Primo Scope Testing Results

Test Objective
This test aimed to see what students think of the Primo Scope options in the basic and advanced search bars. The text “Articles, books, and more” in the search bar, as well as the various drop down menus (“Show Only”, “Library Resources”, “Material Type”) were of primary interest.

Participants
The test included 7 participants total: 3 Freshmen, 1 sophomore, 3 juniors. The participants were from a variety of programs, including Engineering, History, Anthropology, Business, Political Science, Communications, and undeclared.

Methodology
The test included four main steps that looked at different Primo Scopes:

- Looking at the search box on the main library website and what they thought the elements in the entry field mean.
- Conducting a search for something of their choosing, and describe what they think of the two drop down menus on the results page (Library Resources/Course Reserves, Articles Books and more vs. UW Libraries + Summit) and describing the difference between these two options.
- Selecting advanced search and deciding if the the options under “Show Only” still mean what they thought before? And what do the options under “Material Type” mean?
- What would they name the scope “articles, books, and more” if they could change it?

One staff person conducted the interviews, while another took notes, although there was one moment when each staff person interviewed two students separately and took their own notes.

Results

1) Upon reading the grey text in the search field, “Articles, Books, and More,” all participants believed ‘more’ meant other types of resources such as DVDs or images.
2) After doing a search, most participants expressed confusion on the 2nd drop down menu “Articles, Books, and More.”. Two of them mentioned they believe it should be material type, though it is a list of UW libraries and Summit.

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