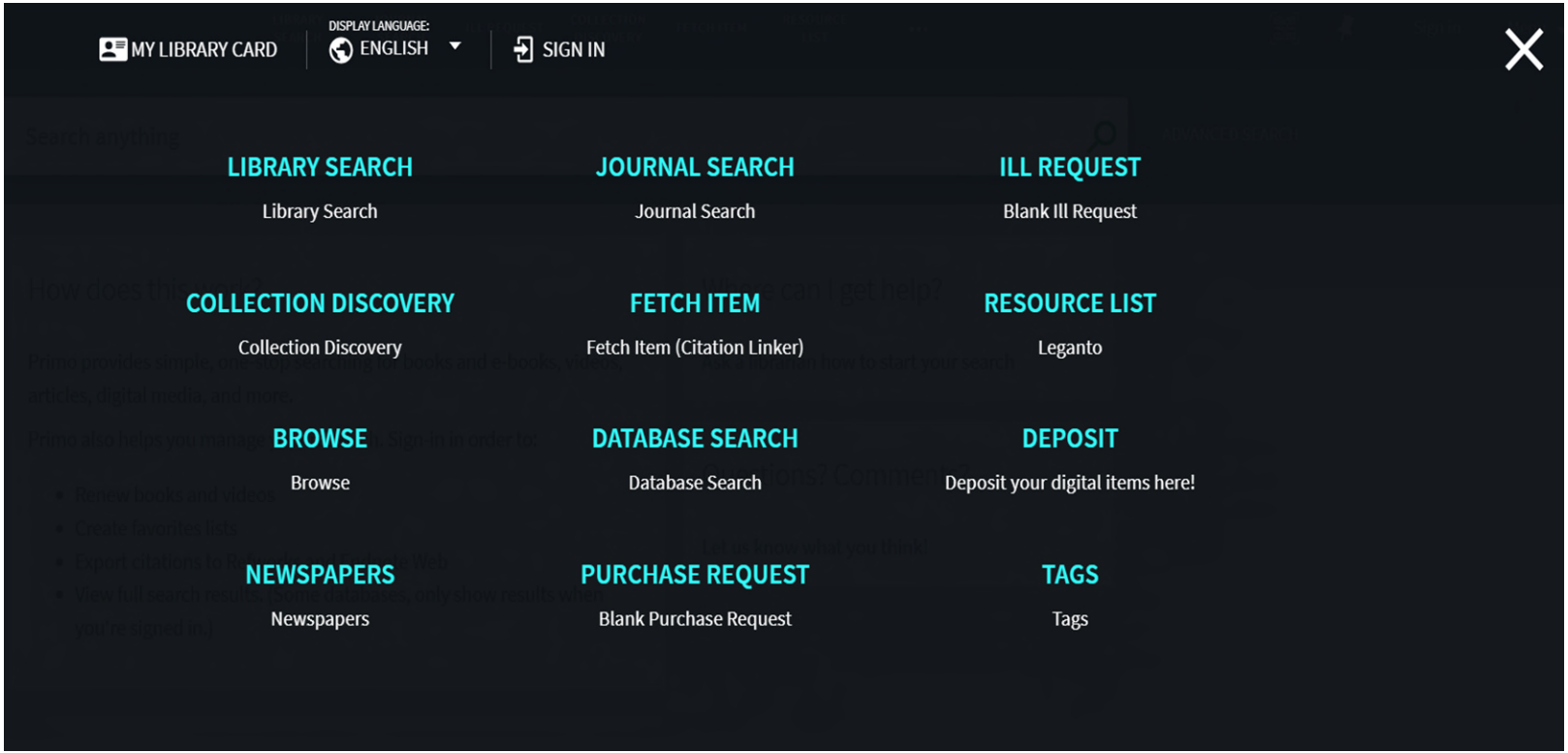
Everything



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A Rich History of Discovery Innovation

Ex Libris Summon

Ex Libris Primo

Evolution enables libraries to keep pace with:

- Evolving patron needs
- User experience
- Modern technology
- Changing content landscape

??? ??? What's Next ???

2021 Summon UI Update

2020 CDI – Central Discovery Index

2017 Primo VE – Unified mgmt. & discovery

2016 Primo new UI, Open Discovery Framework , Primo Studio

2011 Cloud-based SaaS

2010 Summon Index & Primo Central

2007 Unified discovery with Primo

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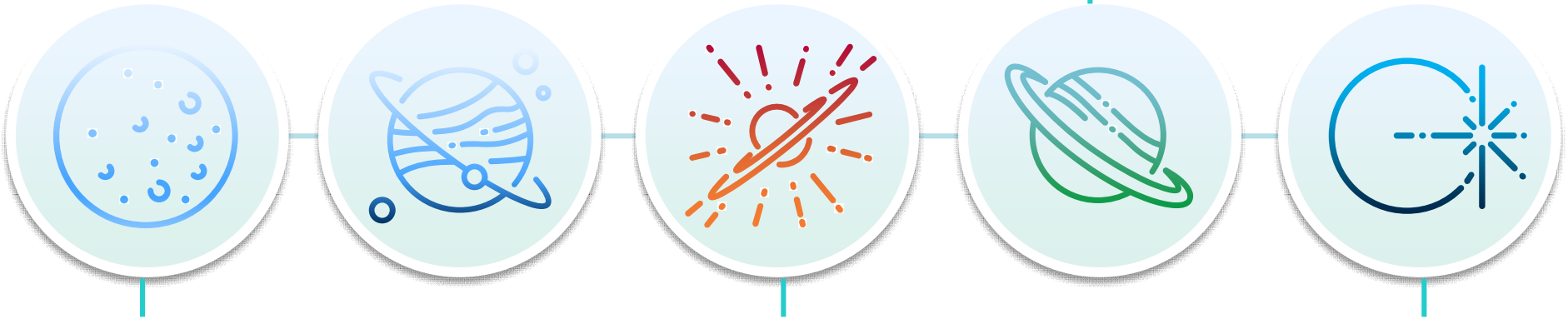
Stars are aligning for the Next Primo Experience

Emerging generative AI technologies

Modern UX frameworks



Aging User Interface

Linked Data practices to production

Greater need for library exposure

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Question from a Librarian

- So what's new with discovery?

Everything!

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Library Analytics History

- SQL Reports
- CSV
- COUNTR
- Charts!
- Data Visualizations
  - Non-technical
  - Telling the Story through Data
  - Explore without a question

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A Non-Library Example

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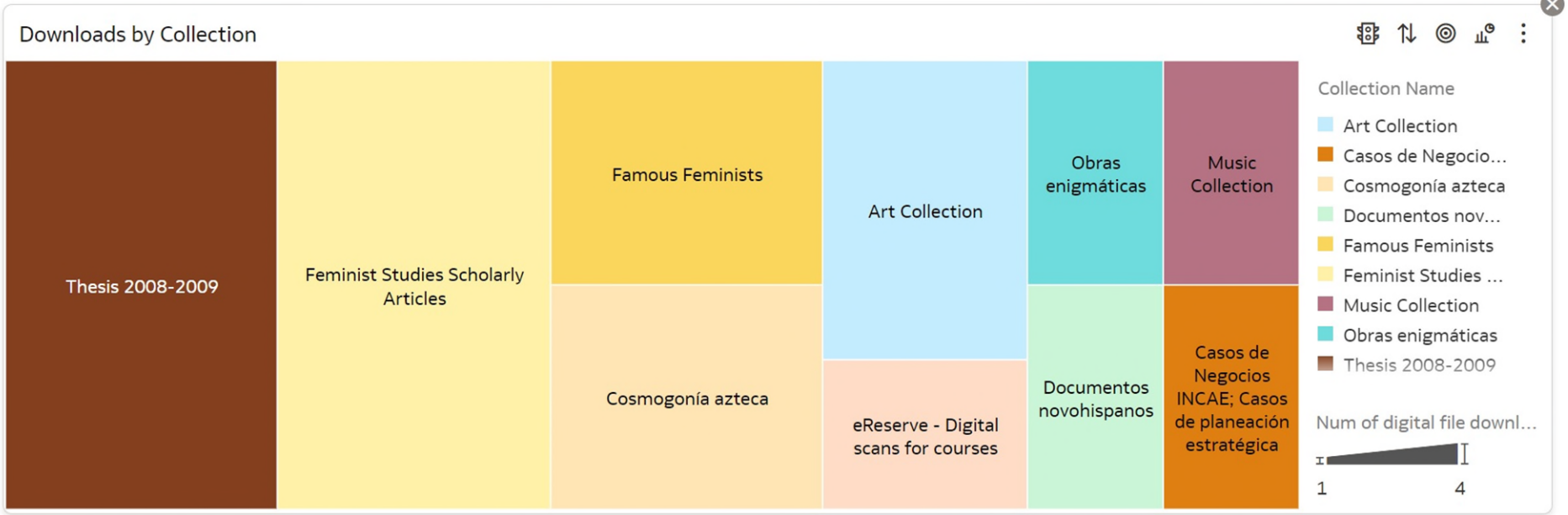
Discovery Analytics



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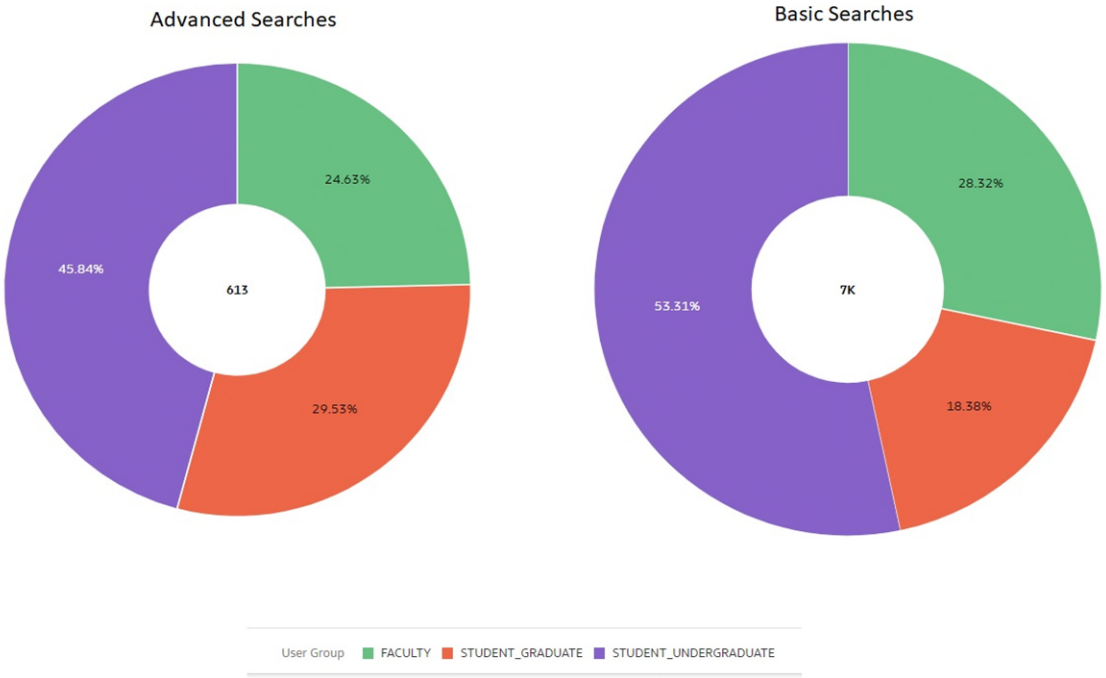
Discovery Analytics



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Discovery Analytics

Example Dashboard

Home | Catalog | Favorites | Dashboards | Create | Open

Actions | Devices | Facets | Sessions | Popular Searches | Zero Result Searches | Pipes | PNX Records

Data Updated As Of: 1/1/1920 12:00:00 AM

Actions

Search Actions

Count

Action	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023
Basic search	384	728	364	523	519	317	609	814	443	302	560	374	442	467	576	175
Advanced search	7	16	7	14	19	15	27	121	40	45	39	10	26	67	61	10
Click on a category	2	3	13	6	10	8	24	7	8	7			7	20	7	4
Browse page	1		2	3	2	2	1	8		2	7	2	5	12	23	4
Expanding a category	3			2	3	7	7	3	8	4			1	8	3	7
Database Search		2		4	3	4	12	1	12	4		1			9	
AZ list	1	2	2	4	1	1	9	1		10		1	4	1	2	6
Saved query					1				9		1	4	3	6	5	4
Browse related records	2			1			2	12		1	1		2	3	2	2
Basic search with pre-filter														10	13	
Browse authors	1		2	1		1	4	6					1	1	2	3
Advanced search expanded									1	1	7		3	1	5	
Advanced search collapsed											10		2	2	3	
Voice Search – exit		1									5	8				
Newspaper search						1		1		2	2			1	1	
Browse titles							1							2	2	
Voice Search – didn't get it		1									2	1		1		
Session query	1			1										1		1
Browse Library of Congress call numbers	2															
Barcode search															1	

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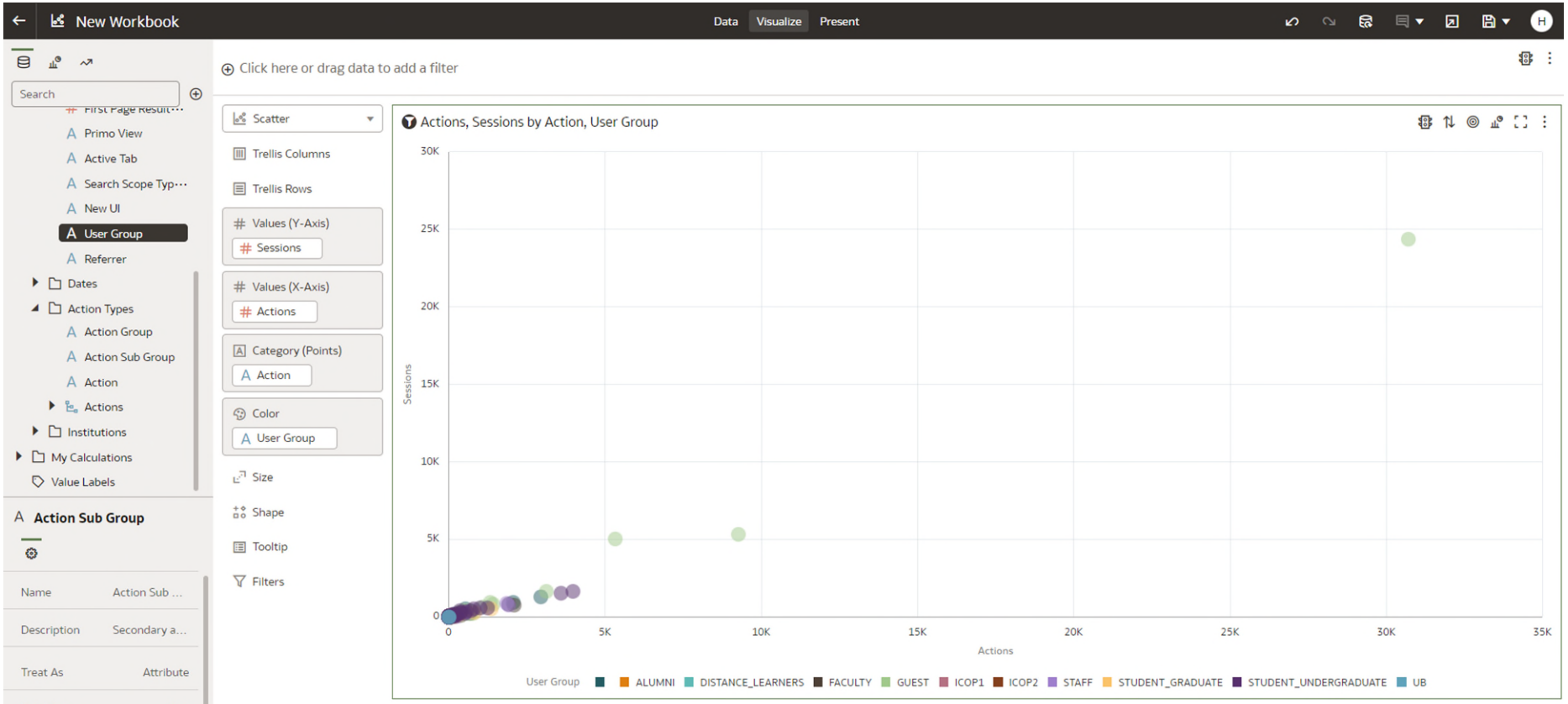
Discovery Analytics



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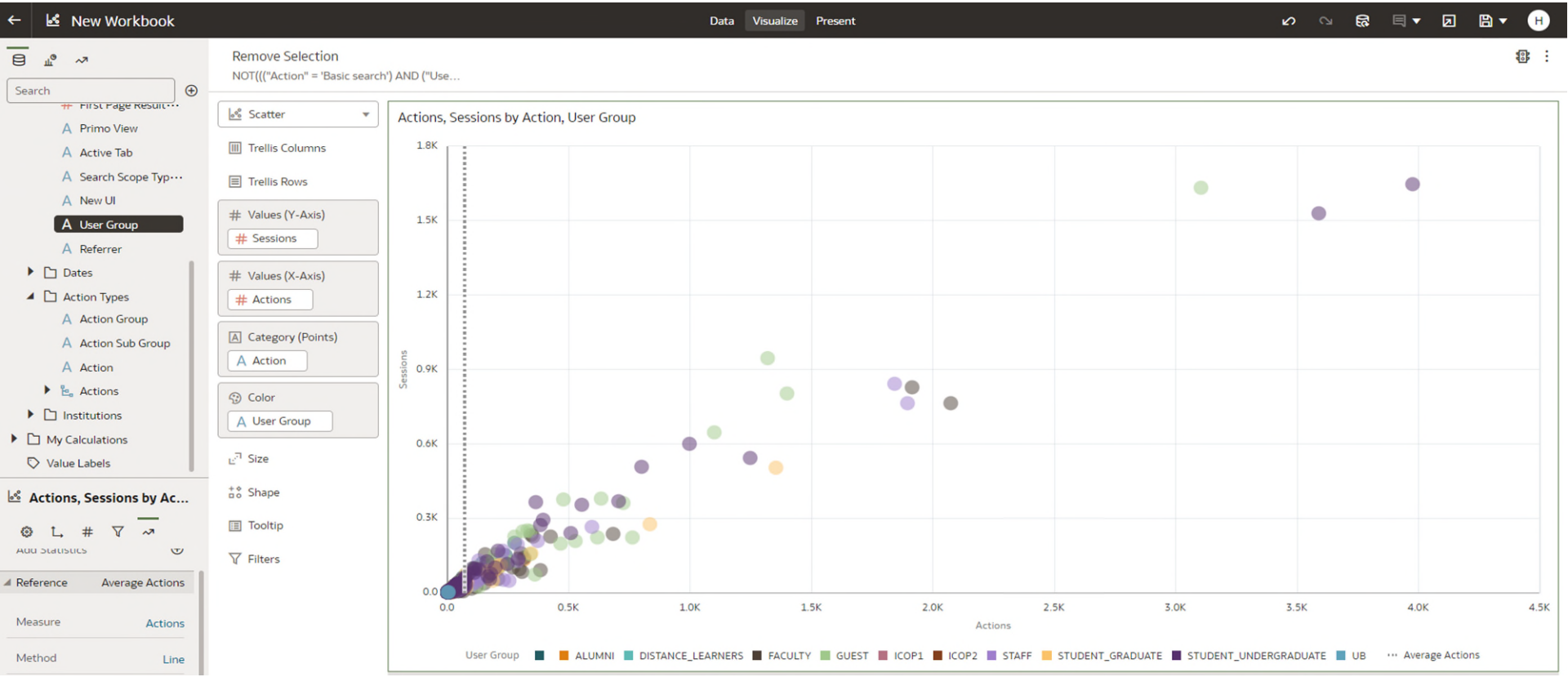

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Takeaways

- Next Gen? Now Gen!
- Your users are (and always will be) new users
- Consider what you want to measure

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Thank you!

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