

In-Library Configuration Options

Every library catalog vendor has slightly different ways of changing how the catalog looks and behaves depending on if the user is inside or outside of a library. They have two ways of doing this:

1. Recognize computers by the libraries External IP address. This would cause ALL computers in the library to behave with the in-library configuration. This would include all staff computers, patron computers, and anyone using the library Wi-Fi.
2. Append a location code to the catalog URL. Accessing the catalog with this URL would trigger the in-library configuration for the library identified in the URL. This would work best if you only wanted library catalog stations to use the in-library configuration. You could implement this on other library computers, but you would need to access the catalog from a particular link or bookmark.

So, what changes when a computer is recognized as being in-library?

1. The inactivity timeout will be reduced from 30 to 5 minutes.
2. The Remember me checkbox on the Login page will disappear.
3. Search results will indicate if a title is “available at this location” and your library goes to the top of the available now list.
4. That branch will become the default pickup location.
5. The social media sharing buttons that provide links to Facebook, Twitter and other external sites will disappear.
6. The hide button (x) will not appear on system messages. For example, if we added a system message such as “The Library Catalog will be unavailable for scheduled maintenance on Sunday” users outside the library would be able to hide that message after they have read it and it would not pop up again. On library computers, that message would remain visible.

The biggest benefit of course, is #3, Search results will indicate if a title is “available at this location” and your library goes to the top of the Available now list.

The biggest downsides of using the IP method would likely be the shorter inactivity timeout, particularly for staff. Patrons using their own device on the library Wi-Fi might wonder where the *Remember me* checkbox went to.

You can see how the in-library configuration works by going to <https://infosoup.info/select-library> and selecting your library. I *highly recommend* trying this in a private/incognito browser window. If you do not use a private window, you will need to clear the browser cookies and cache to undo this affect.

If we implemented this on Catalog stations, we would automate it so patrons are not selecting their library. The Select your library page is just for testing.

The key to note is that being logged in, with your preferred location set to your library, provides a similar availability notice, and promotes your library to the top of the Available Now list, without the other effects of using the in-library configuration. The primary difference is the language “available at a preferred location” vs “available at this location.” In-library configuration also over rules preferred location, if your preferred location is different than the library you are in.

This is something we can implement on a per library basis, and it is something a library could change if not happy with the results.

The question for each library is, would you prefer:

1. The in-library configuration on all computers in your library (IP method).
2. Just on catalog stations (URL method). On all other devices staff or patrons would need to be logged in to highlight availability at their preferred location.
3. No local configuration. On all devices staff or patrons would need to be logged in to highlight availability at their preferred location.