



A Room With a View of Polaris and a Pond

Views & Reviews About Polaris Views

Daniel Messer

Library Systems & Services

Mastodon: @cyberpunklibrarian@hackers.town

Sources and Resources

cyberpunklibrarian.com/iug2025

Welcome!

You must be this tall to ride the database

- The Polaris database, database views, T-SQL
- Beginner to intermediate knowledge of Polaris and T-SQL
- Commercial drivers license
- Lift up to 25 pounds unassisted

Hello, I'm Dan

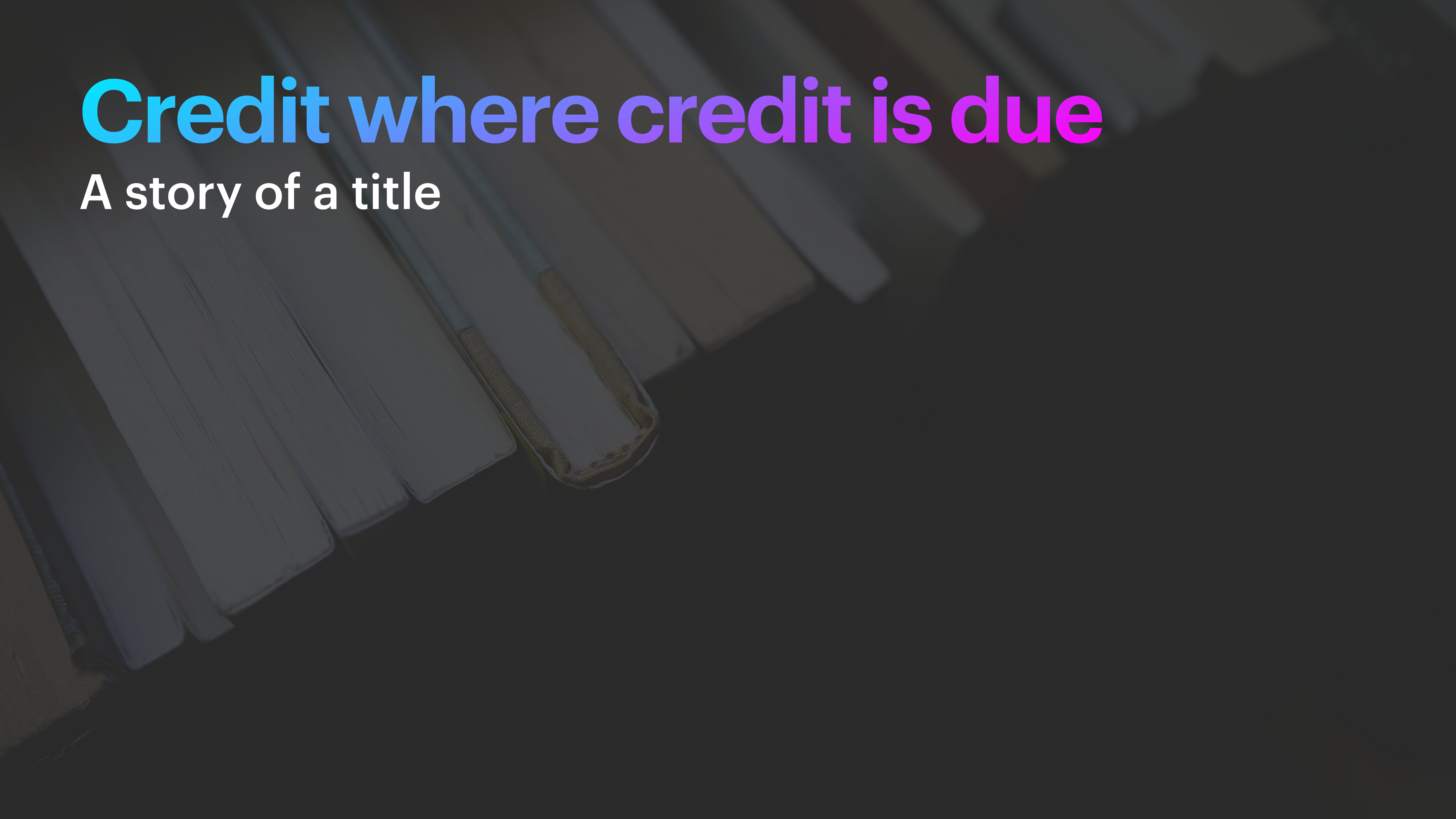
Member-at-large, IUG Steering Committee

- Almost 30 years in libraries
- Polaris ILS Administrator for Library Systems & Services
- Author of *Bricks Without Clay: Demystifying Polaris Transactions*
- Long time Polaris user

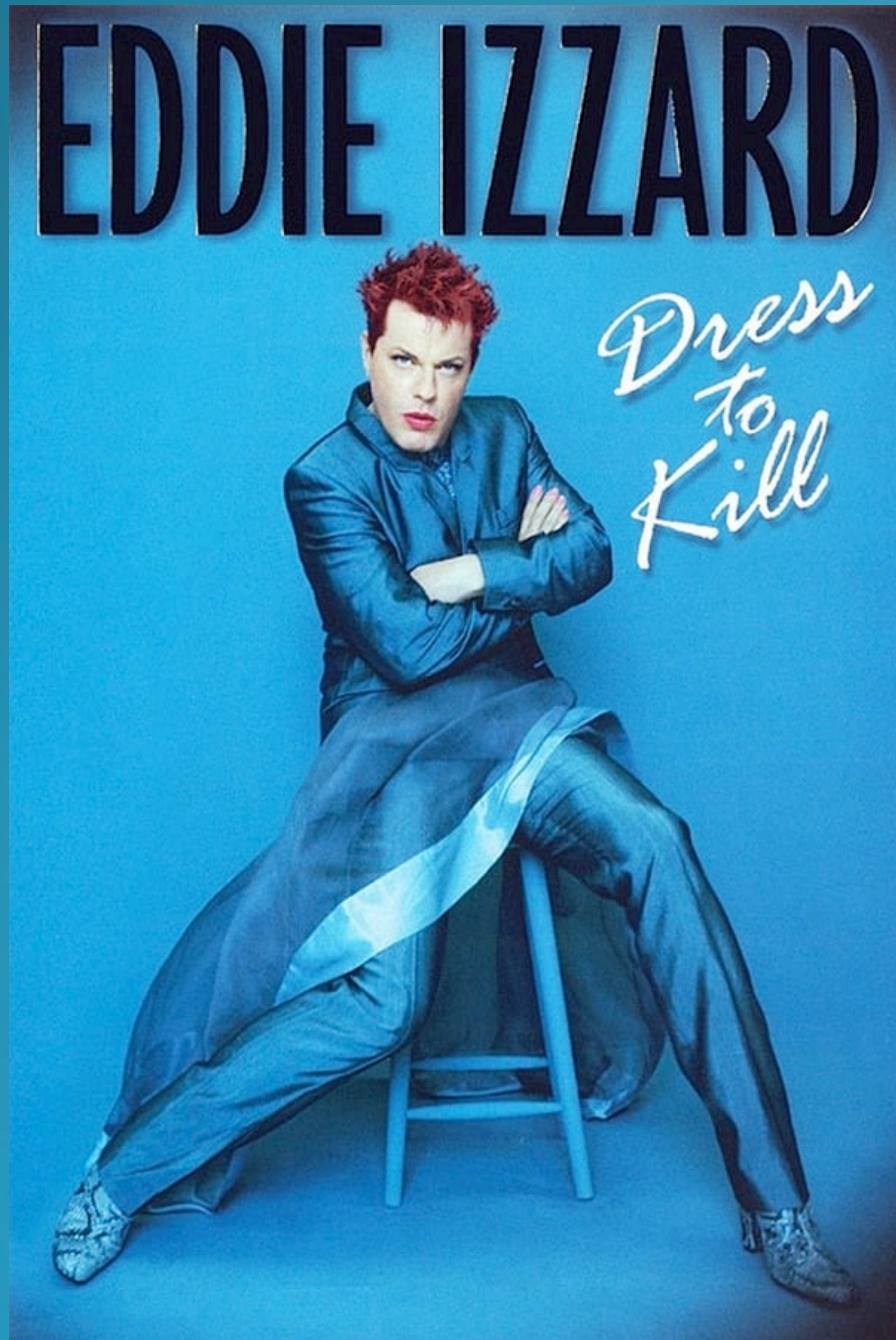


Credit where credit is due

A story of a title







So what are we doing here?

Let's talk about what we're gonna talk about

- Checking out the Views folder in the Polaris database
- What are database views?
- What do they do?
- How do you use them?
- How to make your own

What's a view?

Database views and you (and the person next to you)

- They are *not* a table in your database
- They hold no data on their own
- For *most* intents and purposes, views act exactly like tables
 - SELECT
 - JOIN
- Can't use them for direct updates
 - But you can refer to them for updating real tables
- "A virtual table"



Views! (huh!) Good God, Y'all!

What are they good for?

Absolutely noth....

Views! (huh!) Good God, Y'all!

What are they good for?

- Save a query for later use
 - And you're saving it to the database itself
- Don't you get a little tired of typing the word JOIN?
- Create a complex view and then just call it via SELECT
- Permissions
- Development



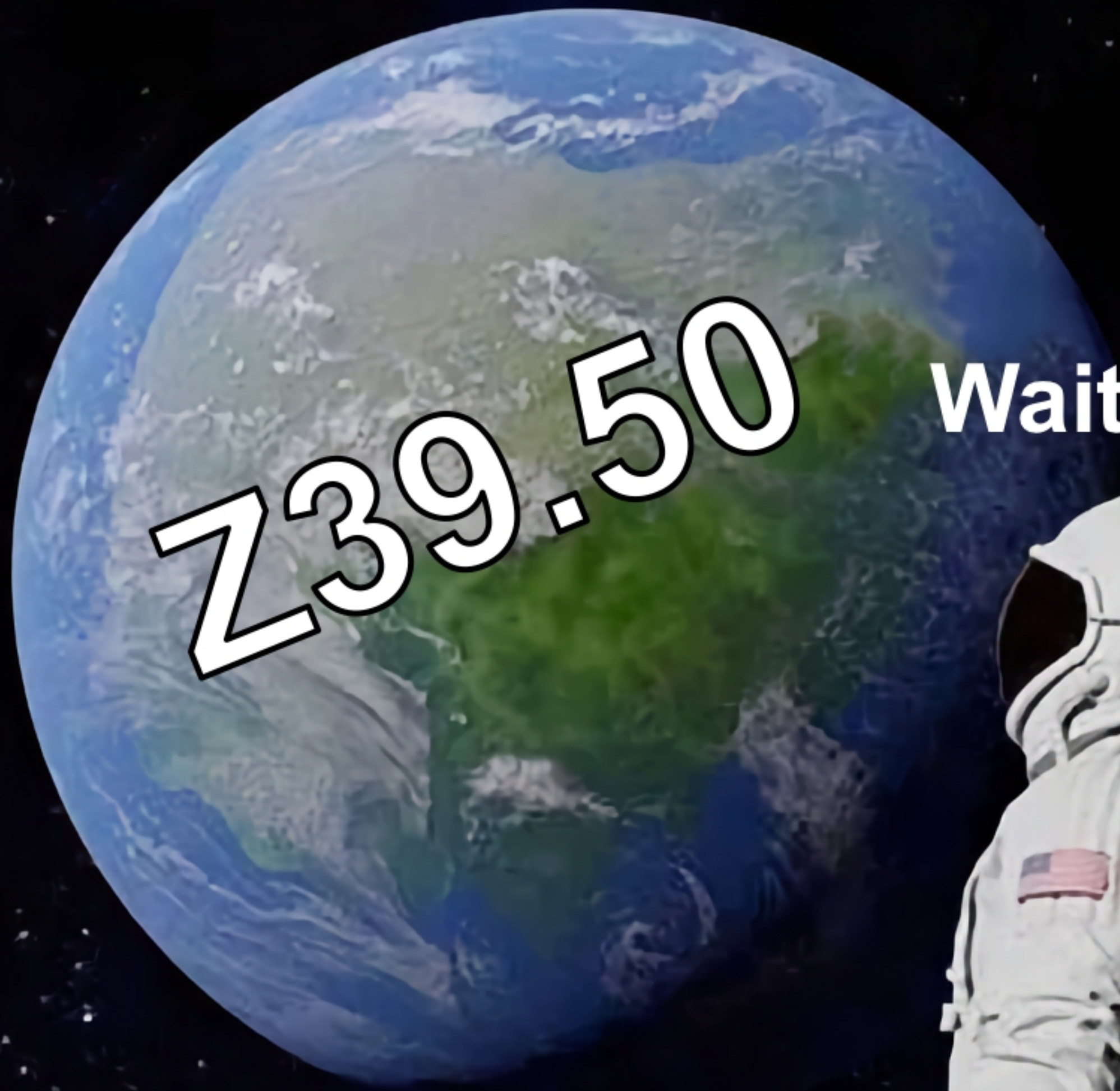
Polaris Views

aka “Let’s reverse engineer the Polaris database”

Always has been

Z39.50

Wait, it's all Z39.50?



Polaris Views

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- Of the 1,071 views in the Polaris 7.7 database
 - 926 of them deal with Z39.50
 - The other 145, those are more interesting

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```
SELECT
    TABLE_SCHEMA, TABLE_NAME
FROM
    INFORMATION_SCHEMA.VIEWS
ORDER BY
    TABLE_NAME;
```


Poking around

Finding your own uses for things

- For the most part, **SELECT TOP 1000 *** is basically free
- You're not writing anything to the database
- You're not pulling a lot of data
- You can see what the view delivers

Looking around

The clues are in the names

- There's a structure to the naming of the views
 - The Naming of the Views is my new prog rock band
- **ACQ** - Acquisitions
- **ML_V1** - Multilingual? Maybe? Definitely works with the API
 - Polaris.Polaris.ML_V1_Token
- **RWRITER** - Report writer - often deals with SimplyReports
- **SA** - System administration
- **View** - Prefix to what the view delivers
- **Z3950** - Yes, that

Stand back, I'm going to try SQL

Live demonstrations - what could possibly go wrong?

- Let's look at some views and see what they do
- Just some of my favourites
- Look at the underlying queries
- And we'll build our very own view!
- Poke the box
 - The Systems Librarian finds their own uses for things



Thank You!

Questions?

Resources, Links, and More

cyberpunklibrarian.com/iug2025

Daniel Messer

Integrated Library Systems Administrator

Library Systems & Services

Email: daniel.messer@lsslibraries.com

Mastodon: [@cyberpunklibrarian@hackers.town](https://hackers.town/@cyberpunklibrarian)