



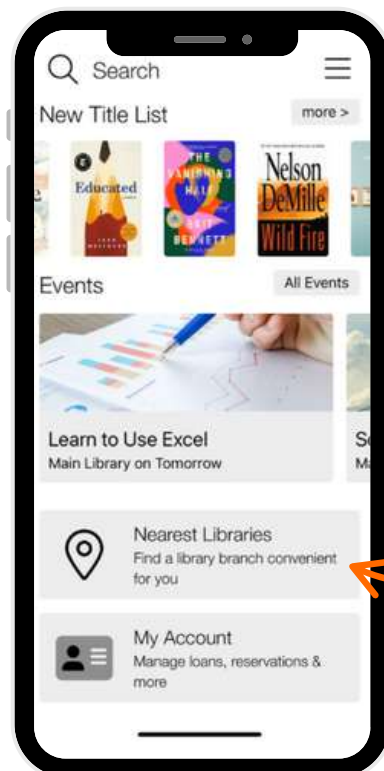
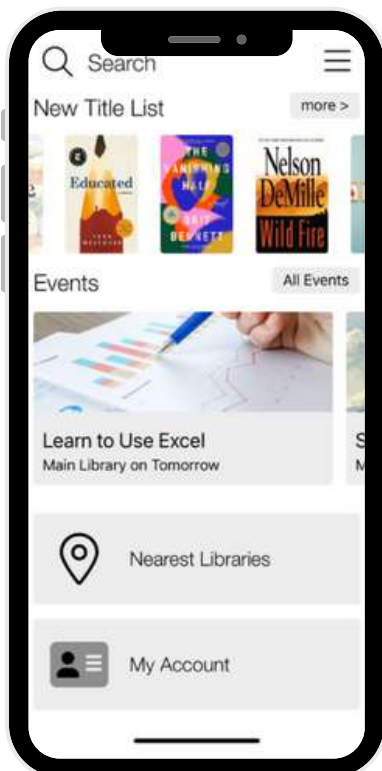
How To Make Your App Look Its Best

Ensure your mobile app is intuitive and accessible for all patrons, including those with disabilities. Follow these best practices to provide an app experience that is easy to navigate, visually clear, and inclusive for everyone.

Optimize Home Screen Navigation

During the implementation process, default home screen tabs will be created for you. Once your app is live and you have access to the Content Management System (CMS), you can update, remove, or create new tabs. To improve accessibility, each tab should have a clear title and subtitle so screen readers can read the provided text aloud for patrons who rely on assistive technology.

Instead of vague tabs like *'My Account'* and *'Nearest Libraries'*, use *'My Account – Manage loans, reservations & more'* and *'Nearest Libraries – Find a library branch convenient for you'* to provide more context.



Extra descriptive details help screen readers and will reduce confusion among users.

Color

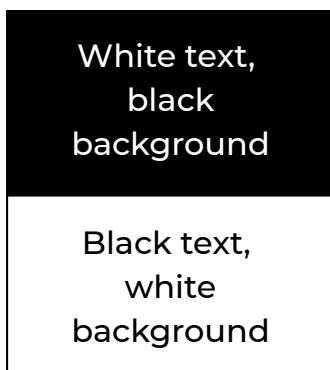
Enhance Contrast

Solus selects UI colors based on the feedback provided in the Customer Configuration Questionnaire. If you need to adjust them, choose high-contrast color schemes to improve text visibility.

Choosing the right colors for your library app is important because effective color combinations not only create an aesthetically pleasing interface but also help users navigate the app with ease and confidence. When users have a positive experience, they are more likely to engage with the app for longer periods and use it repeatedly.

Have you ever wondered why paper is usually white and text is black? This color combination provides a high contrast ratio that maximizes readability. As well as black and white please see below for some other high contrast color suggestions:

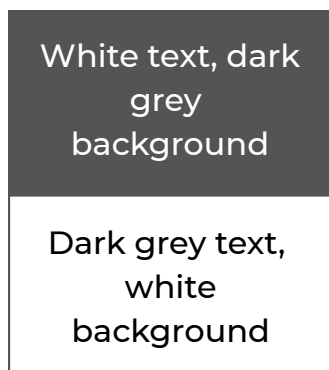
Black & White



Black HEX: 090300
White Hex: FFFFFFFF



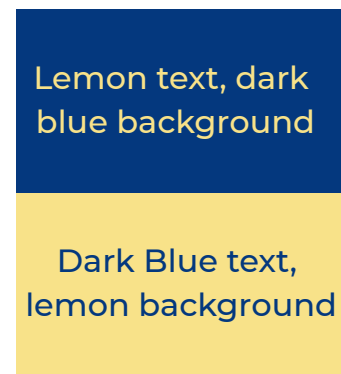
Dark Grey & White



Dark grey HEX: 545454
White Hex: FFFFFFFF



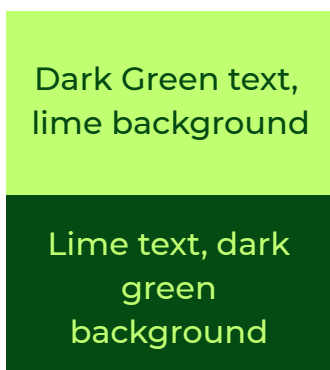
Dark Blue & Lemon



Dark Blue HEX: 04387E
Lemon Hex: F8E289



Dark Green & Lime



Dark green HEX: 034A13
White Hex: C1FF72



Maroon & Pale Pink



Maroon HEX: 750939
Light pink Hex: F8E2E3



Purple & Sky Blue



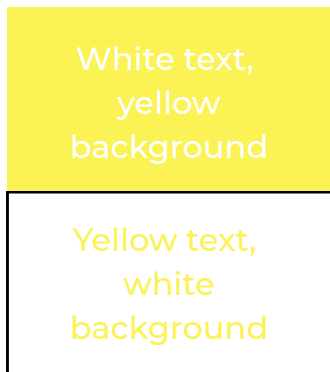
Purple HEX: 370C8F
Sky Blue Hex: 8BEEF1



For help to configure your apps colours click [here!](#)

Colour combinations to avoid

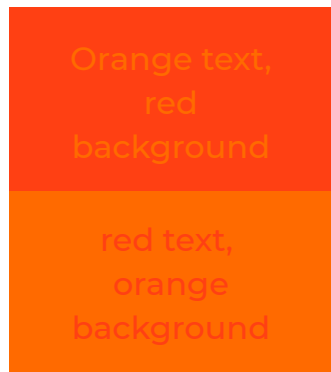
Yellow & White



Black HEX: FBF256
White Hex: FFFFFFF



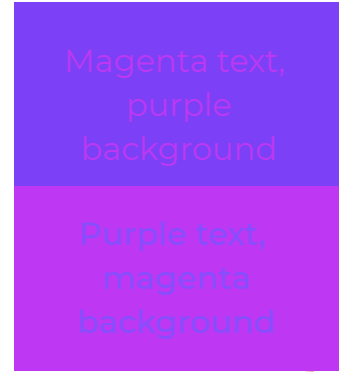
Orange & Red



Orange HEX: FF6A00
Red Hex: FF4013



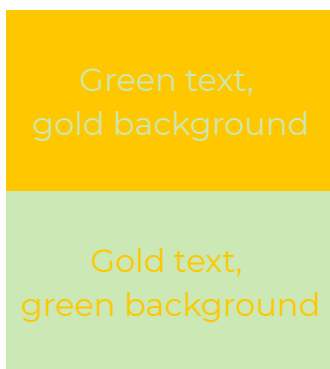
Purple & Magenta



Purple HEX: 874EFE
Magenta Hex: BE38F3



Green & Gold



Green HEX: 034A13
Gold Hex: C1FF72



Grey/green & Lilac



Lilac HEX: E392FE
Grey/green Hex: 62B2B2



Cream & Peach



Cream HEX: F8FADB
Peach Hex: FDC0A5



If you're unsure about your color choices, there are free online tools designed to check contrast levels. [The Web Accessibility in Mind \(WebAIM\)](#) website offers a free contrast checker to assist you.

This resource enables you to quickly check if the colors you intend to use comply with necessary web accessibility standards. Simply enter your HEX color codes—if you don't have them, they should be available from your organization's branding or marketing department. This will ensure your color combinations are both visually appealing and user-friendly. If WebAIM does not pass your color selection, think about making small adjustments to the shade (darkness) or tone (lightness) of your colour to reach an acceptable level of contrast.

For help to configure your apps colours click [here!](#)

Example Library Branding

Tones or Shades of Library Colours

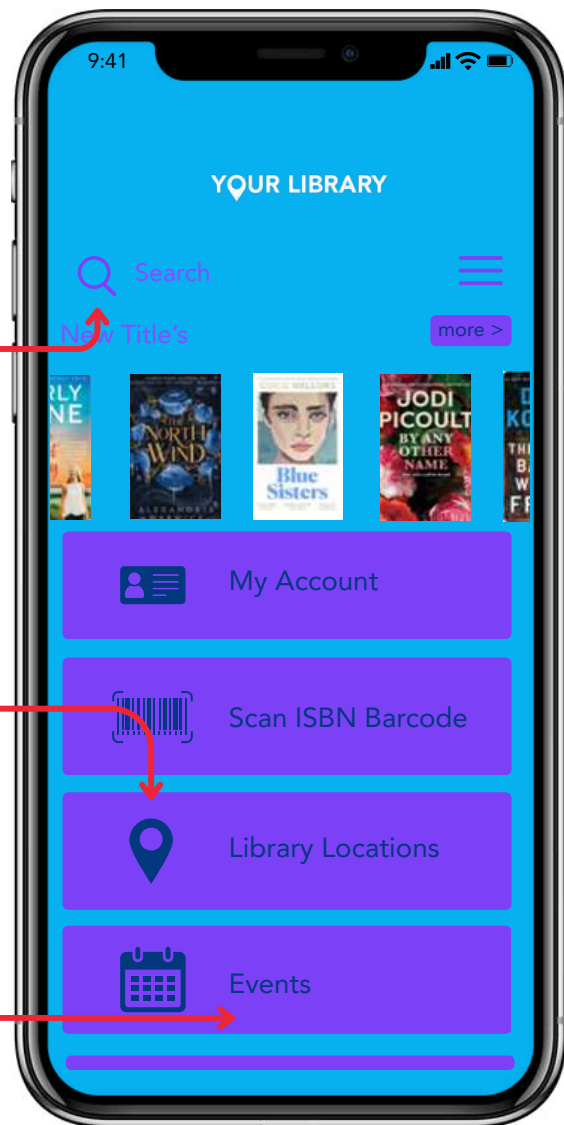


Tones or shades of brand colors can be used as sometimes lighter or darker versions of them are softer on the eye but still feel part of the branding.

Bad UI Practices



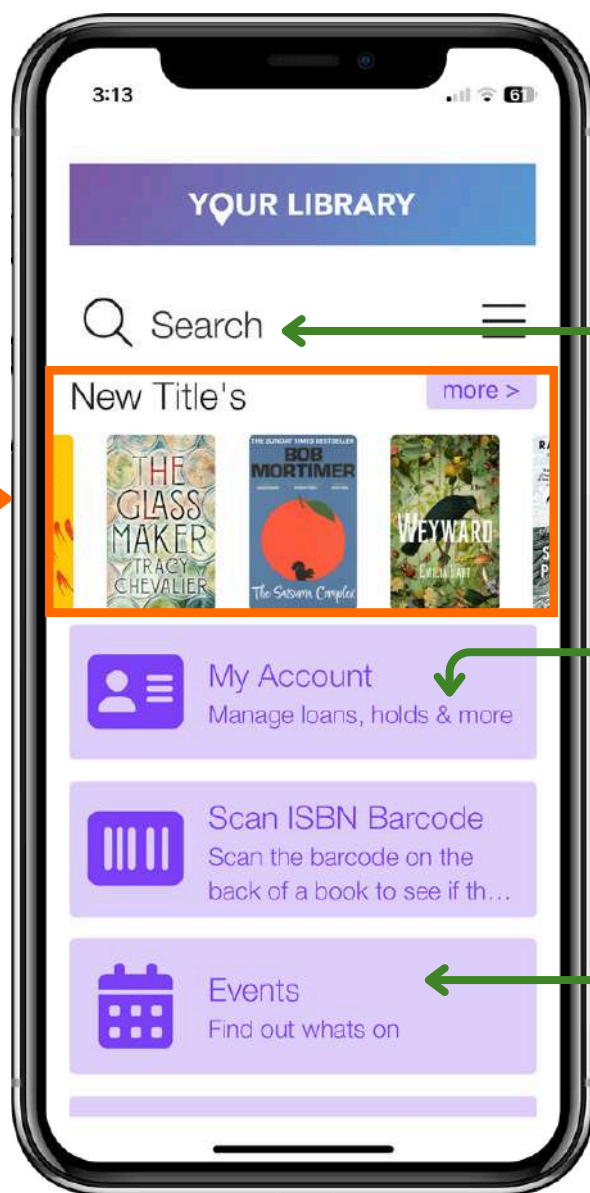
- Low contrast between blue and purple making app less user friendly.
- Colors used at their 100% saturation create a strong overpowering look.
- No description on tabs.



For help to configure your apps colours click [here!](#)

Good User Interface (UI) Practices

Combining tab descriptions, colour contrast, and tones and shades into the app's User Interface (UI) in the right ways.



- Higher contrast between the background colors and text.
- Descriptions added to tabs for clarification.
- Some colors are used at reduced saturation to stay on brand and give a better viewing experience.

Classic Book Carousel

Help patrons to discover the wealth of titles your library has by incorporating the classic book carousel. This fun and engaging feature adds visual interest to the apps homescreen and will encourage users to explore the app further.

For help to configure the Classic Book Carousel click [here!](#)

Show us how you've used our tips to improve your library app! Share your screenshots with us at info@sol.us for a chance to be featured.



Best Practices One Recap

In Best Practices Guide: Part 1, we examined how your library's branded colors can enhance the app, transforming it into a unique expression of your organization and helping to engage more patrons. Building on from that, we will share tips to further enhance your library's app.

To read Part One click [here!](#)

Home Screen Customization

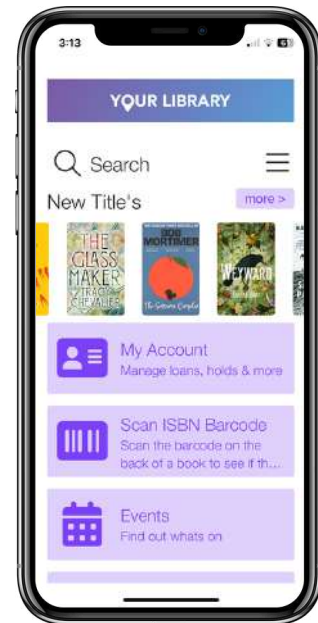
If you're ready to take your app to the next level, let's explore just two of the **26+ home screen customization features** available. With just a few simple edits, both libraries and patrons can benefit in numerous ways.

1. Highlights

"Make overdue titles and forgotten reservation pick-ups a thing of the past with our Highlights feature!"

We understand how busy life can get—and how easy it is to forget to return or collect library items. Highlights can help ease the burden on your library by notifying patrons when items are due, overdue, or ready for pick-up.

Additionally, the borrowing process can be simplified by using 'Highlights' to display a Membership Barcode button, giving patrons quick access to the details they need to use your library's resources. 'Highlights' can also be used to remind patrons of upcoming events they have selected to attend, as well as any room or resource bookings they have.



Example from Part One

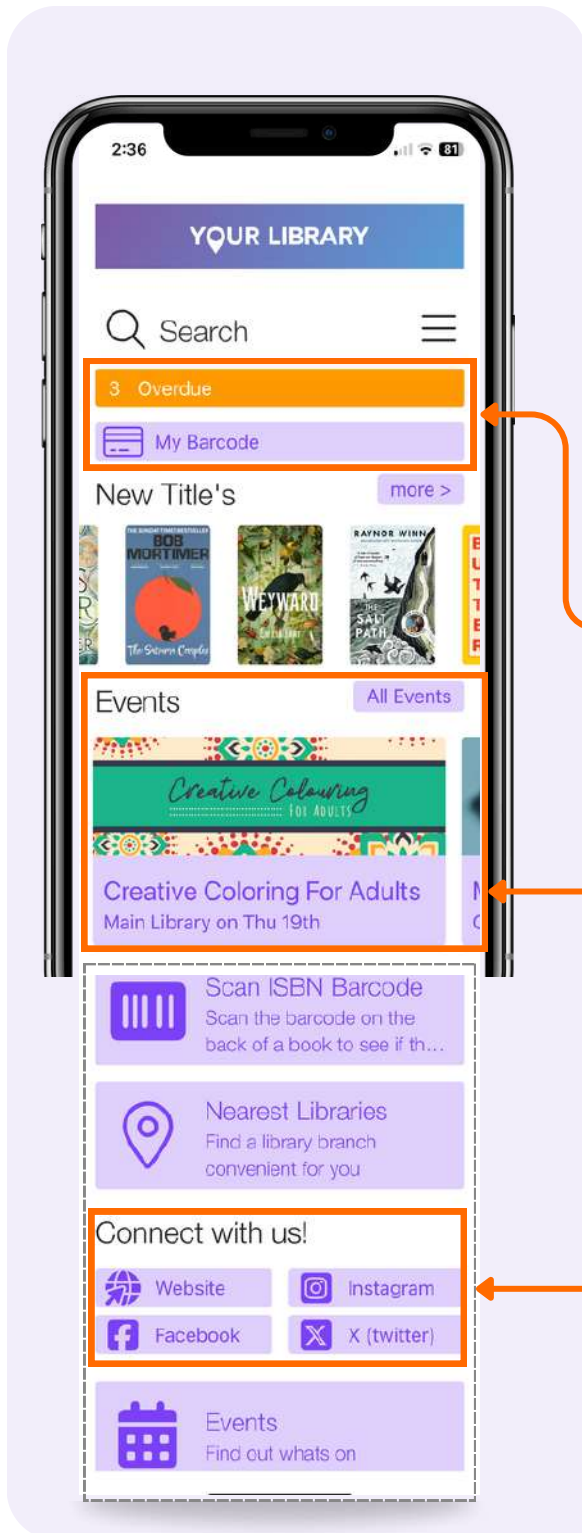
“Does your library struggle to run events at full capacity?”

Using Highlights can also help draw attention to any events you have scheduled. By enabling the 'Show Classic Events Carousel' option in the 'Homescreen Action Highlights' section of the content management system, you can showcase an attractive sliding carousel of your upcoming events. This carousel will be prominently displayed on the home screen, making it easier for patrons to notice these events.

2.Nuggets

“Looking for more website and social media traffic?”

Nuggets allow you to emphasise specific links or sections for your patrons. Their flexibility means you can choose to display the content that best aligns with your library's goals. For example, if you want to attract more visitors to your social media platforms, you can create Nuggets that link directly to them.



1. Highlights Example

At a glance, patrons can see they have three titles overdue. Quick access to their Membership Barcode makes borrowing faster and more convenient for patrons.

More attention is given to the events by toggling on the option 'Show Classic Events Carousel'.

For help to configure Highlights click [here!](#)

2.Nuggets Example

Patrons are encouraged to engage with the library's website and social media platforms by adding links in the form of Nuggets to the home screen.

For help to configure Nuggets click [here!](#)

Show us how you've used our tips to improve your library app! Share your screenshots with us at info@sol.us for a chance to be featured.

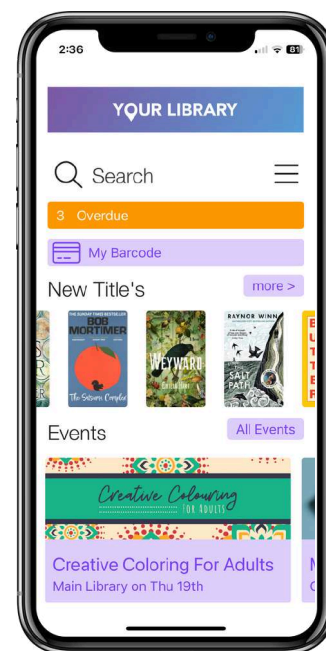


Best Practices Two Recap

In Part 2 of the Best Practices Guide, we explored how to add 'Highlights' and 'Nuggets' to enhance the experience for both your library and its patrons.

Building on those improvements, we will now highlight more of the **26+ easy-to-use home screen customization features** available to make your library app shine even brighter!

Didn't get a chance to read Part Two? No problem, click [here](#) to read.



Example from Part 2

Book Carousel Tab

"Does your library have titles that patrons would love but aren't using?"

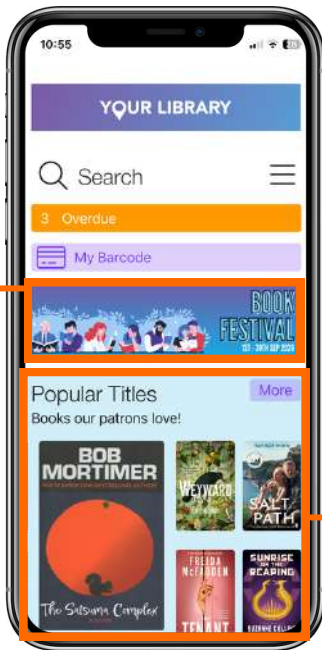
One of the standout features of the Library app is its ability to prominently showcase titles for all users to discover through its carousel feature. While we often hear the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover," many books feature beautiful cover artwork that can help promote your selected titles. You can create curated carousels to display chosen books, whether you want to highlight award winners or showcase new arrivals. Consider using one of our new dynamic carousel options to bring your selected titles to life!



Classic Carousel

The example above from Part 2 displays the app's Classic Carousel, but did you know that there are **14 other carousel options** to help bring titles to the forefront of your home screen?

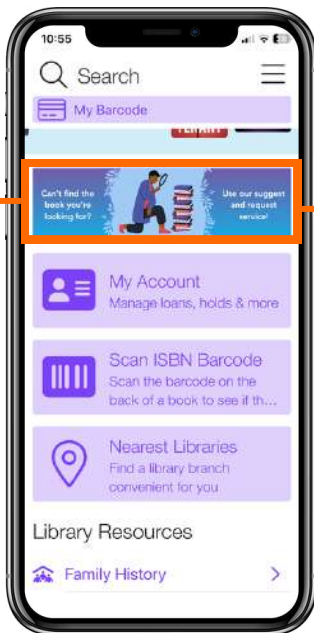
For help to configure a Classic Carousel, click [here](#)!



Carousel Option: Slider 1 large, 4 small

In the example app homescreen, the classic carousel has been removed from Feed 1 of the CMS Homescreen Settings. Instead, the ISBN numbers have been added to Feed 2, which provides you with the option to select a different carousel layout. Carousel layout **'Slider: 1 large, 4 small'** was chosen for the example. By selecting an alternative carousel option, you can make your app stand out and encourage greater user engagement.

For help with configuring different carousel layouts, please click [here](#).



Tab Banners

"Are there services or things that may be of interest to patrons you would like to bring to their attention?"

To add further interest to the home screen and allow users to identify content more visually, two Tab Banners were created. One is an advertisement for an upcoming Book Festival, and the other is for the library's 'Suggest and request' service.

For help to configure Tab Banners, please click [here](#).

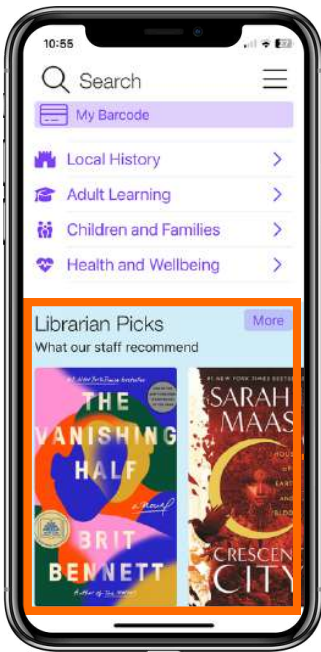


Arrow Tabs

'Do you have subsections within a category you want to display straightforwardly?'

Libraries offer a variety of resources that patrons can utilize, but displaying all of them as individual tabs can be overwhelming. To simplify the presentation, Arrow Tabs have been used in the example. This approach enables patrons to quickly view the available subcategories, making navigation easier.

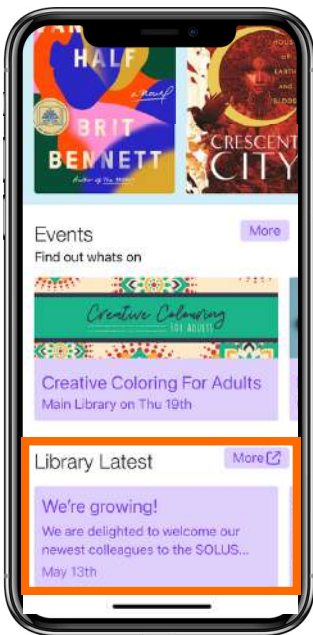
For help to configure Arrow Tabs, please click [here](#).



→ **Carousel Option: Slider Huge**

The second book carousel on the homepage has a new layout style. In this layout, the book covers are larger to enhance their visual impact. To break up the continuous white background of the homepage and to further emphasize the carousels, a pale blue background color has been added. This change will help patrons distinguish the carousel content from the rest of the homepage content.

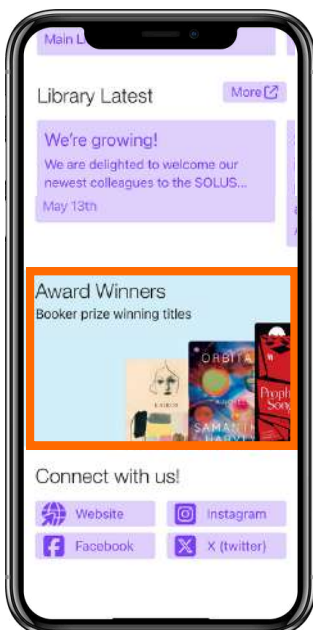
For help with configuring different carousel layouts, please click [here](#).



→ **News Tab**

A News Tab is an excellent way to keep your patrons informed about the latest happenings at the library. The News Tab operates by creating an RSS feed from your library's website, blog, LUCi Discovery Hero carousel, or LUCi Discovery blog. Regardless of which of the aforementioned content sources your library uses, whenever you update it with new information, your library app will automatically reflect those updates, saving you time and effort.

For help to configure the News Tab please click [here!](#)



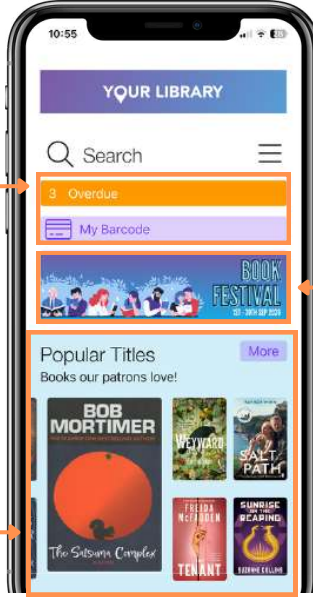
→ **Carousel Option: Large Button Right**

For this carousel, the theme is award-winning books. The same pale blue background is used, helping patrons easily identify the sections of the homescreen highlighting books.

For help with configuring different carousel layouts, please click [here](#).

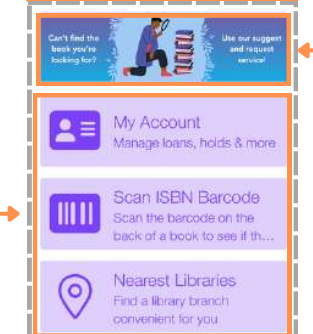
Highlights

For help with configuring Highlights click [here](#).



Tab Banner

1 large 4 small carousel



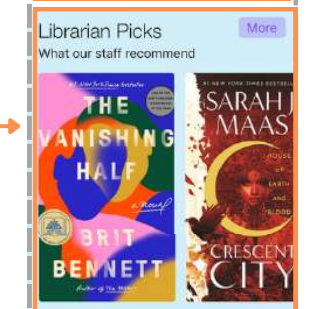
Tab Banner

Homescreen Tabs

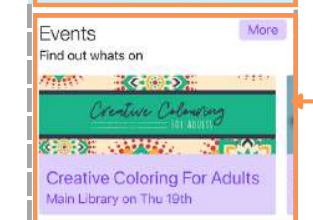


Arrow Tabs

Huge Slider Carousel



News Tab (connected to website blog)

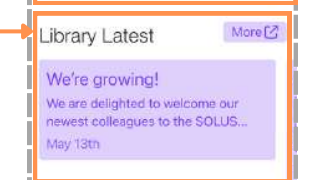


Events Featured
Slider Tab Highlight

For help with configuring Highlights click [here](#).

Social Media Nuggets

For help with configuring Nuggets click [here](#).



Large Button right
carousel

