Sierra Updates & Advanced Techniques

MUG, September 8th, 2016

Marmot Library Network – User Services Team

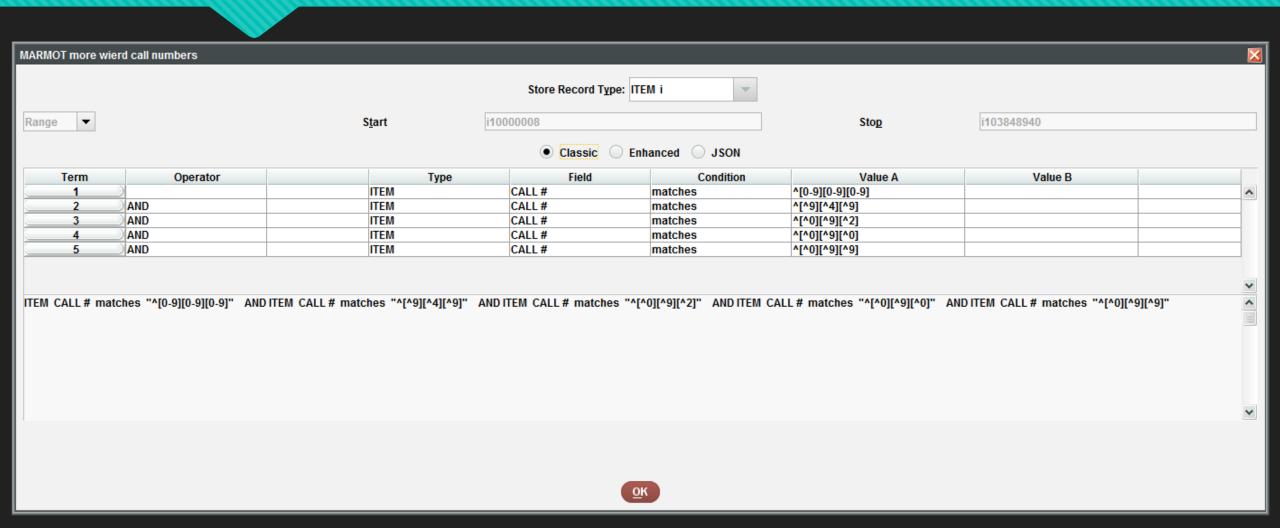
Lloyd Chittenden, Brandon Cole, Tammy Poquette



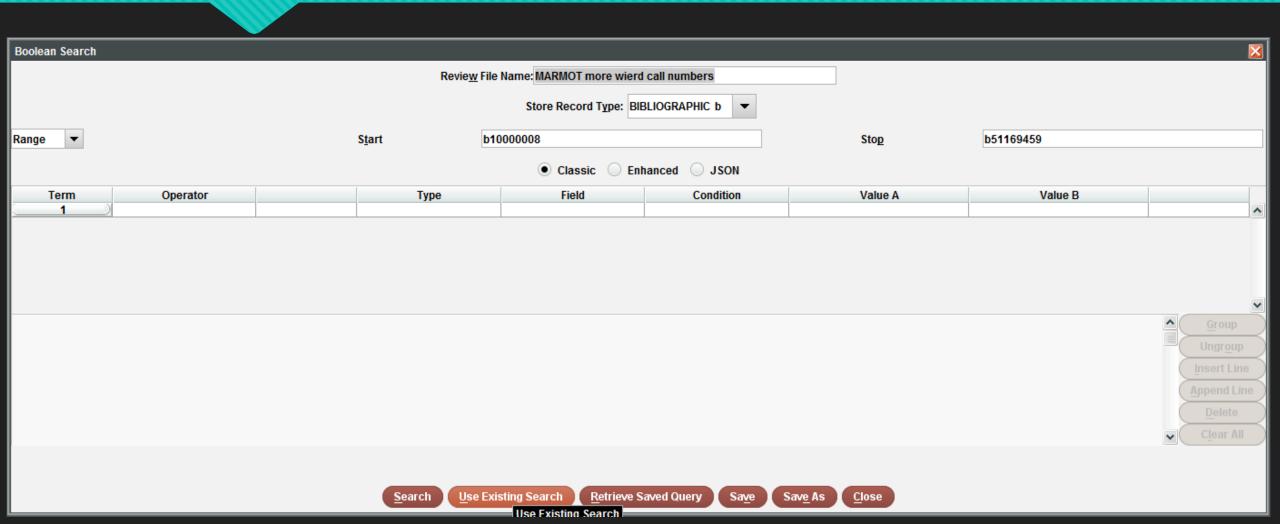
Create Lists – JSON to Replace Use Existing Search (Lloyd)

- We need to redo searches in Create Lists all the time
 - You need to rerun a search on different locations or dates
 - You need to rerun it because it didn't work right
- The process to recreate a search in Sierra is ponderous
- JSON allows a faster method

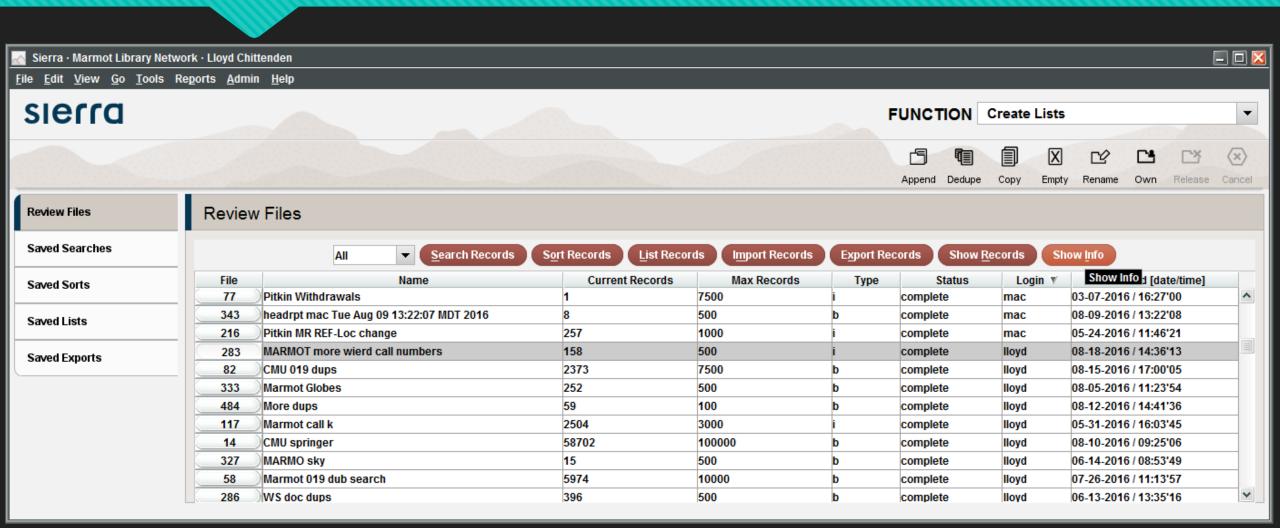
You don't want to type all this again



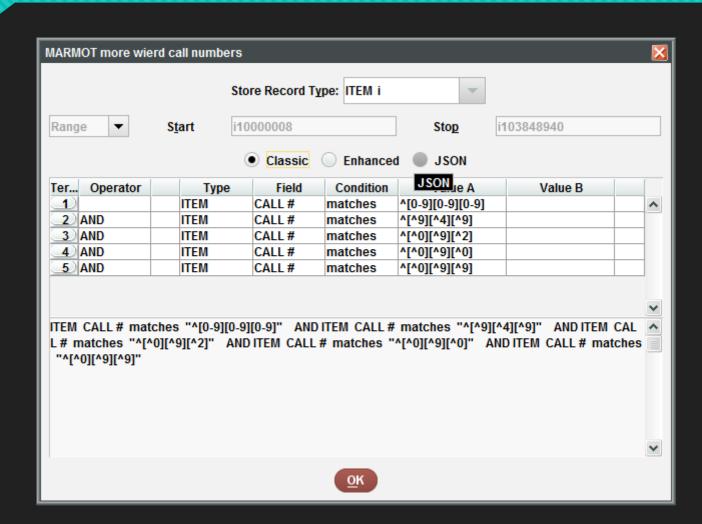
Use Existing Search is a pain



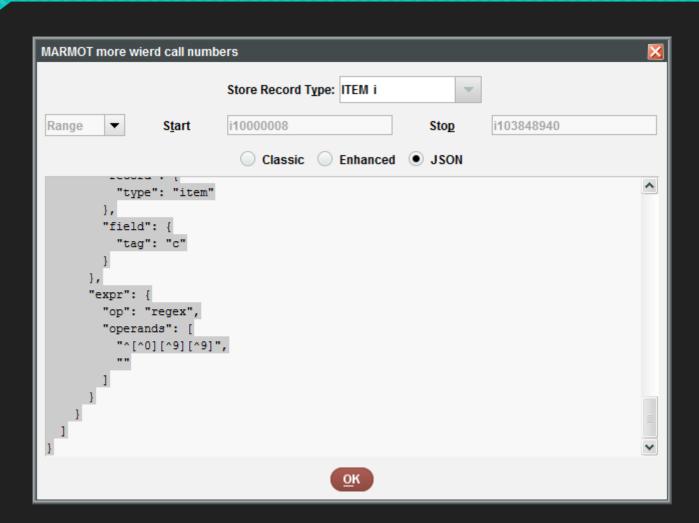
Select the list and click Show Info



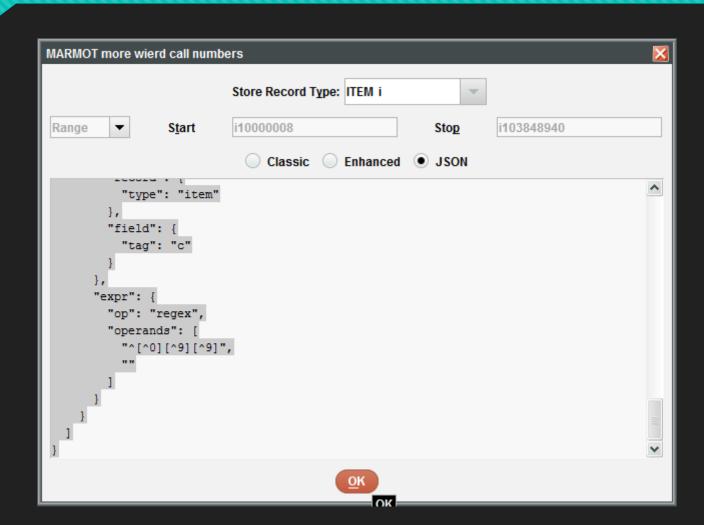
Click the JSON radio button



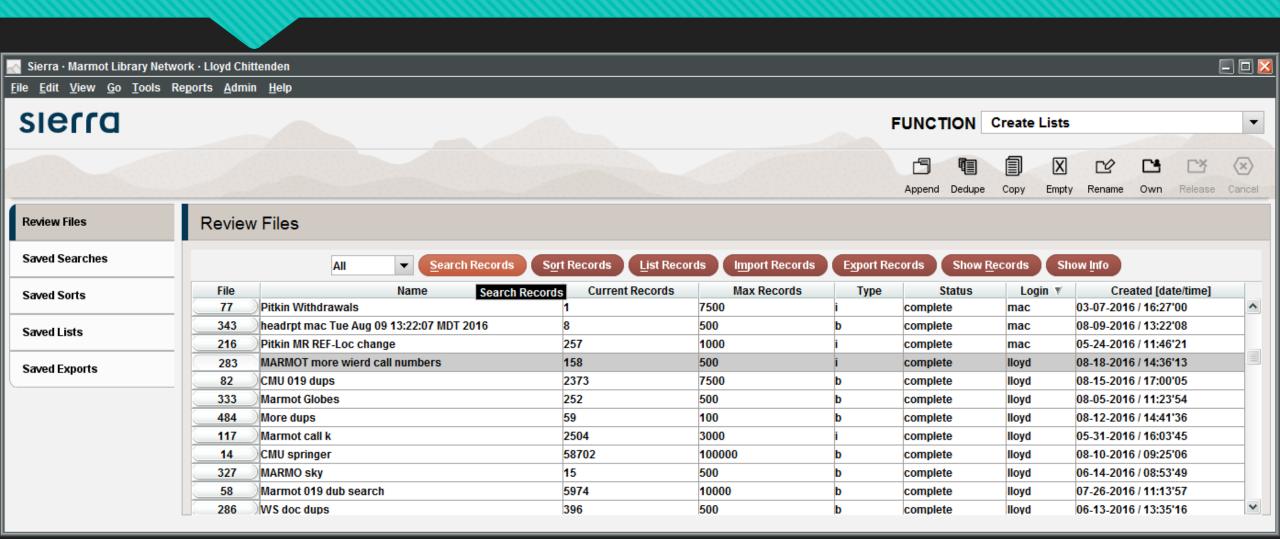
Ctrl-a to select the JSON Ctrl-c to copy it



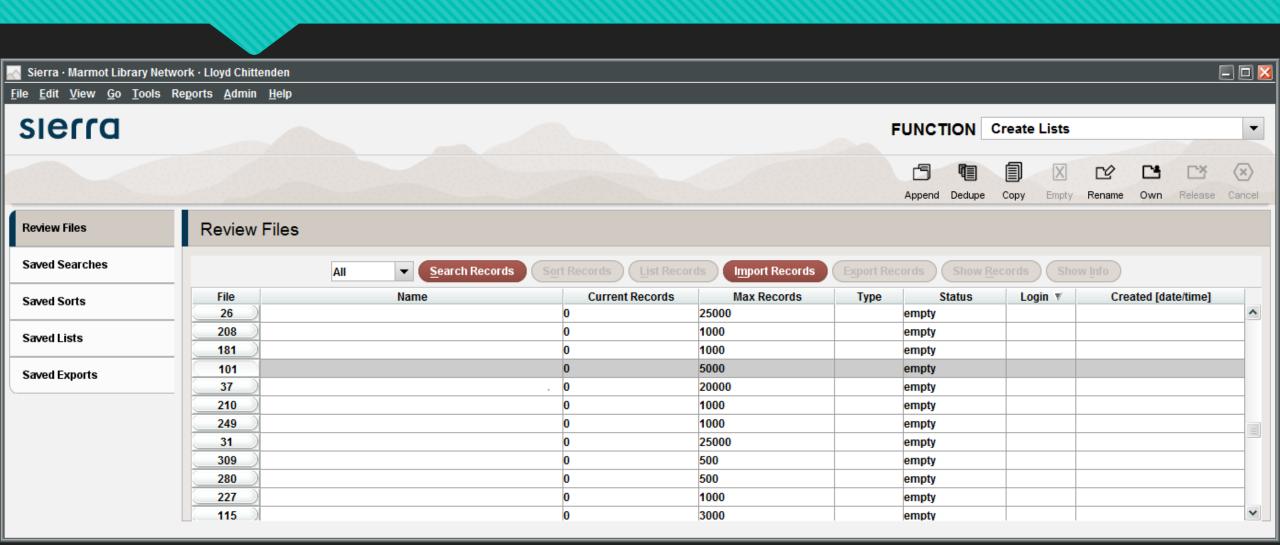
Close the Show Info box



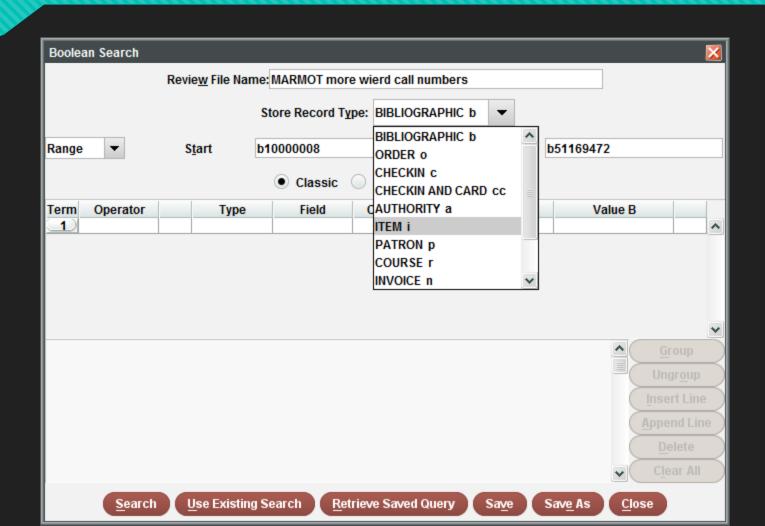
Select the list and click Search Records



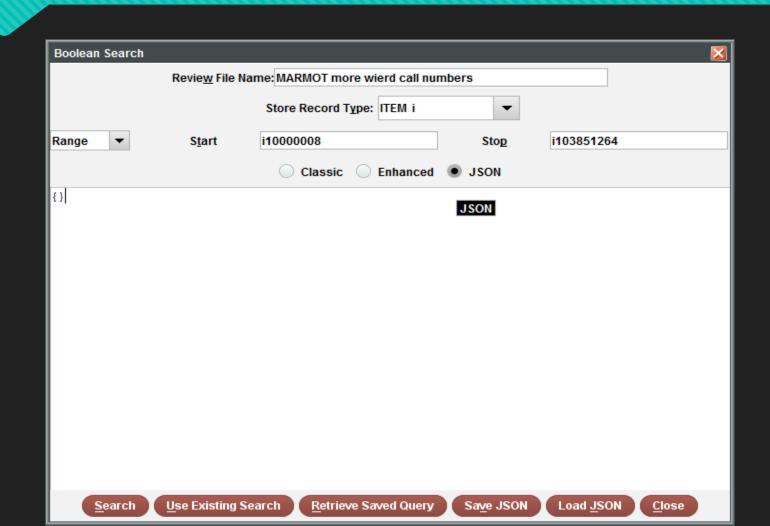
You could also redo the search in a different bucket



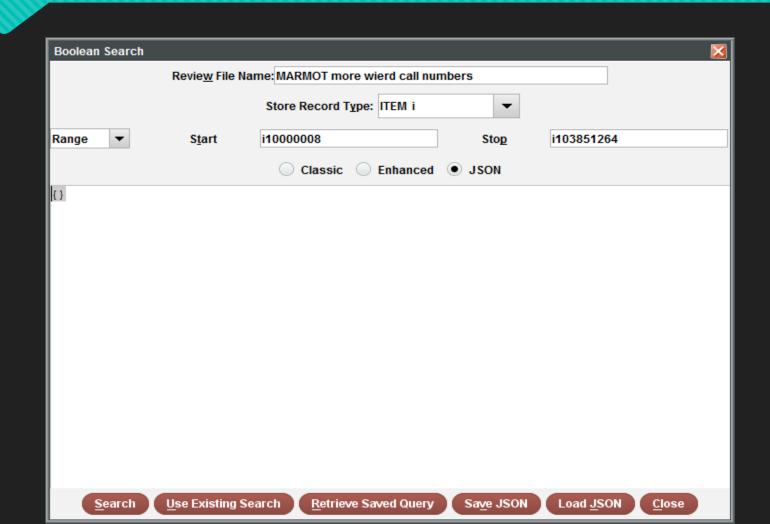
Change record type if necessary



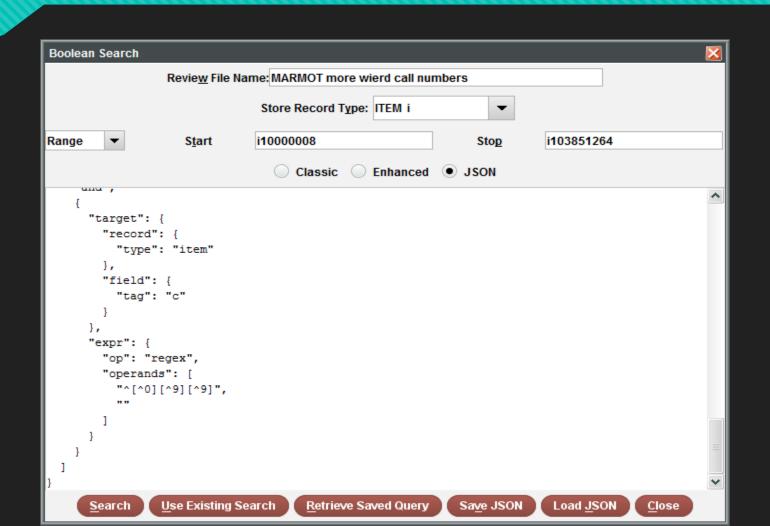
Click the JSON radio button



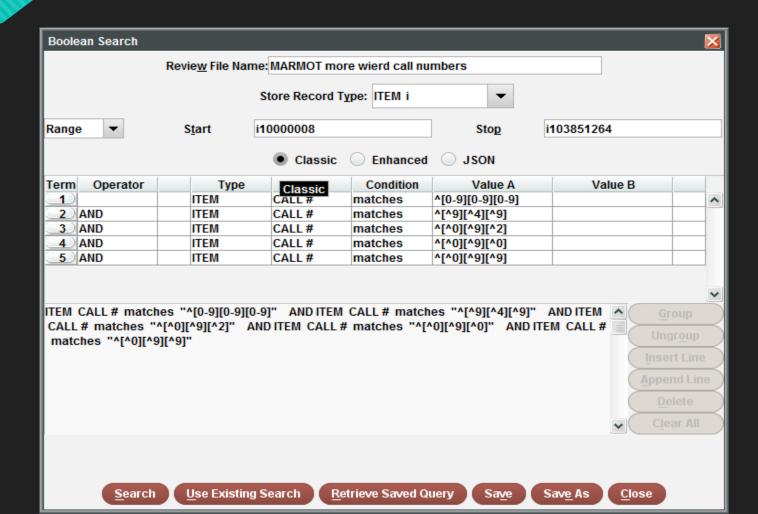
Delete the {}



Paste in the JSON



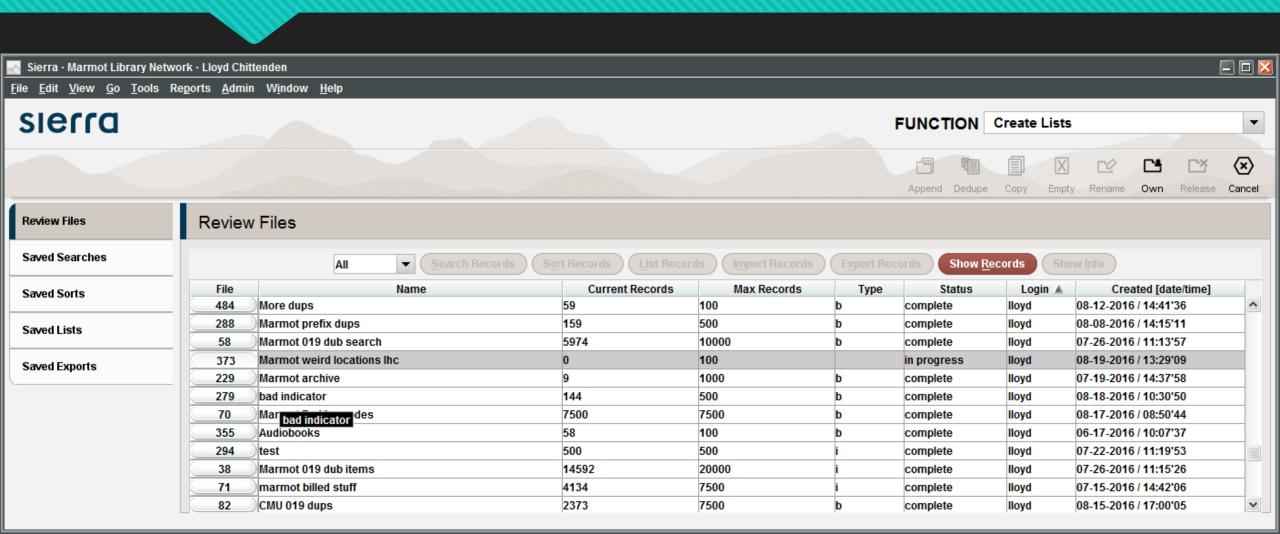
Go back to Classic view



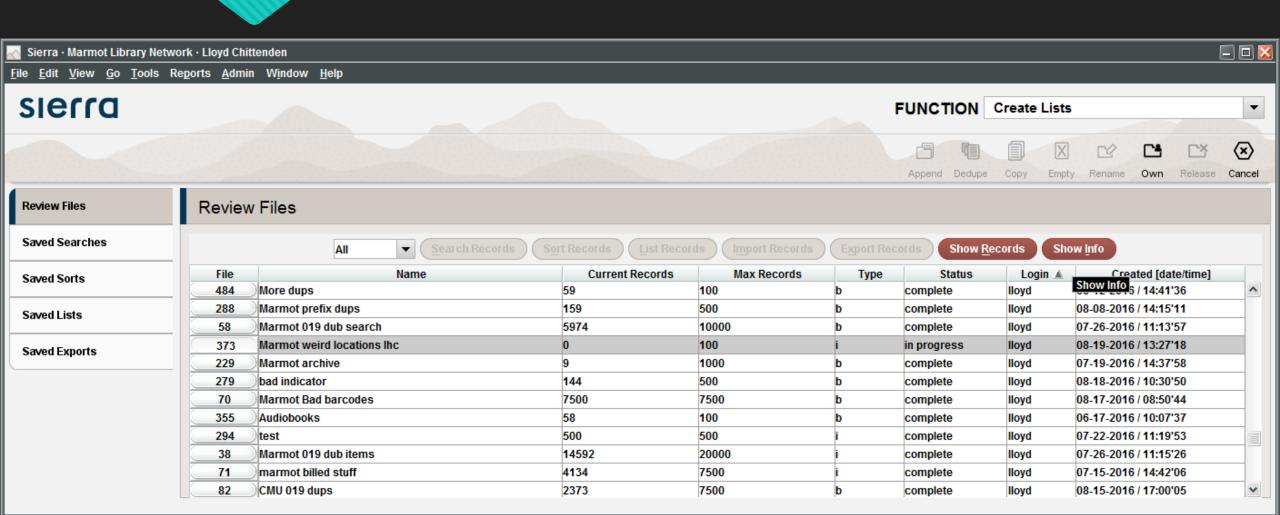
This also allows you to cancel a search

- Sometimes you realize you made an error in a search and you want to cancel it
- However, canceling means you can't get the search back with Use Existing Search
- You can get the JSON, then cancel the search and paste it back

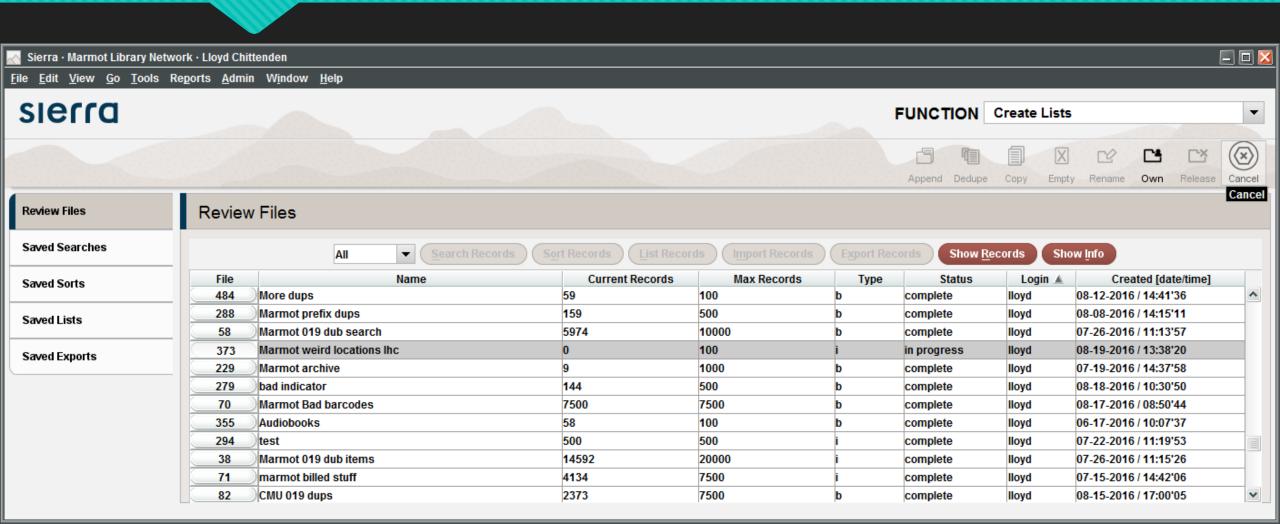
You start a search and realize you made a mistake



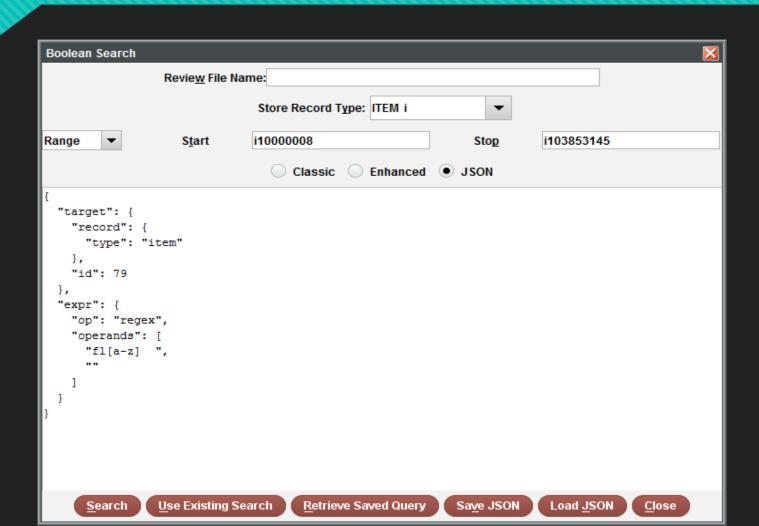
Click Show Info and copy the JSON



Click Cancel



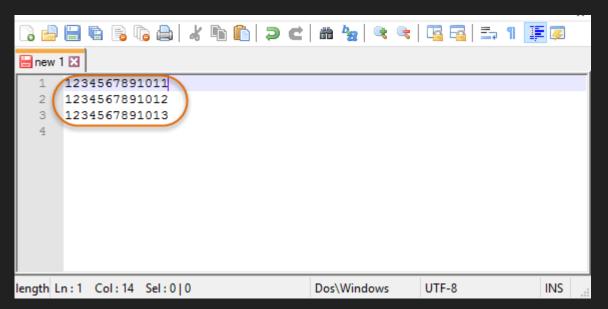
Start a new search and paste in the JSON



Notepad++

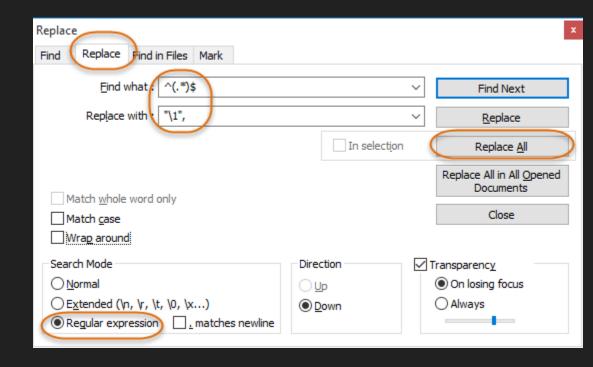
Here are the steps to scan barcodes into Notepad++, and add the needed formatting to work using JSON.

Scan your barcodes into Notepad++.



Press Ctlr F. This will bring up the Replace Box.

- a. Click on Regular expression
- b. Click Replace
- c. Find what: ^(.*)\$
- d. Replace with: "\1",
- e. Click Replace All



You should get a message at the bottom of the screen letting you know the amount of items that were replaced

Replace All: 3 occurrences were replaced.

You need to do a little cleanup with the barcodes. You will need to remove the , at the end of the last barcode.

```
"1234567891011",
"1234567891012",
"1234567891013"
```

Create Lists in Sierra

Find an empty review file that has the Max Records that will hold all your scanned barcodes from Notepad++.

Click on "Search Records" to open the review file.



Change the Store Record Type value to the type of record that your barcodes matches (usually item or patron records). Change search type from default Classic to JSON. Remove any text in the query box (usually just a pair of curly braces, '{ }').



Paste the formula below into review file for the JSON query using Ctrl V. Make sure to include your formatted barcodes.

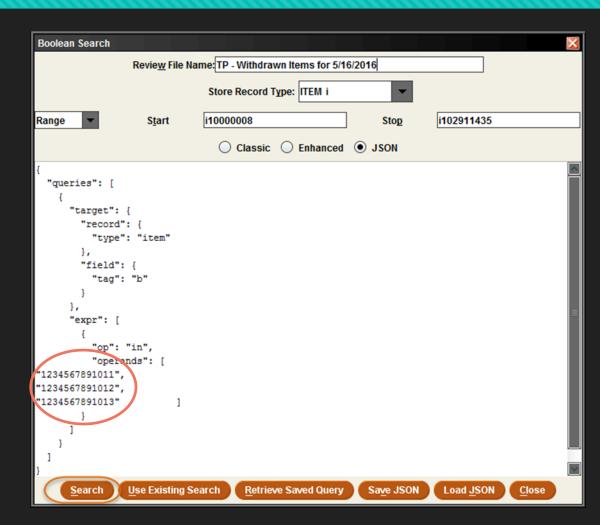
This formula is for item records. For patron records (or other records that have indexed barcodes), change the line "type": "item" and change it to "patron" or whatever record type is appropriate.

```
"queries": [
  "target": {
    "record": {
     "type": "item
    "field": {
  "expr": |
     "op": "in",
     "operands":
```

You will need to copy and paste (Ctrl V) the barcodes from Notepad++ into the review file.

Here is what your JSON query will look like. Click Search.

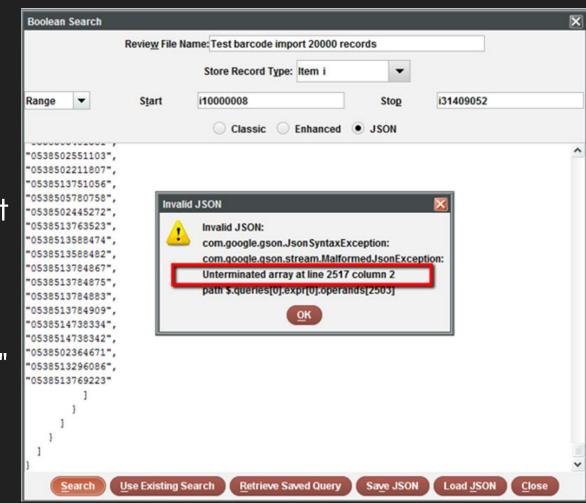
Note: Any items that are no longer in the catalog will not show up in this search. This could be one of the reasons why the number of barcodes in the review file are less then the number of the scanned barcodes.



Possible problems

Bad Data in your query: If you see the Unterminated array error, you may have a stray character in your query that is tripping up Create Lists.

"0538502117517",
"0538505744416",7 <-----Stray character "7"
"0538512175315"



Bad Data in your records:

If you barcode data is stored in patron and item records with inconsistent formatting or extra whitespaces, punctuation, etc., you might have trouble finding a given record. For example, if three of your item records have the following three barcodes (not including quotation marks) ...

```
"0538 5021 (7517"
"0538513096387"
"0538513096395."
```

And your JSON query has these three barcode character strings ...

```
"0538502117517",
"0538513096387",
"0538513096395",
```

None of the three barcodes would be found by create lists using the basic JSON query. It might be best to remove this extra spaces using Global Updates. Contact Marmot, if you need assistance with this type of Global Update.

Deleted Items

- Items deleted after they are scanned it into Notepad++ will not show up in the review file.
- You will not get an error message.
- It might be best to keep a record of your scanned items, and compare it to the barcodes in the review.

Structured Query Language (SQL) for specialpurpose reporting in Sierra (Brandon)

What does SQL have to do with Sierra?

- 1. The Sierra database is structured into a PostgresSQL relational Database
- 1. This database captures material, circulation, patron, financial and other data
- 1. Using an application to connect to this database we can get access to this raw data
 - a. Often times has information that you can't get out of Create lists, Statistics, or Decision Center
 - b. Queries can be copied and reused

Some Jargon

SQL

- Structured Query Language
- Allows Management of PostgresSQL Database

Schema

Collections of views

Views

Collections of data columns

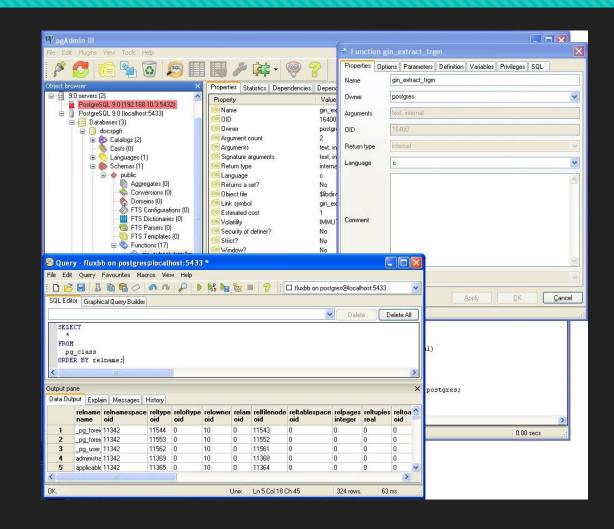
Columns

• Fields for the data (i.e. record numbers, barcodes, ect.)

The Application

pgAdmin

- Allows you to connect and see the schemas, views, and columns in the Sierra postgres database
- Easy familiar interface
- Can be used on Mac, Windows, and Linux
- Graphical Query Builder



What can you get with SQL?

Circulation

- Patrons opted into Reading history
- Patrons with Frozen holds older than (x) days
- Number of items checked out from category limits (A,B,C, & D)
- Bibs with more than (x) holds

Cataloging

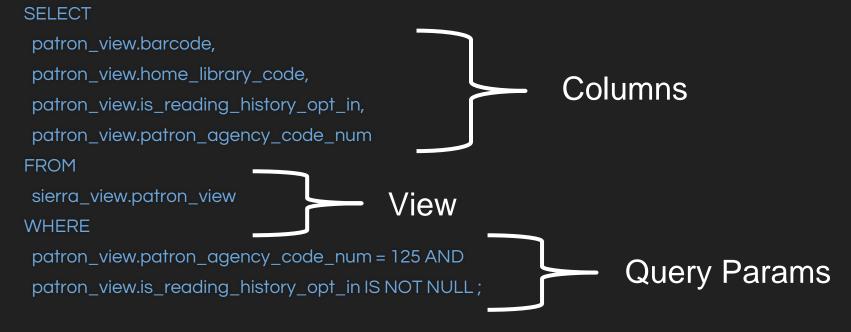
- Bibs with creation date (x) with at least one attached item with creation date (y)
- i-type counts
- Items linked to more than one bib

Admin

- Permissions Assigned to a Sierra Login
- Logins assigned to a user group pool
- Logins assigned to a stat group
- All Logins assigned to a Library served

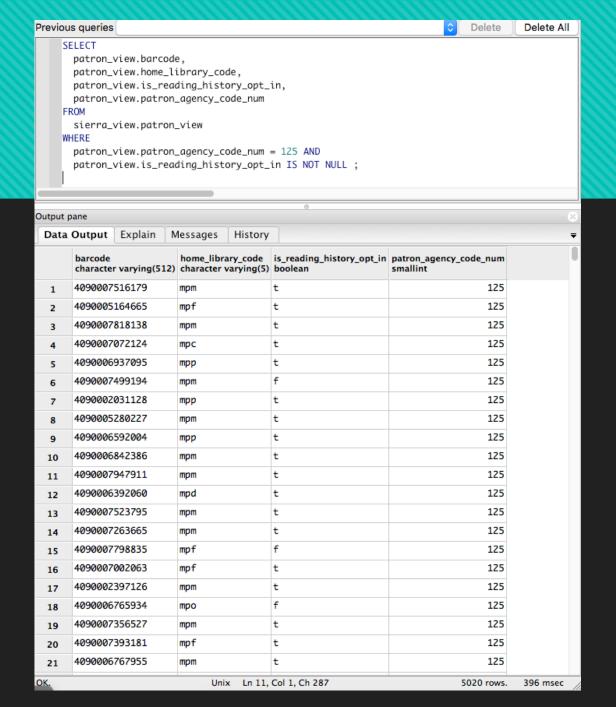
An Example

Patrons Opted into Reading History at Mesa County



Continued Example

 Screenshot shows the results you can export these results as a .csv and open in excel to format and order the data however you want



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