Recommender Prototype

The Recommender prototype has been developed to test two additional ways of locating content in the LON-CAPA Network:

- Using associations: the Recommender shows resources that other faculty have used in the same context
- Using a topic taxonomy, e.g. physics -> mechanics -> energy

As you are putting together your course materials for this semester, we suggest trying out this new tool.

It is important to do this in a real world scenario, for two reasons:

- The Recommender works best when the materials you are putting together actually belong together
- We are collecting usage data, which is meaningless if the Recommender is not used in a real task.

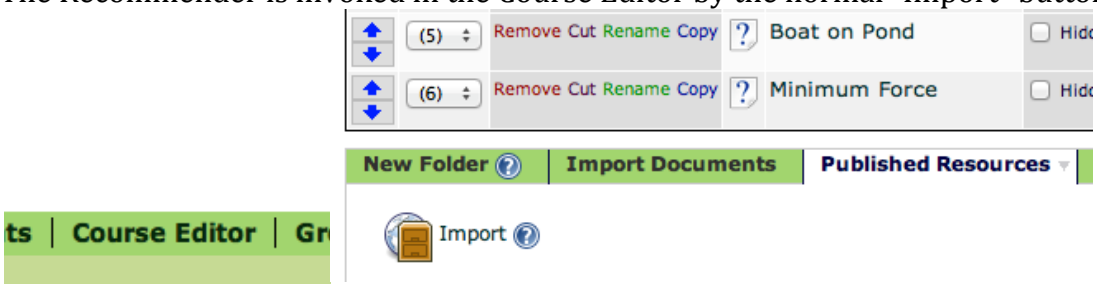
The Recommender is not fully integrated into the network and only installed on one machine:

https://vita2.ostfalia.de/

When you login, you need to replace the "Domain" field, which by default lists "fhwf," by your domain:

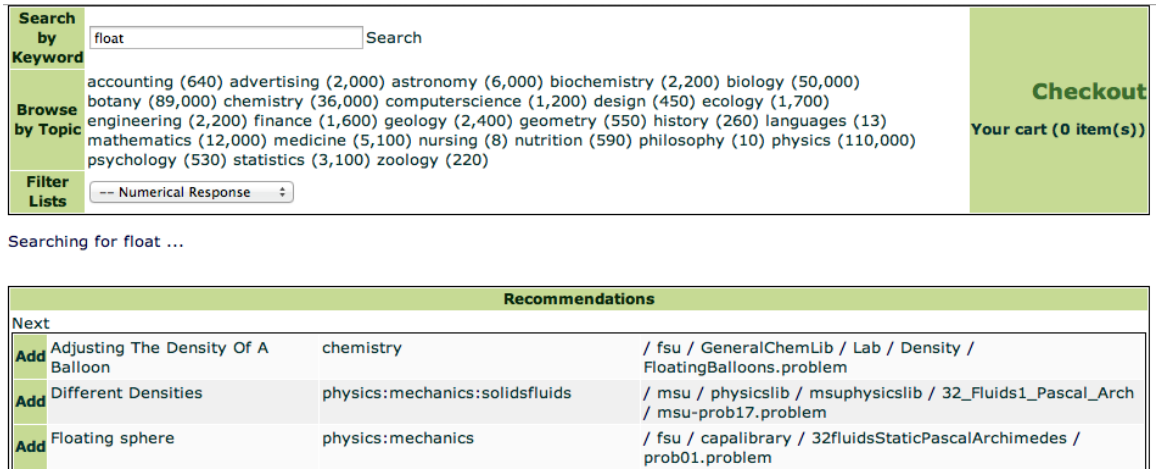
The first time you do this, it may take a while. Select your course like normal, which again may take a while (the test machine is not very fast, and for most of you, sits across the Atlantic).

The Recommender is invoked in the Course Editor by the normal "Import" button:



Yes, this is human subject research, so there's a consent form. By using the Recommender or by pressing "I agree," you consent to have the usage data recorded.

The interface lets you search for keywords, browse by topics (and after you click on those, subtopics), and filter for particular types of resources and even responses.



The results list appears below the menu. It is prioritized based on what is currently in your folder and your cart.

If you "Add" a resource, it goes into your cart. You can view your cart by pressing the link "Your cart." There you can also remove items.

The results list adapts to what you are currently looking at (topics, search, your cart, or a particular resource). You can click on the resource title to see the resource, on any part of the topic, and on any part of its path.

When you are done, click "Checkout." You get to the same Group Sort screen that you would usually get to after Import.

Built in collaboration with the Pritchard group at MIT and the Riegler group at Ostfalia. We are grateful for support from the NSF (Grants PHY-0757931 and DUE-1044294) and from MIT.