

SUGGEST A PURCHASE  
... AND MORE!

a new in-house capability at CHPL // issue #1 // may '26

There's a whole class of software that's specific to *how CHPL works* – our workflows, our systems, our customers. It used to be out of reach: too specific for a vendor to build, too big a lift for in-house. **That math just changed.**

WHAT IT IS

A small, real app: a customer recommends something for the collection.

customer → [ suggest-a-bot ] → staff review  
logs in enriches from in a familiar  
(lib card) Sierra + Open Library Datasette table

Built **entirely on tools CHPL already owns** – Sierra, our own servers, public APIs – and it sits right alongside the systems we already run.

HOW IT GOT BUILT

- In-house, in **weeks** – by someone who already knows CHPL's workflows
- An agentic coding assistant (Anthropic Claude) as a pair
- **340 automated tests** · design-doc first · built to acceptance criteria

The app is the proof. **The capability is the story.**

WHAT'S NEXT :: it compounds

**"Hot Tickets"** (already in design): customers subscribe to authors, subjects, or formats. When a match hits the catalog, the system stages a **one-click hold the customer confirms** – never auto-placed, the customer stays in control.

Same Sierra integration. Same Datasette pattern. Same audit trail. Each new project goes faster – the patterns get reused.



scan it ▶ see the project

[rayvoelker.github.io/2026-05/issue\\_1\\_suggest-a-purchase/](https://rayvoelker.github.io/2026-05/issue_1_suggest-a-purchase/)  
v1.0.0 · 2026-05

dub & pass it on