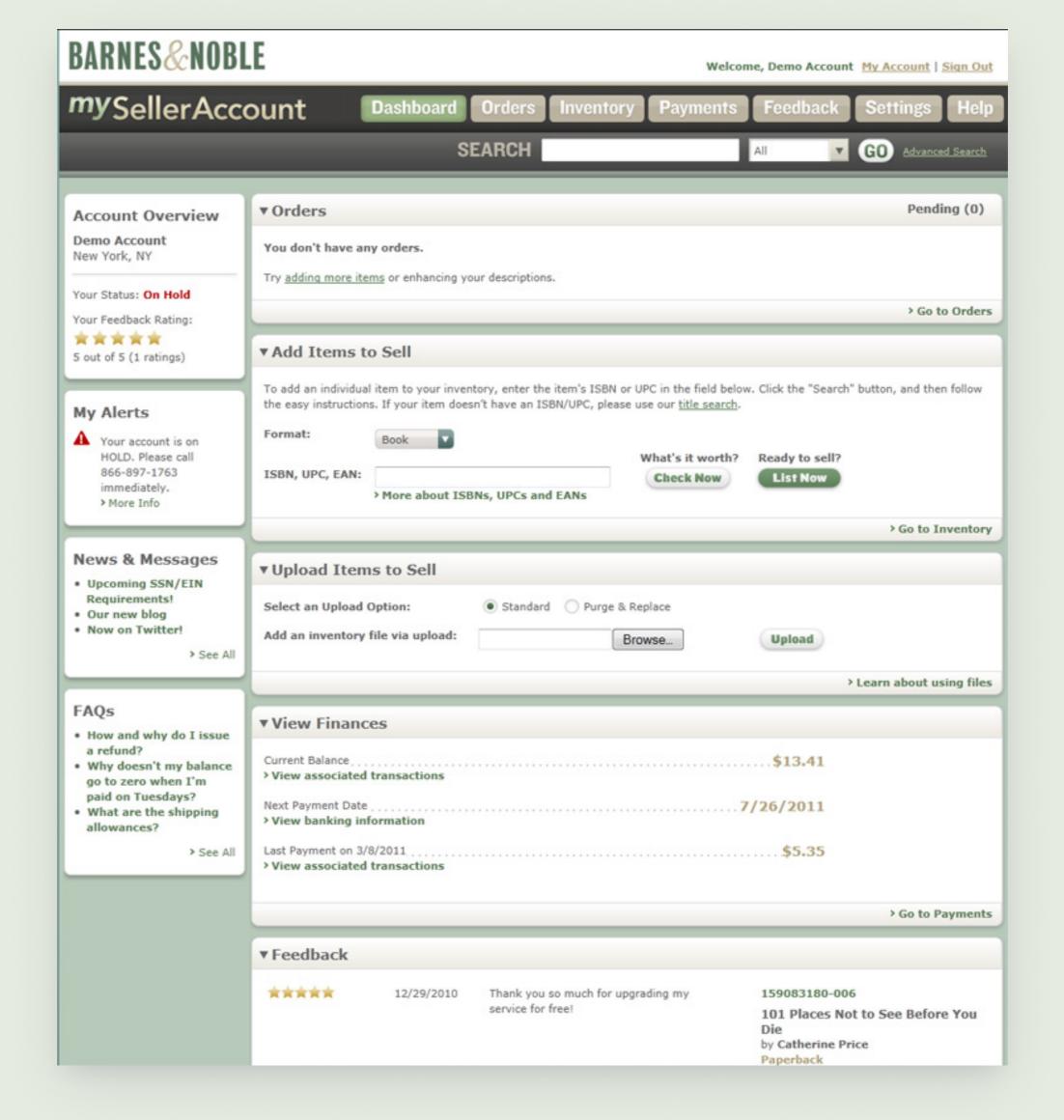


CASE STUDY

Barnes & Noble Marketplace



Overview

What is the Barnes & Noble Marketplace?

The Marketplace is an application within the B&N website where booksellers go to upload inventory, download orders, and submit invoices for payment for their sales on the B&N.com platform.

The Problem

As the B&N.com customer-facing website was in a redesign, the Marketplace seller web application was identified as a prime candidate for a refresh. The refresh came out of two directives: (1) identify and correct any usability issues that are driving bookseller attrition (repeat visits and volume of inventory was down 28% and 23%, respectively); and (2) convert customers to sellers so they can sell their personal goods on the B&N Marketplace.

To gather a sense of the "why" behind people leaving our platform, I spearheaded listening to customer service calls over a two week span. From these listening sessions, many usability issues were identified: managing inventory and orders, getting paid, and understanding what tasks they can accomplish in the Marketplace. I also performed user research in the form of contextual inquiry sessions with three types of booksellers (small, medium, and large sized stores), as well as everyday people selling personal goods on other websites, to gather insights into their tasks and goals for opportunities for improvement.

Problem Statement

Sellers need a way to easily perform common store functions across multiple product lines on the B&N site so that they can make money from online sales.

Design Questions

How might we support the needs of sellers in their day-to-day activities?

How might we make it easy for anyone to sign up and get started with a seller

account?

My Role and Responsibilities

Research and Testing: Led customer-service listening sessions to identify unknown issues with the site.

Performed a heuristic evaluation to gather a baseline.

Performed contextual inquiry with booksellers and customers-as-sellers. Tested a prototype with customers using in-person usability testing (talk-aloud method).

Designed and led a weekly seller round table to test wireframes and design concepts on sellers dialing in from remote locations.

IA and IxD: Redesigned the information architecture to be more in-line with seller mental models. Designed interactions and affordances across the Marketplace tool. Led collaborative design sessions with SMEs, product managers, customers, and third-party sellers. Designed a cohesive, easy to understand, user experience from start (whiteboard) to finish (wireframes and prototype). Worked with additional product teams to design for faceted search in the customer-facing Used, Rare and Collectable product site. Devised enhancements to transform customers into sellers without the overhead of the customer having to know all of the book-industry knowledge or language.

Design Strategy: Translated stakeholder, customer, and seller needs to design innovations that met many of the business goals: increasing throughput of sellers by converting customers to sellers; reducing attrition of booksellers; increasing seller time on the platform; increasing volume of books/product to the site; and extending product offering to other product categories, including rare and collectible, to increase sales.

Timeline

April 2009 - April 2010

Tools

Adobe Illustrator

Axure

Adobe PDF

OmniGraffle

Visio

Solution

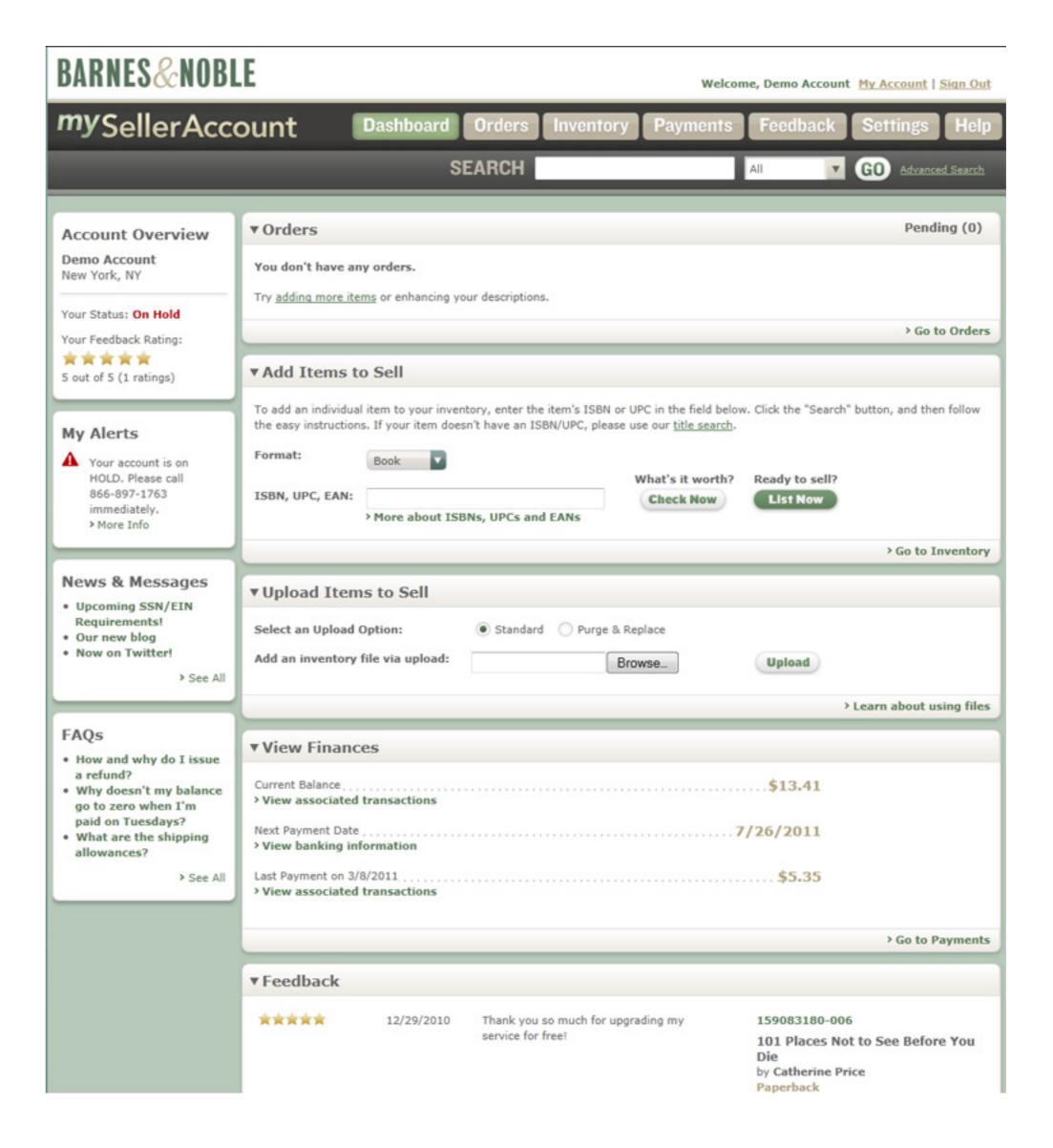
As the lead designer for the Marketplace product team, I iterated on a number of concepts that served the needs and goals of booksellers and customers-as-sellers.

Through a cycle of iterative design and testing, the team and I introduced the following:

- Display of most recent orders to help sellers move product
- Add and upload inventory modules were introduced so the seller never has to leave the main page
- Key FAQs displayed on-page to assist in reducing customer support calls
- A less cumbersome checking account-linking system so that sellers can receive payment and issue refunds
- Dedicated account/settings page to edit and change seller information.

In late 2010, the Marketplace was launched and went on to be highly praised by booksellers on various forums and outlets.

As of 2012, adoption of the Marketplace among sellers was up twenty-one percent.



2

My Design Process

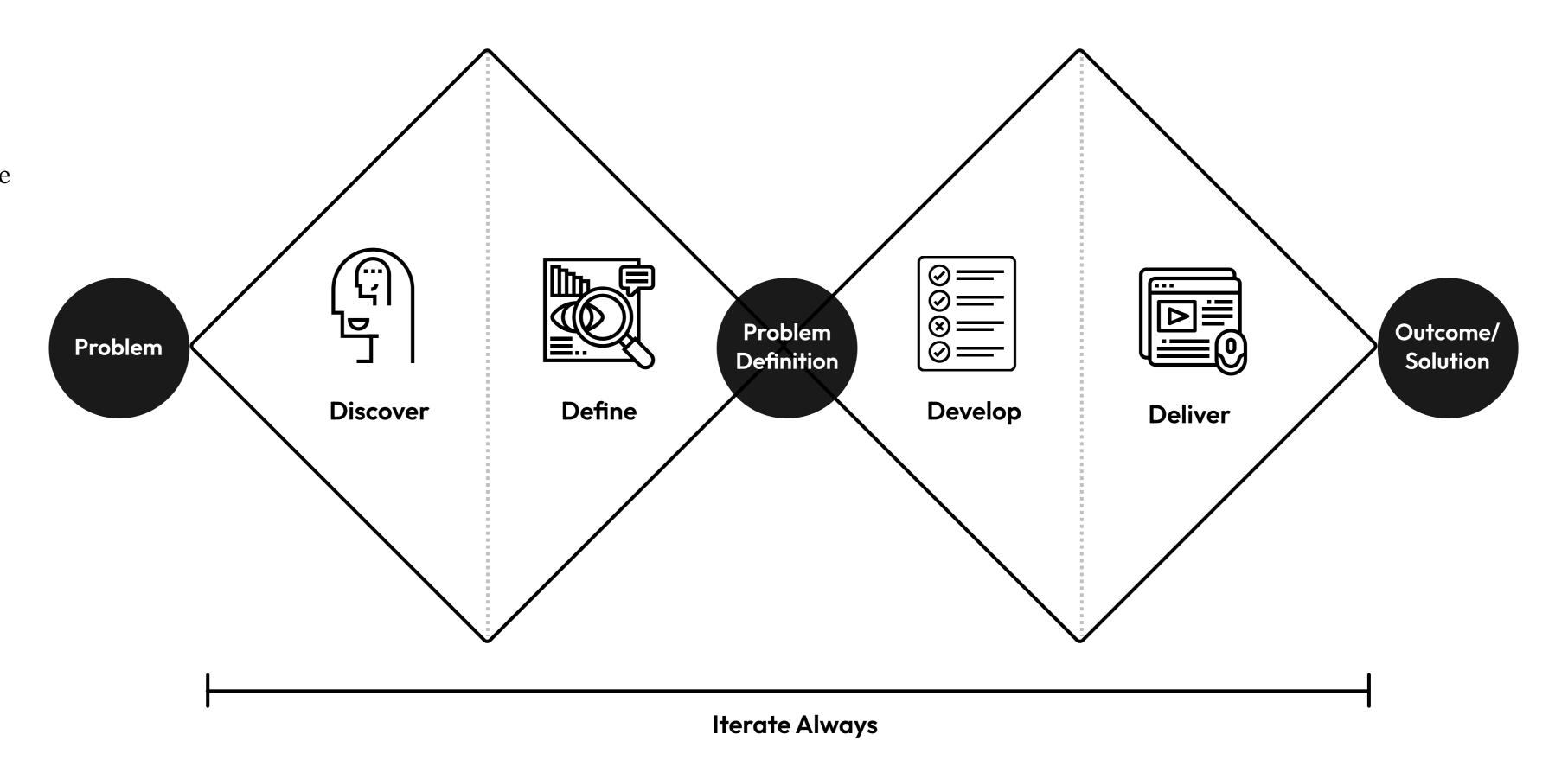
The design activities for the B&N

Marketplace redesign follows roughly the

Design Council's Double Diamond

approach: Discover, Define, Develop,

Deliver, with iteration between phases.

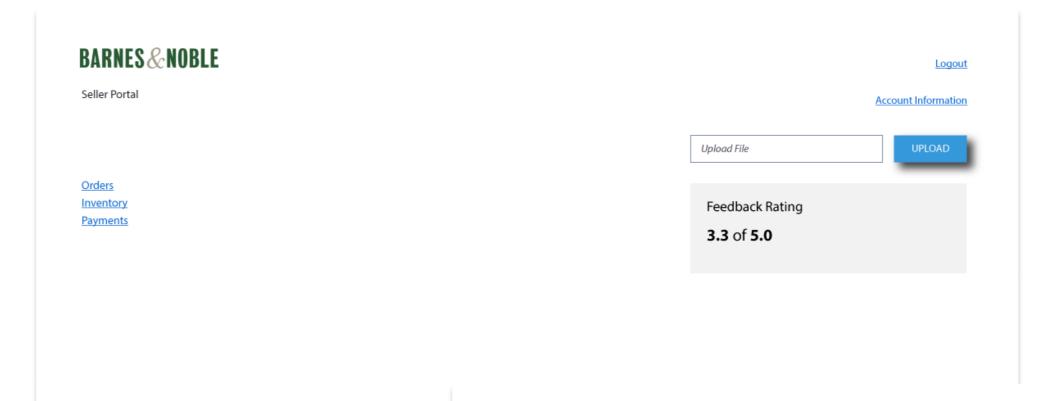


Discover

Process: Original State / Heuristic Evaluation / Site Map (Current State) / Assumptions / Business Goals / Stakeholder Analysis / Contextual Inquiry

Original State

The screens were what I saw when I signed in to the original state. My first reaction was that there isn't anything for the sellers to do here. If you dive into each section, a table view appears with some rudimentary filters, but for the most part, this seems like a partially complete website done in someone's spare time. When I asked the team about the state of the site, they said, "Yeah, it could be a lot better! Can you help us?"



eller Portal > Order	<u>s</u>						Account Information
rders ending Accepted	<u>Rejected</u>						
9999999999999999	11/19/2009	<title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9999999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>99999999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9999999999-999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>999999999999999</td><td>11/19/2009</td><td><Title></td><td><AuthorName LastName></td><td><Format></td><td><\$1.11></td><td><New></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table></title>					

Heuristic Evaluation

For what screens were available, I performed a heuristic evaluation using Nielsen's heuristics as a guide for identifying and correcting usability issues with the experience.

Sparse Detail on Seller Portal

HIGH SEVERITY

Heuristics

Consistency and Standards

Visibility of System Status

Issue

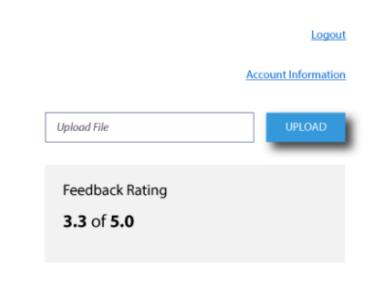
- The user doesn't know what to do here. There are links, yes, but what do they do?
- The user has to click into a section in order to receive detail of their orders, inventory, payments, or their account information.

Recommendations

- Surface defaults for orders, inventory, or payments.
- Provide more detail so that this feels more like an experience rather than an opportunity for the user to be confused about where they are.



<u>Payments</u>





5

DISCOVER Seller Portal Home **Site Map Current State** To get a sense of the current site structure, I created a site map to visualize the areas and Sign In Create an Account relationships and look for opportunities of improvement after performing some user Add Seller Account research and synthesis. "Dashboard" Add Seller Details Orders Payments Feedback Inventory Account Information Bank Account Information Pending Orders Inventory List Payment History Account Settings Add Item(s) for Sale Accepted Orders Terms & Conditions Upload File Rejected Orders Confirmation Page

Assumptions

Before performing any user research, I participated in 1.5 weeks of listening sessions with B&N's customer service representatives for Used and Collectible. I listened intently for issues with the site, where things are going wrong, and sources of dissatisfaction.

Armed with a rudimentary understanding of the sellers, I sought to understand my product team's perspective, ie what we think we know about the seller, how they live their lives, operate their stores, and interact with our systems.

Assumptions

Together, the product team and I came up with the following list of assumptions to capture what we think we know about the seller and what we need to investigate:

- O Sellers would like to see a view of their entire store.
- **02** Sellers spend a lot of time taking pictures of their product.
- O3 Sellers do a lot of data entry.
- O4 Sellers don't know if an error has occurred on the site.
- **05** Sellers don't take action on feedback.
- O6 Sellers prefer to cross-list their inventory on multiple sites.
- O7 Sellers are more than likely dissatisfied with this experience.

7

Business Goals

The team interviewed stakeholders within the Used Books part of the business to collect, understand, and work to achieve the following business goals:



Increase seller base by adding customers-as-sellers.



Reduce attrition of sellers on the platform.



Increase seller time on the platform.



Improve the usability of the Marketplace experience.



Increase volume of books/products to the B&N site.



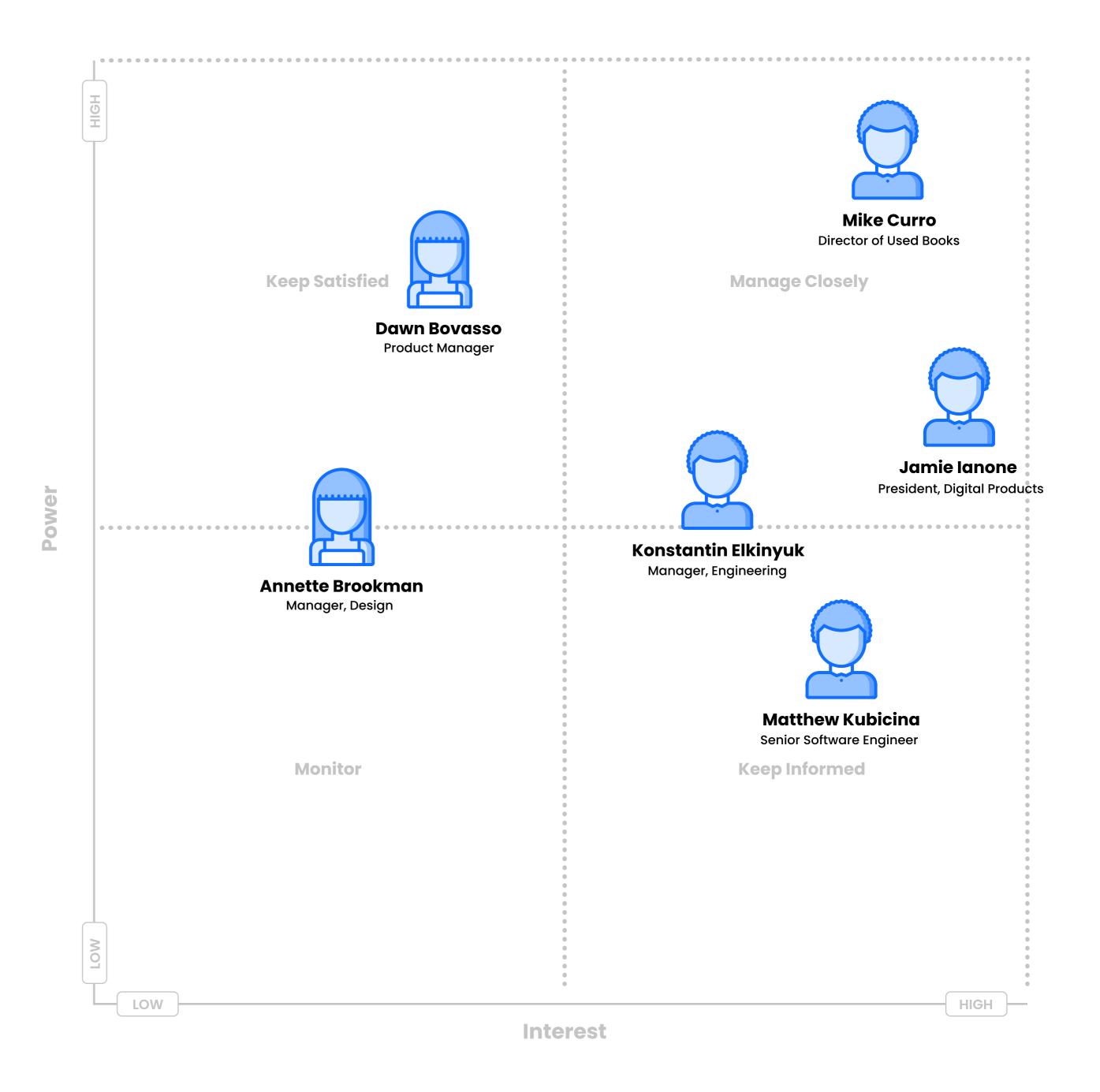
Extend product offering through new attributes.



Extend search capabilities to improve "informational scent."

Stakeholder Analysis

In order to visualize the dynamics of the stakeholders for this project, I created the following graph, plotting Power and Interest over the axes. This graph helped me understand who I should be communicating to and what should be presented (and when).



9

Contextual Inquiry

In order to understand our sellers, how they run their shops, and how they enter product into the system, I devised a research plan.

After a week of performing contextual inquiry sessions, I spent another two weeks synthesizing the information for delivery in a report to our project stakeholders.

Contextual Inquiry

Site visit plan for <Small Book Shop Owner/Employee>

The Barnes and Noble.com information architect will visit three types of stores in three areas of the New York area to gather information to further understand how booksellers are using the current iteration of the BN.com seller tool. The results of this investigation will be used to redesign the seller tool.

Issues and Objectives

Issues:

- How do storeowners know to list an item online, as opposed to selling it in the store?
- Are these items double-listed?
- Who uploads inventory to the seller tool?
- Who is in charge of fulfilling orders?
- What steps are there in fulfilling order? Can you tell me about your process? Can you show me?
- What if a book is sold, in-store, at the time of a sale? How do you correspond to the customer?
- What role does feedback play a role for your store's sales/image?
- What do you do when you go on vacation? What if a books is sold?
- How long do you list an item?
- When do you delist an item on the seller visit? What are the conditions for this de-listing?
- How do you handle refunds?

Contextual Inquiry Report Josh Line, Information Architect, BN.com

Visit notes with use cases

Small Store Owner

The store is in complete disarray. He lists sporadically on various sites, looking to get some money, but he wants to get more of a chunk of the business on Amazon and, similarly, BN. He's used Amazon before, but he doesn't really know how to go about adding books there. It is too confusing.

His day is made up of buying books from people at a sliver of their price, only to turn them around for profit in his store. He bought this store with some estate money, so he's not really looking for high-volume sales. He's really only looking to acquire more books so he can read more books.

The Store

It's just him. He works there from 11am to 6pm every day, except when he goes on vacation for two to three months at a time. There are 15 stacks swelling with books. In addition to these stacks there are tables covered with books, as well as stacks of books lining all of the aisles.

The atmosphere of the store is dreary, smokey, as if mildew has set in and it's hard to get it out. The store sees 10-20 customers a day - when he's open.

We go through the seller tool:

Use Case

Create Account

- 1.) Goes to Seller Tool main page;
- 2.) BN Customer? Y/N (No);
- 3.) First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Password, Sec. Q, Sec. A;
- 4.) Enters Seller Information, Telephone, Contact and Shipping Address;
- 5.) Credit Card Information, and Billing Address;

Related Documents

Contextual Inquiry Plan PDF

Contextual Inquiry Report PDF

Define

Process: Assumptions Revisited / Personas / Mental Models / Task Flows / Process Flows (Current State) / Journey Maps (Current State) / Problem Statement & HMW Questions

Assumptions Revisited

To verify whether or not each assumption about sellers and their behavior was true, I checked each assumption against the results of the contextual inquiry research sessions.

Of the team's seven assumptions, five proved to be correct. The rest of the assumptions had mixed results warranting a need for further research and experimentation using usability testing.

Assumptions Revisited

Sellers would like to see a view of their entire store.

True. Each seller expressed an interest in seeing what is currently in inventory, most recent orders, most recent feedback, vacation settings, etc.

Sellers spend a lot of time taking pictures of their product.

True. Each seller walked me through their process and a solid chunk of time was dedicated to taking picture of the product for upload to the site. When asked why they won't use images on Google, they were worried about a mismatch and returns.

Sellers do a lot of data entry

True. Sellers enter their own items. They sit their with the item, open and closing it to inspect for condition, as well any details for entering into the system.

Sellers don't know if an error has occurred on the site.

True. Very true. The seller can upload an entire inventory by way of CSV and the only error they will receive is an error occurred but not where the occurred and what they can do to fix the error.

Sellers don't take action on feedback.

Mixed. Some sellers respond to feedback but there doesn't exist a mechanism to collect comments from the seller about the original feedback. As it stands, customer feedback is one-sided.

Sellers prefer to cross-list their inventory on multiple sites.

Mixed. My assumption that sellers would prefer to scatter their inventory across all websites wasn't correct. Many sellers have their preferred vendors and as many of these sites require a manual entry, it doesn't pay to cross-list for time's sake.

Sellers are more than likely dissatisfied with this experience.

True. Many sellers were dissatisfied with the features available to them. Many sites offer email notifications and dashboards with listings, so their question was, why can't I have these things?

Personas

I designed personas to generate empathetic understanding of our users, so that when eventual disagreements took place over product direction and differentiation took place, we could look to these behavioral profiles as our North Star.

These personas were then used in the creation of mental models, future-state work flows, and journey maps, thereby giving the team a view necessary to understand booksellers and the world in which they live.







Siobhan Washington LARGE BOOKSTORE EMPLOYEE

28 years old

Prospect Heights, NY

Bookstore Employee

Tech savvy. Avid online seller.

Siobhan works quickly, using mobile device technology to scan books into the database using SKUs and ISBNs.

Siobhan is, by her admission, the best employee on-staff. She wants to head up most of the tech efforts to add and remove books from the shelves.

If she had her way, selling used and new books online would be completely automated. She wants it done that fast.

"It has to be FAST, or I will have no use for it. I need to sell these books!"

Tech

Early Adopter Online Shopping

Goals

- · Add books and other items at lightning speed.
- · Remove inventory without a lot of hassle.
- Search for and use descriptions of similar books for her inventory.
- · Review feedback to see what the shop can do better.

Fave brands









Charlie Matthews

63 years old

Brooklyn, NY

Bookstore Owner

Lives with partner

Holding out. Not tech savvy.

Charlie is a busy bookshop owner. He's been known to leave for vacation for months at time, where his shop sits vacant and customers wonder when (and if) he'll return. However, he does eventually return, and people are always glad to see his doors

Charlie operates one book at a time. He buys books from locals, and he's slow to put them in a place where customers can find them. Most of his books reside in various piles spread throughout

He spends more hours than he should at the bookstore, but he loves books so much that he can't see retiring anytime soon.

"I just want a way to sell my books online. I have no idea on how to do this."

Tech

 \bullet 0000 Early Adopter

Online Shopping

 \bullet 0000 $\bullet \bullet \circ \circ \circ$

Goals

- Enter store inventory into database with ease.
- The ability to go on vacation at the drop of a hat.
- Receive help without having to call a customer support line.
- Find out which book/item did not upload correctly.
- Print out labels and invoices for shipping to customers.

Fave brands

amazon

alibris 110°

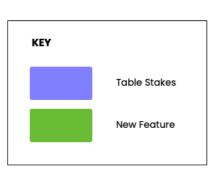


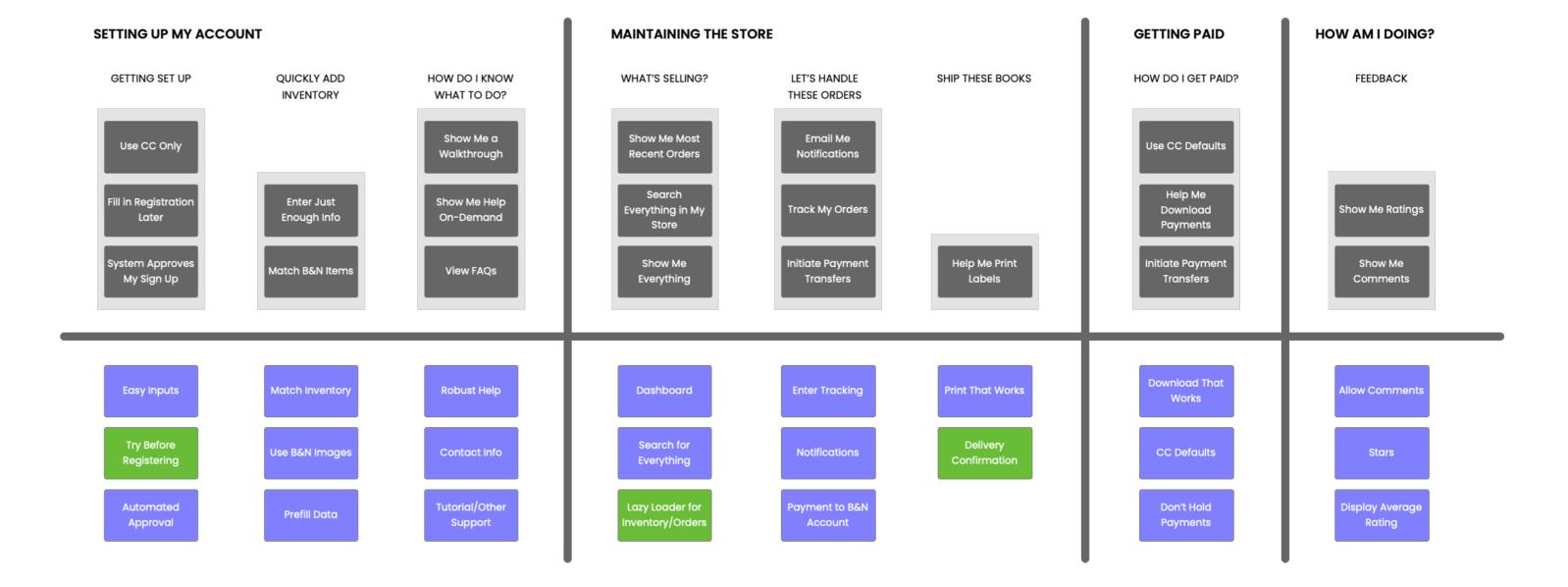




Mental Models

Using Indi Young's work on mental models as a frame, I created mental models to view what is important to booksellers, as well as areas of opportunity or improvement within the Marketplace application.

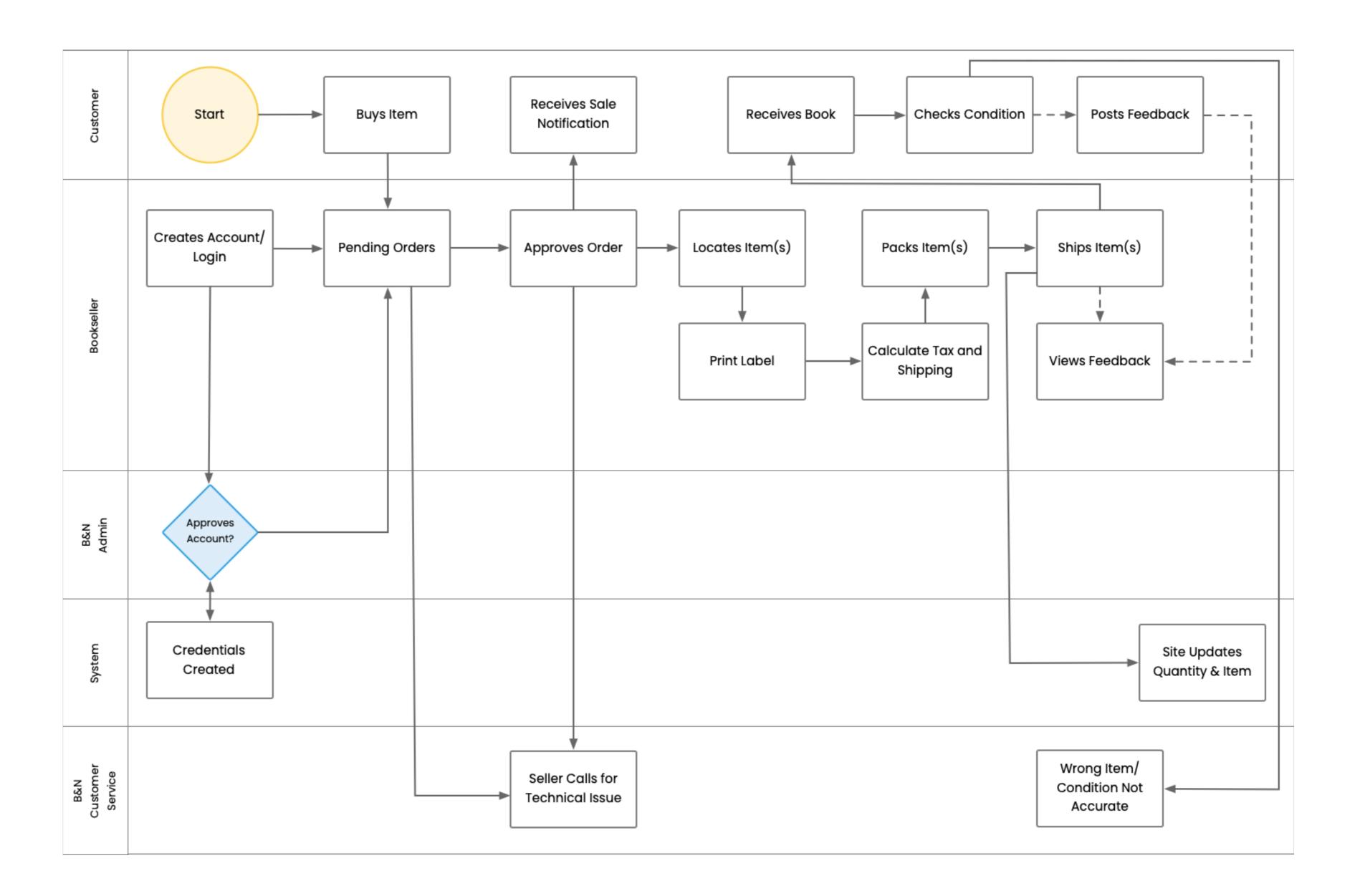






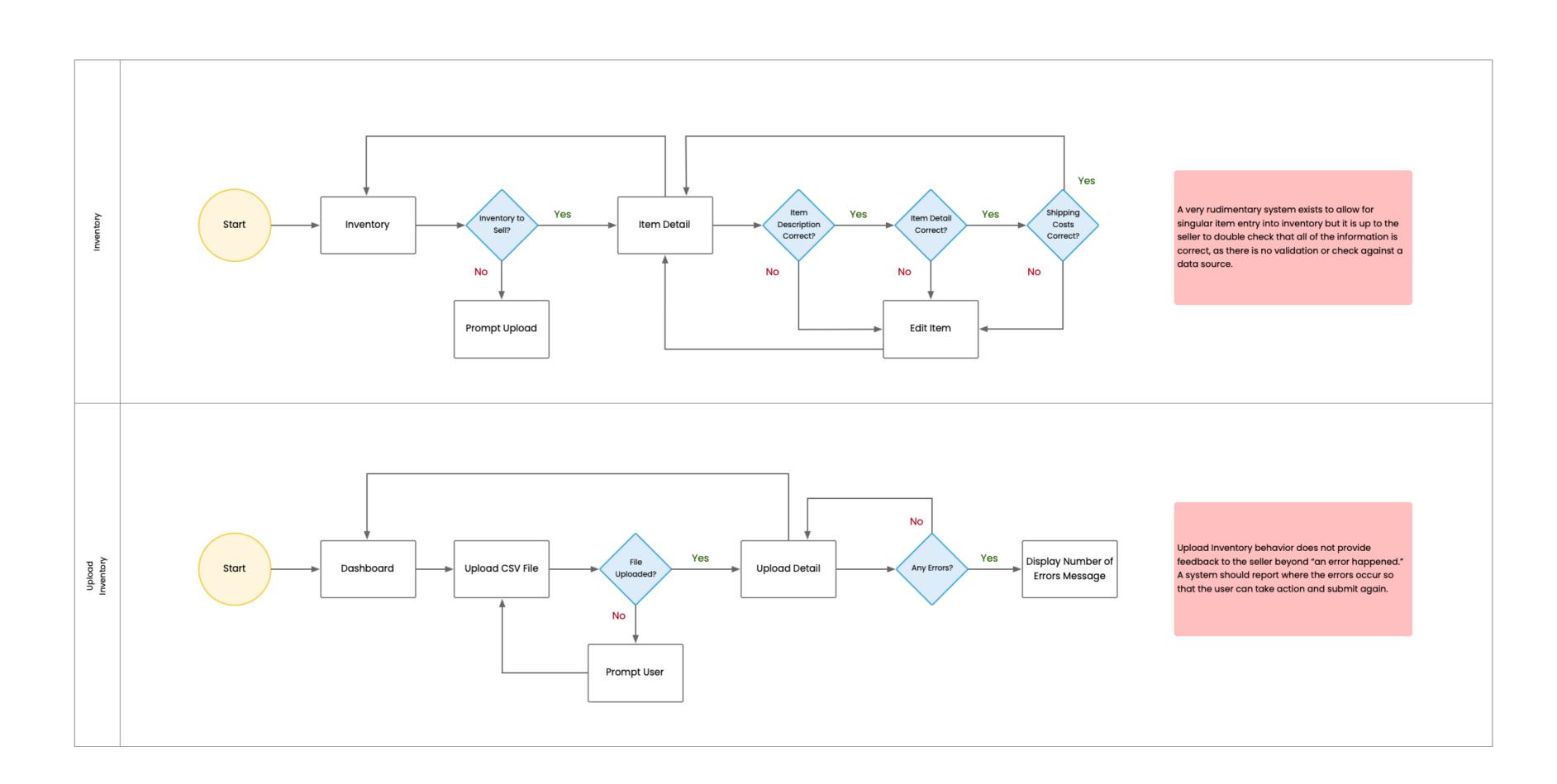
Task Flows (Current State)

Current state task flows were designed by synthesizing the contextual inquiry interviews. The current state task flows were helpful for visualizing how booksellers enter their inventory and interact with any selling platform (not B&N specific).



B&N Process Flows (Current State)

Current state process flows were designed by synthesizing the information obtained from the contextual inquiry interviews. The task flows were helpful for visualizing how booksellers enter their inventory and interact with the system.

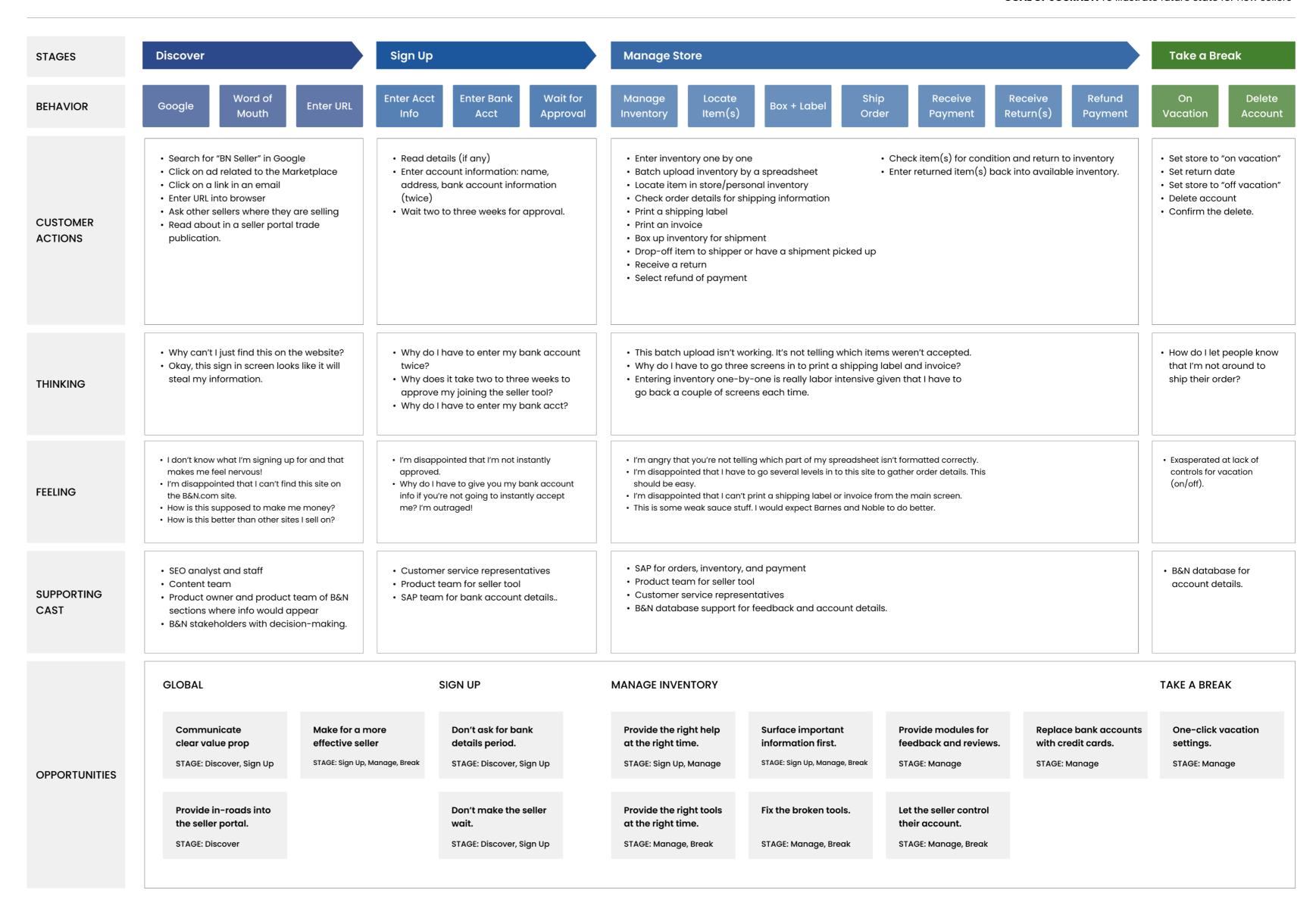


Journey Maps (Current State)

Current state journey maps were designed by synthesizing the contextual inquiry interviews and noting how people work with their inventory. The current state task flows were most helpful for visualizing, step-by-step, how booksellers enter their inventory and manage their stores.

NEW SELLER FUTURE FLOW

GOAL OF JOURNEY: To illustrate future state for new sellers



Related Documents

Journey Maps - Current State APPENDIX

HMW Statements & Problem Statement

To frame the problem and create possible solutions for Charlie, Buddy, Siobhan, and Nicolas, I examined research insights to generate HMW questions. These questions provided the team with a lens through which to understand the problem space from the user's point of view before heading into the ideation phase.

HMWs

How might we support the needs of booksellers in their day-to-day activities?

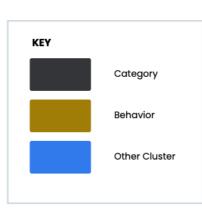
How might we make it easy for anyone to sign up and get started with a seller account?

Problem Statement

Sellers need a way to easily perform common store functions across multiple product lines on the B&N site so that they can make money from online sales.

Develop

Process: Affinity Mapping / Importance-Difficulty Map / Process Flows (Future State) / Journey Maps (Future State) / Site Map (Future State) / Sketches / Wireframes



Balance

Payment/Money

Price

Transaction

Item Details

Author

Pub Date

Item Details

Add

Edit

Print

Inventory

Feedback

FAQ

Contact #

Hours

Email Address

FAQ/Contact Info

Account Details

Security Q

as-Seller

DEVELOP

Affinity Mapping

Pulling key data out of the current state application, the team performed affinity mapping to group terms into clusters for taxonomic labeling. The resulting categories and behaviors were used to inform the redesign of the information architecture and information design of the Marketplace seller application.

Refund Refund Link Credit Card Account Info **View Payment** Remove Payment Seller CC **Download History**

Total Payment Order Details

Seller Comments Print Label

Tracking Number

Customer Shipping

Shipping Speed

Shipping Tax

Customer Email

Ordered On Date

Reject Order

BN#

Picture

Item Price

Attributes

Security A

Address 1

Address 2

Shipping Address

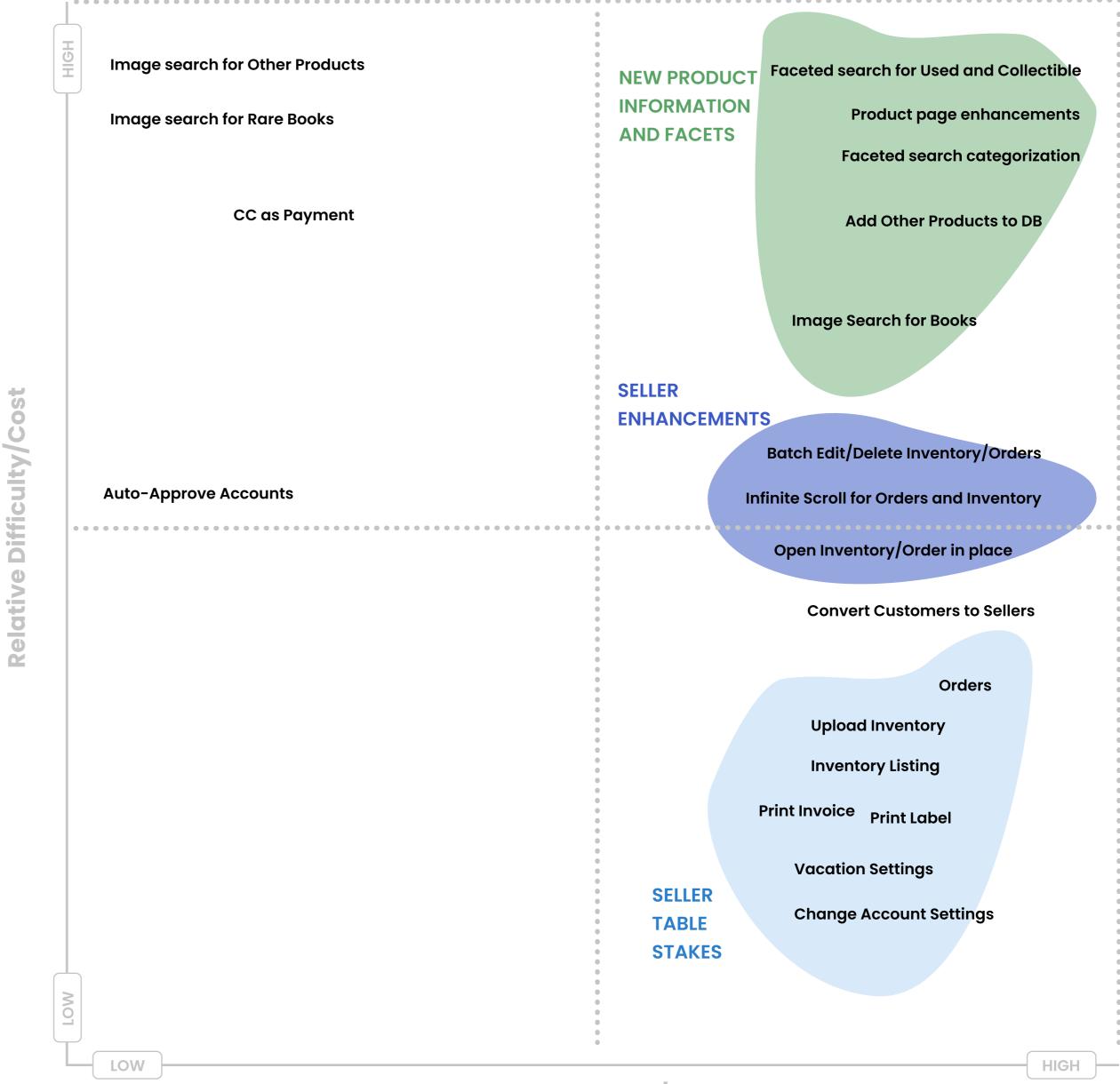
CC Number

Cardholder Name

Reference Number

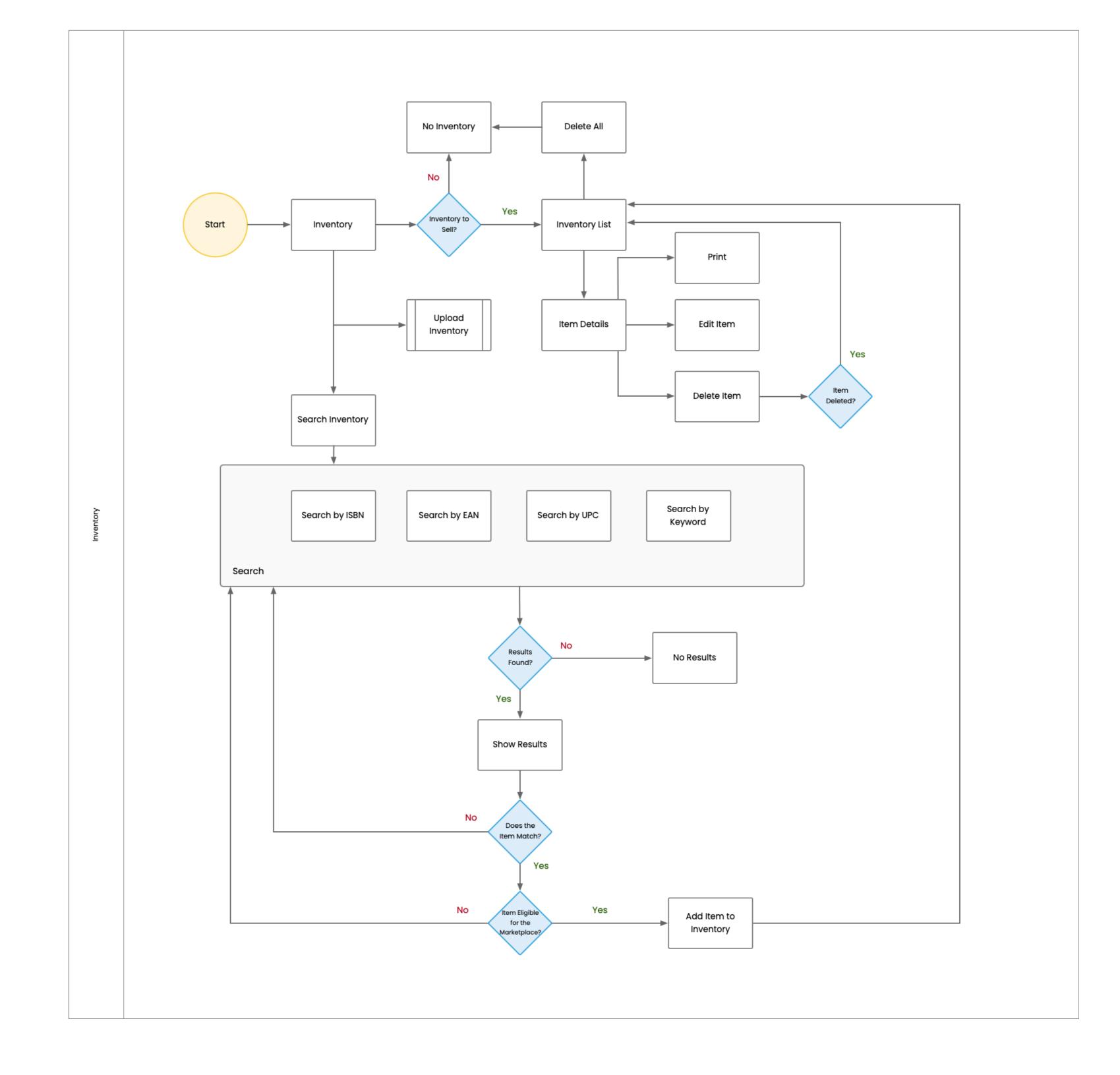
Importance-Difficulty Matrix

Of the following listed features, a number fell off the roadmap due to the amount of effort in developing our MVP. Image Search for Other Products, Image Search for Rare Books, Credit Card as Payment, and Auto-Approve Accounts were shelved for the time being.



Relative Importance/Impact

B&N Process Flows (Future State)



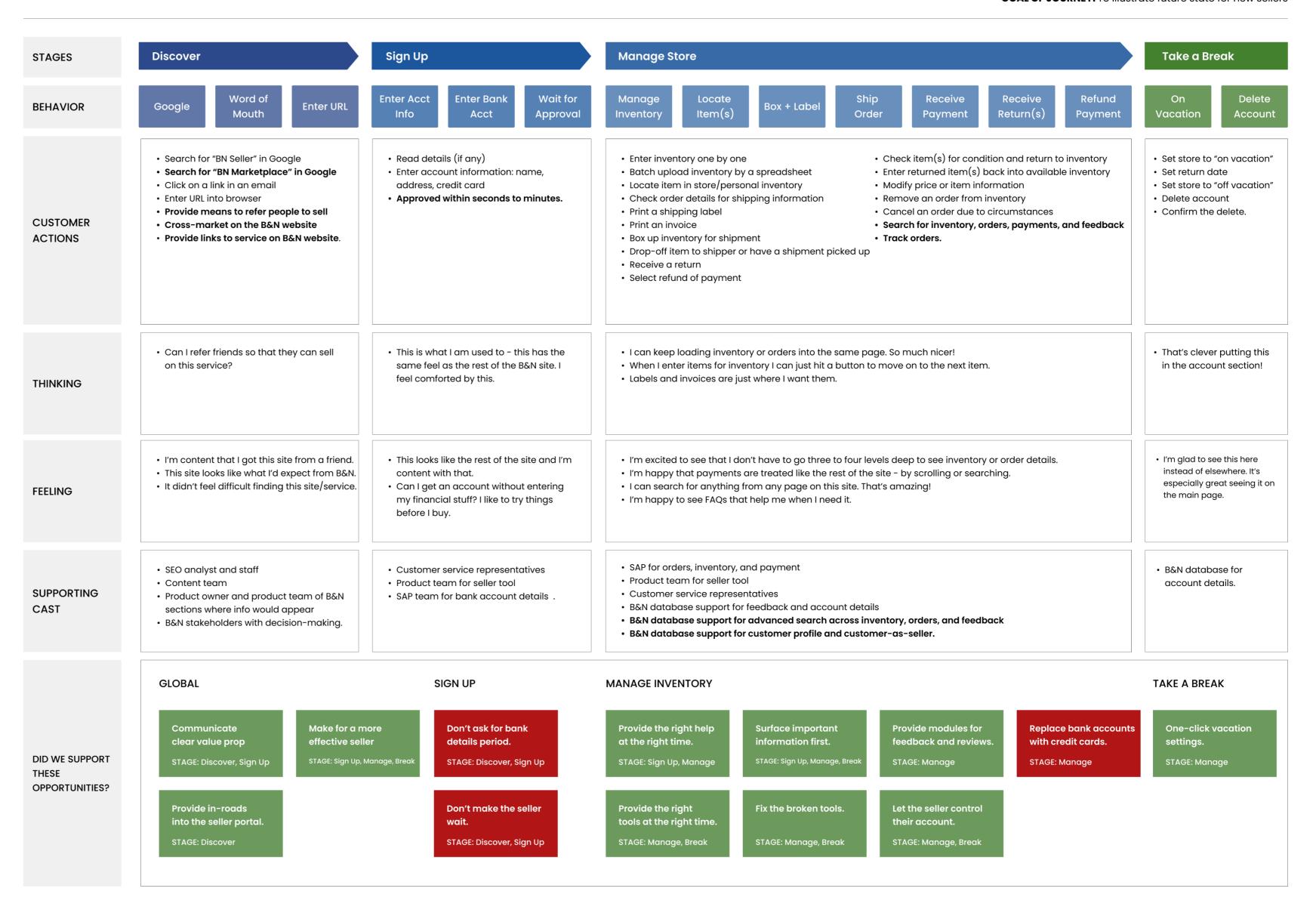
Journey Maps (Future State)

Future state journey maps serve three purposes:

- Making changes to the original journey maps
- Highlighting new actions and supporting cast supports.
- Whether or not we have truly supported opportunities to enhance the experience for our sellers (green/red).

NEW SELLER
FUTURE FLOW

GOAL OF JOURNEY: To illustrate future state for new sellers



Related Documents

Journey Maps - Future State APPENDIX

Site Map (Future State)

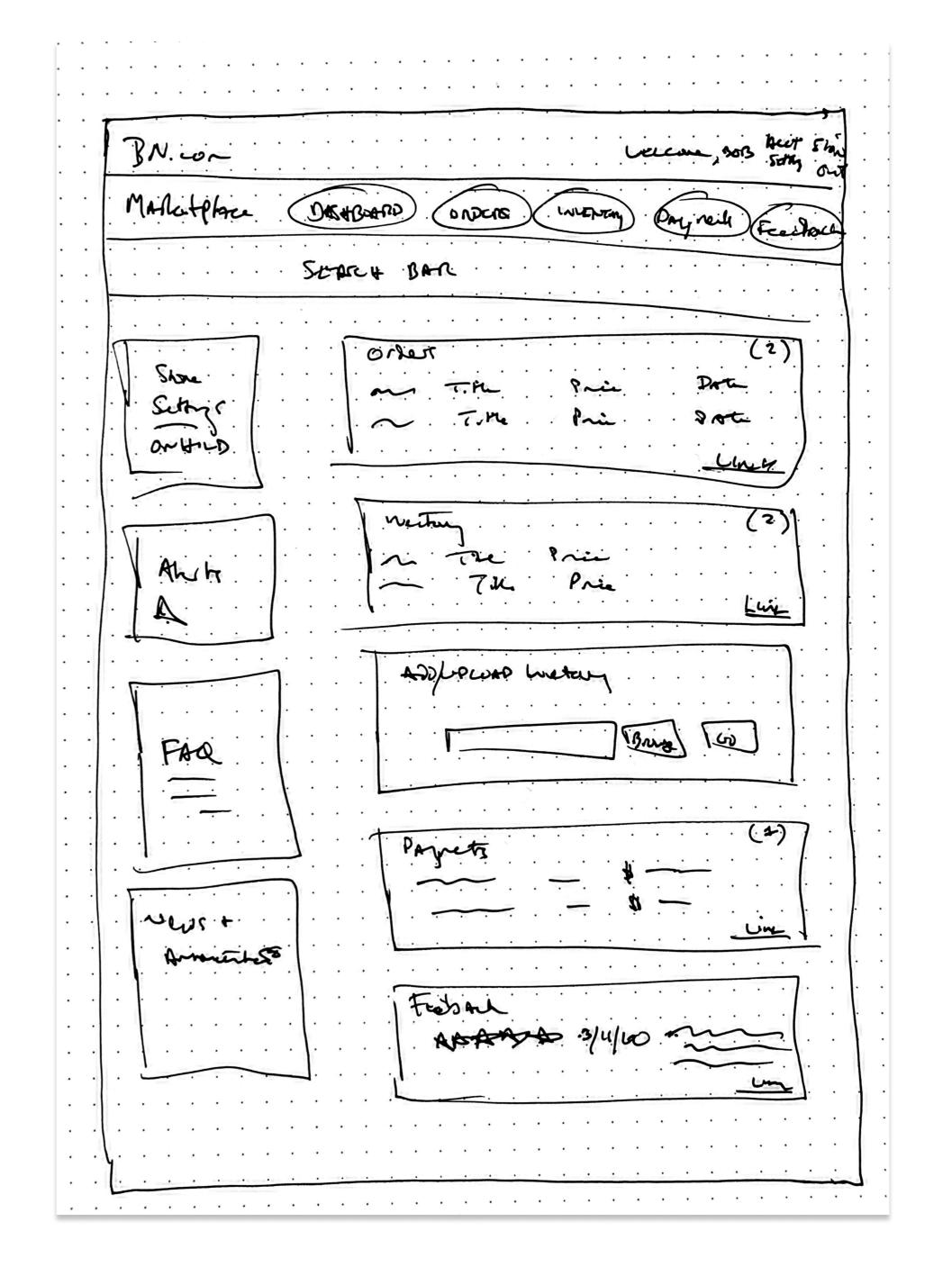
Taking assessment of what would be a part of the MVP, I designed the following high-level site map. Sign In This diagram helped the team visualize the work that needs to be performed and also provided me Add Seller Account with an inventory to sketch out a few of the screens. Credit Card Information Pending Orders

Toys & Games

Inventory Listing

Sketches

I sketched a couple of variations to kick-off conversations on how the Marketplace seller app "could" look for sellers. These sketches served as a boundary object meant for provocation to produce debate on what an ideal experience would be for sellers as based on what we know about their goals and behaviors. A lot of conversation happened, so these sketches served as a perfect vehicle for airing what was "ideal" for the seller and not so much.



Related Documents



Wireframes

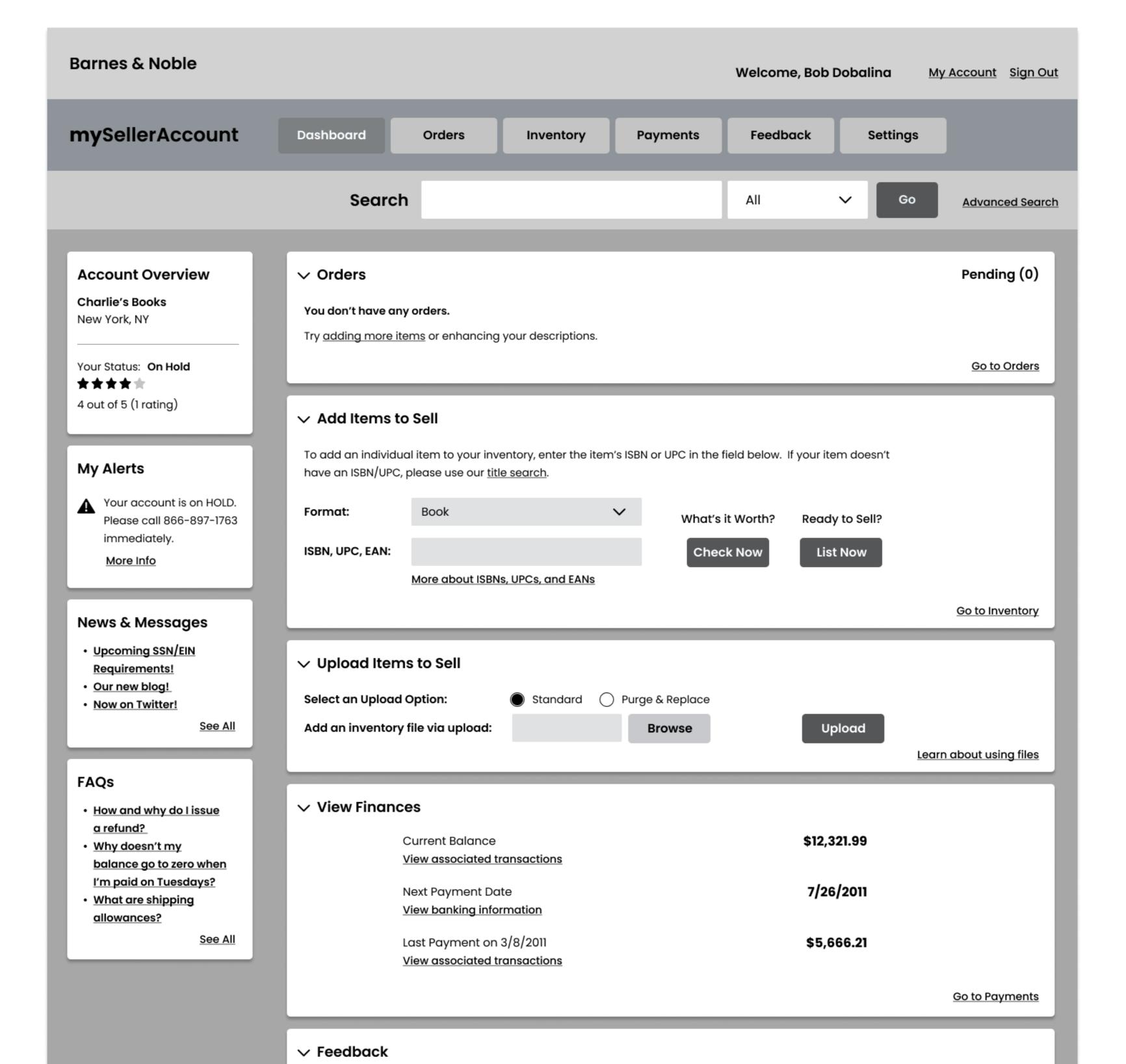
After making the sketches and a few lively conversations on the way forward, I designed a set of wireframes to aid the development effort.

I explored the designs in grayscale wireframes in order to secure buy-in from our project stakeholders.

NOTE: The name of the Marketplace was changed after a few high-level individuals met and decided that we should go with a name that felt more familiar (mySellerAccount) to everyday people.



Wireframes APPENDIX



Deliver

Process: Usability Testing / Final Designs

DELIVER

Usability Testing

Using a clickable prototype (Axure RP), I worked with the Barnes & Noble Union Square store to set-up a table where I could perform usability testing with store customers. I then performed usability testing (using a think-aloud protocol) with the prototype with eight participants.

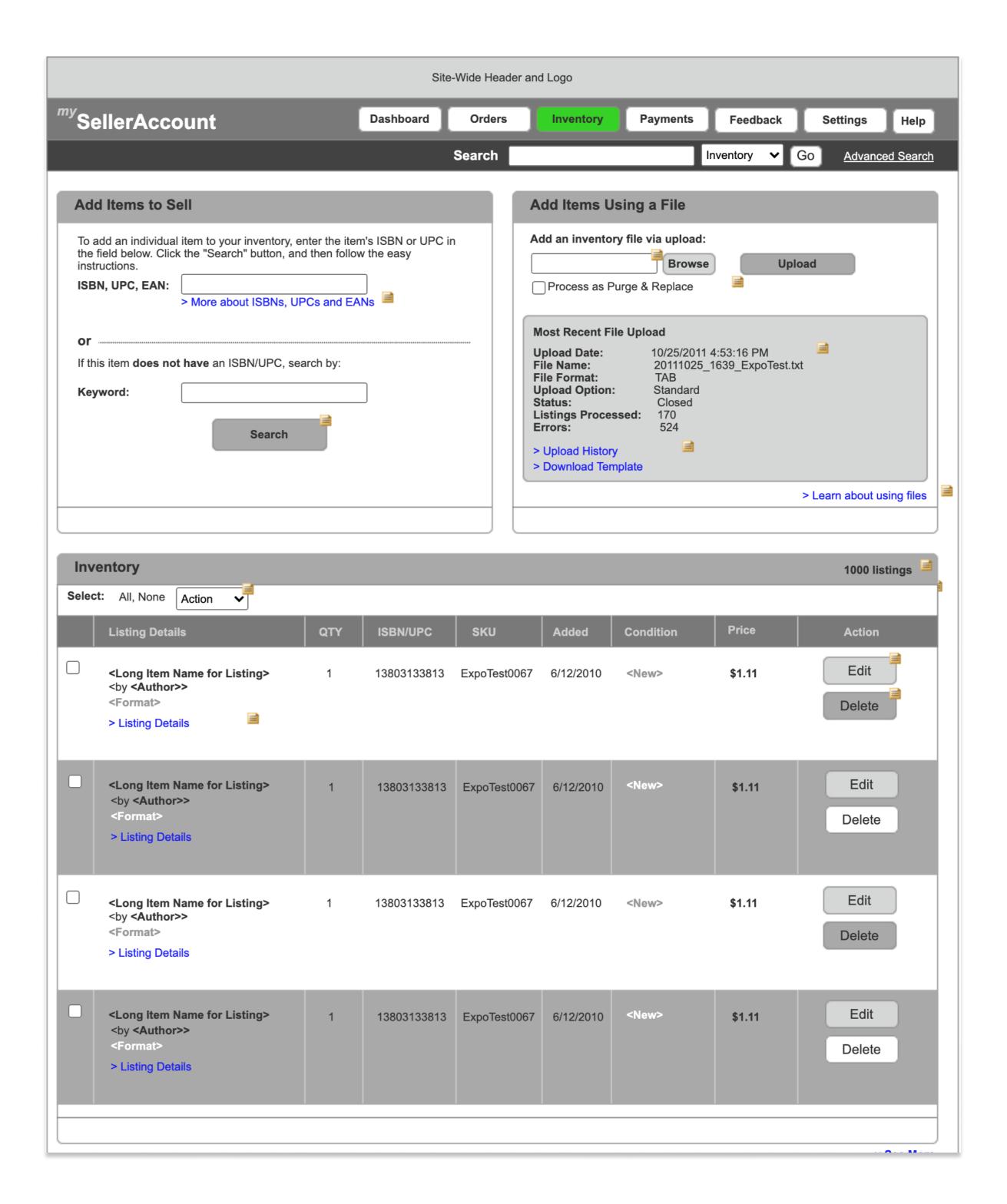
Related Documents

Usability Test Report

ity Test Report APPENDIX

Clickable Prototype





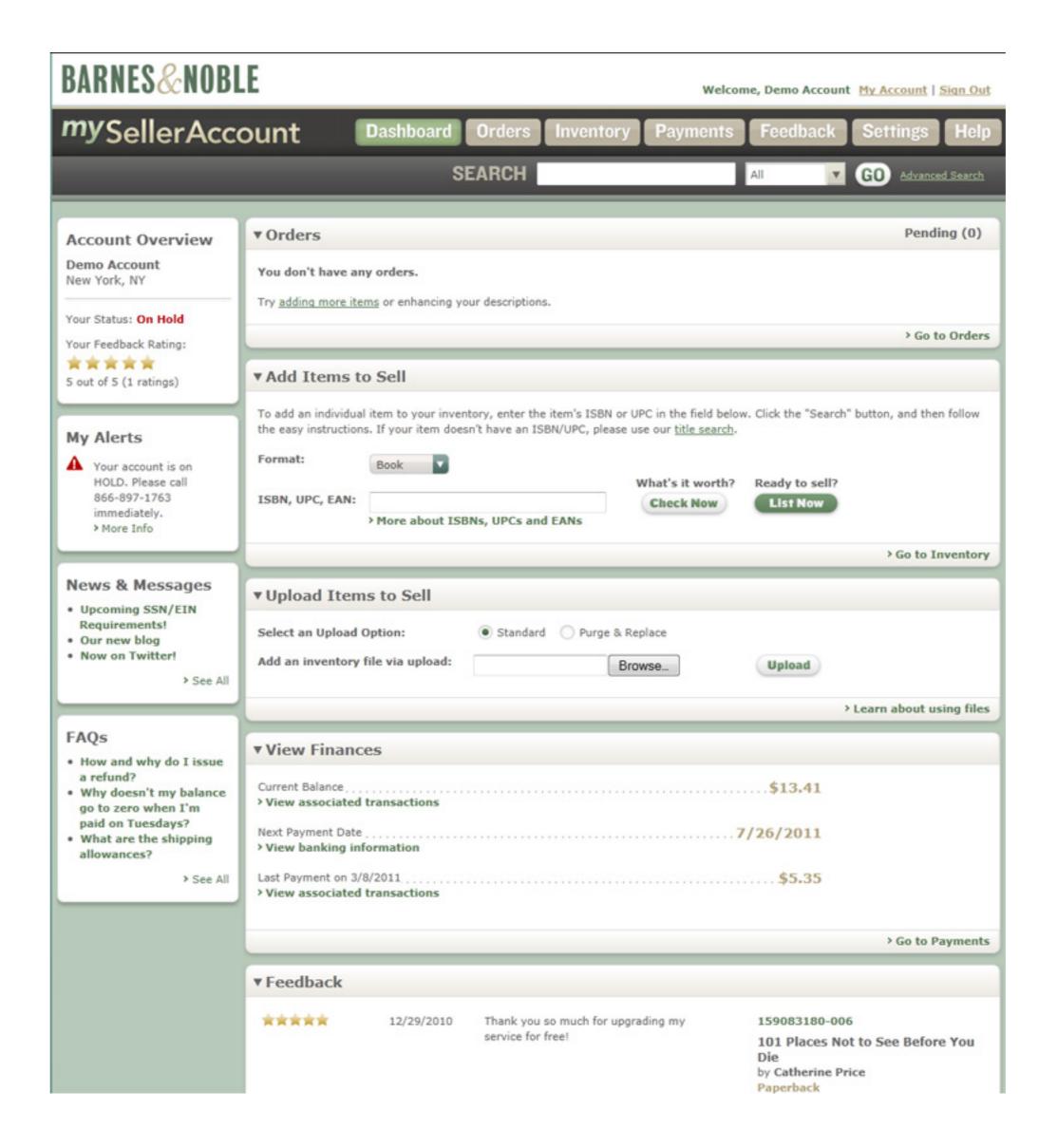
DELIVER

Final Designs

Using the results of the guerrila testing sessions, the team quickly made some adjustments to the designs and came up with the following as the final design for the mySellerAccount application.

The team also had a weekly roundtable session in place for designs to be presented and discussed with a pool of sellers. In this manner, we had a running dialogue with our sellers, who were helping shape the future of the application.

Per our methodology, we had checks in place to help reduce the loudest voice on the call. If a seller drowned out others more than three times, they were dropped back into the pool of sellers, and another seller would be called up to the roundtable.



Related Documents

Final Designs APPENDIX

26

Outcomes

The following outcomes were observed as a result of the design process and our iterative environment of experimentation and usability testing:

27% increase in adoption (as of 2012)

500% increase in usability across the Inventory, Inventory Upload, Orders, and Feedback scenarios

What I Learned

Rage Against the Machine

Entrenched stakeholders held a lot of assumptions about how sellers and employees interact with the Marketplace. However, by visiting booksellers and their employees and understanding how they use technology in their lives, we were able to derive their needs, pain points, and goals to better hone in on a redesign that met their mental models and how they work.

Break Up the Concrete

We took the existing workflow for the Marketplace and broke it to pieces. People come into the Marketplace for various reasons. It is our job to understand these mental models and design for them. Ultimately, the final product was made better due to examining the workflow and designing new and varied flows to present and work with inventory and orders.

Bring Me the Guerilla

One area that could have been improved upon was testing with customers-as-sellers. We did in-person usability testing with store customers, but it wasn't known if these people would ultimately sell on the site.

The storeowners and bookstore employees definitely had a stronger voice in the direction of this redesign as they represented the majority of users in our weekly roundtable sessions.

APPENDIX

Heuristic Evaluation

Sparse Detail on Seller Portal

HIGH SEVERITY

Heuristics

Consistency and Standards

Visibility of System Status

Issue

- The user doesn't know what to do here. There are links, yes, but what do they do?
- The user has to click into a section in order to receive detail of their orders, inventory, payments, or their account information.

Recommendations

- Surface defaults for orders, inventory, or payments.
- Provide more detail so that this feels more like an experience rather than an opportunity for the user to be confused about where they are.

BARNES & NOBLE

Account Information

UPLOAD

Logout

Orders Invento

Inventory Payments

Seller Portal

Feedback Rating

3.3 of **5.0**

Upload File

Δ1

BARNES & NOBLE MARKETPLACE

Table Views for Orders & Inventory

MEDIUM SEVERITY

Heuristic

Flexibility and efficiency of use

Issue

- Multi-page tabular view with no sorts or filters.
- This view can cause a significant amount of cognitive load, considering the first entry is the order number.

Recommendations

- Provide sorts, filters, or other means of accessing this information.
- Provide quick views into the orders so that the user doesn't have to pogostick in and out of order details.

BARNES & NOBLE

Logout

Seller Portal > Orders
Account Information

Orders

<u>F</u>	Pending Accepted	Rejected						
1	9999999999-999	11/19/2009	<title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th>2</th><th>9999999999999999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>999999999999999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>999999999999999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>9999999999999999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>9999999999-999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>9999999999999999999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>9999999999-999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>9999999999-999</th><th>11/19/2009</th><th><Title></th><th><AuthorName LastName></th><th><Format></th><th><\$1.11></th><th><New></th><th></th></tr></tbody></table></title>					

Δ2

Assumptions

Assumptions

Together, the product team and I came up with the following list of assumptions to capture what we think we know about the seller and what we need to investigate:

- Ol Sellers would like to see a view of their entire store.
- **Q2** Sellers spend a lot of time taking pictures of their product.
- **03** Sellers do a lot of data entry.
- O4 Sellers don't know if an error has occurred on the site.
- O5 Sellers don't take action on feedback.
- O6 Sellers prefer to cross-list their inventory on multiple sites.
- O7 Sellers are more than likely dissatisfied with this experience.

Assumptions Revisited

Sellers would like to see a view of their entire store.

True. Each seller expressed an interest in seeing what is currently in inventory, most recent orders, most recent feedback, vacation settings, etc.

Sellers spend a lot of time taking pictures of their product.

True. Each seller walked me through their process and a solid chunk of time was dedicated to taking picture of the product for upload to the site. When asked why they won't use images on Google, they were worried about a mismatch and returns.

O3 Sellers do a lot of data entry.

True. Sellers enter their own items. They sit their with the item, open and closing it to inspect for condition, as well any details for entering into the system.

O4 Sellers don't know if an error has occurred on the site.

True. Very true. The seller can upload an entire inventory by way of CSV and the only error they will receive is an error occurred but not where the occurred and what they can do to fix the error.

05 Sellers don't take action on feedback.

Mixed. Some sellers respond to feedback but there doesn't exist a mechanism to collect comments from the seller about the original feedback. As it stands, customer feedback is one-sided.

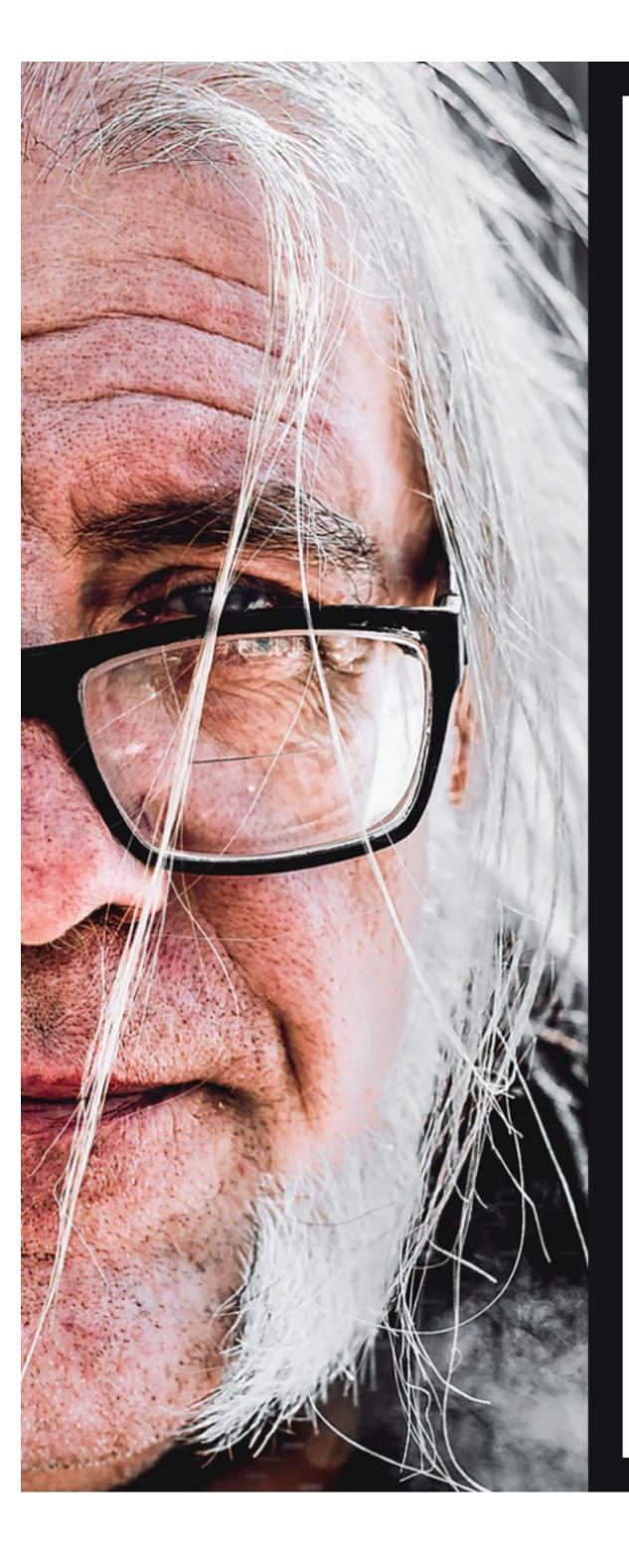
Sellers prefer to cross-list their inventory on multiple sites.

Mixed. My assumption that sellers would prefer to scatter their inventory across all websites wasn't correct. Many sellers have their preferred vendors and as many of these sites require a manual entry, it doesn't pay to cross-list for time's sake.

Sellers are more than likely dissatisfied with this experience.

True. Many sellers were dissatisfied with the features available to them. Many sites offer email notifications and dashboards with listings, so their question was, why can't I have these things?

Personas



Charlie Matthews

SMALL BOOKSTORE OWNER



63 years old



Brooklyn, NY



Bookstore Owner



Lives with partner

Holding out. Not tech savvy.

Charlie is a busy bookshop owner. He's been known to leave for vacation for months at time, where his shop sits vacant and customers wonder when (and if) he'll return. However, he does eventually return, and people are always glad to see his doors open.

Charlie operates one book at a time. He buys books from locals, and he's slow to put them in a place where customers can find them. Most of his books reside in various piles spread throughout the store.

He spends more hours than he should at the bookstore, but he loves books so much that he can't see retiring anytime soon.

"I just want a way to sell my books online. I have no idea on how to do this."

Tech

Internet

●0000

Early Adopter

●0000

Online Shopping



Goals

- Enter store inventory into database with ease.
- · The ability to go on vacation at the drop of a hat.
- Receive help without having to call a customer support line.
- Find out which book/item did not upload correctly.
- Print out labels and invoices for shipping to customers.

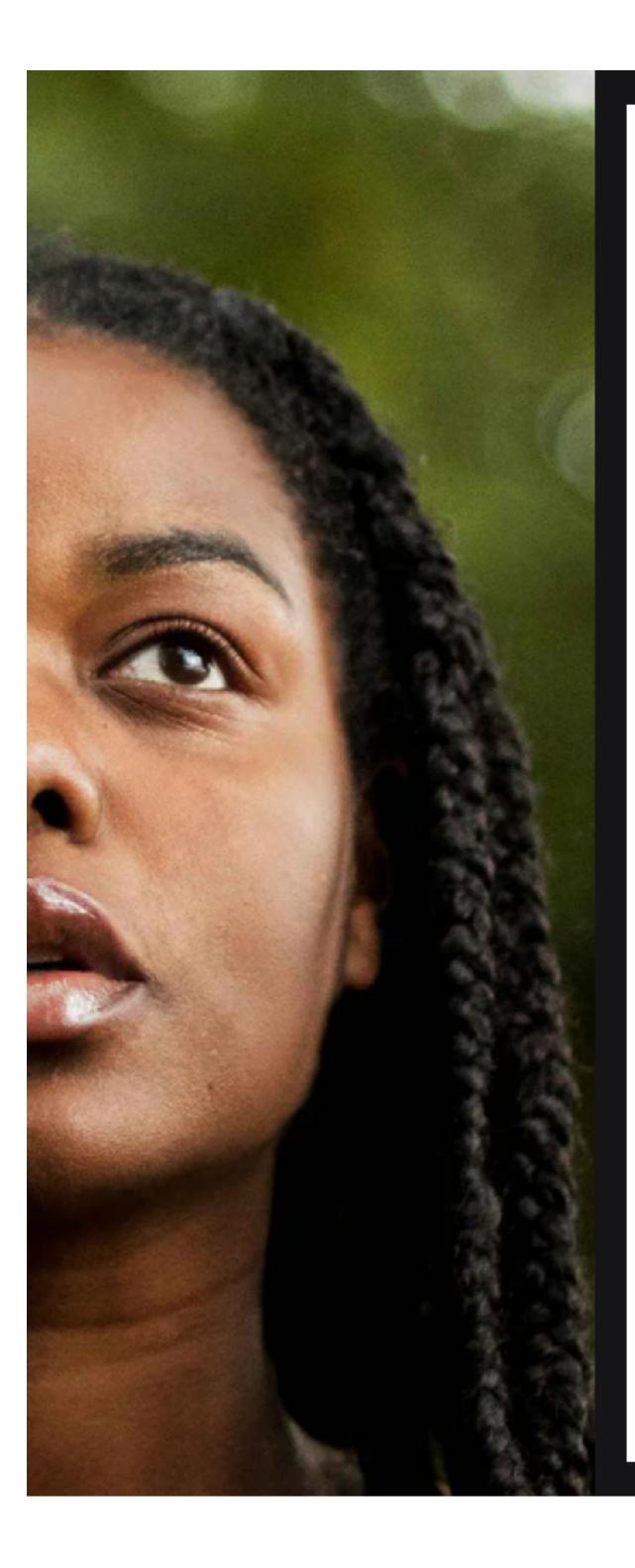
Fave brands



alibris 111°







Siobhan Washington

LARGE BOOKSTORE EMPLOYEE



28 years old



Prospect Heights, NY



Bookstore Employee

Tech savvy. Avid online seller.

Siobhan works quickly, using mobile device technology to scan books into the database using SKUs and ISBNs.

Siobhan is, by her admission, the best employee on-staff. She wants to head up most of the tech efforts to add and remove books from the shelves.

If she had her way, selling used and new books online would be completely automated. She wants it done that fast.

"It has to be FAST, or I will have no use for it. I need to sell these books!"

Tech

Internet

••••

Early Adopter

Online Shopping



Goals

- · Add books and other items at lightning speed.
- · Remove inventory without a lot of hassle.
- · Search for and use descriptions of similar books for her inventory.
- Review feedback to see what the shop can do better.

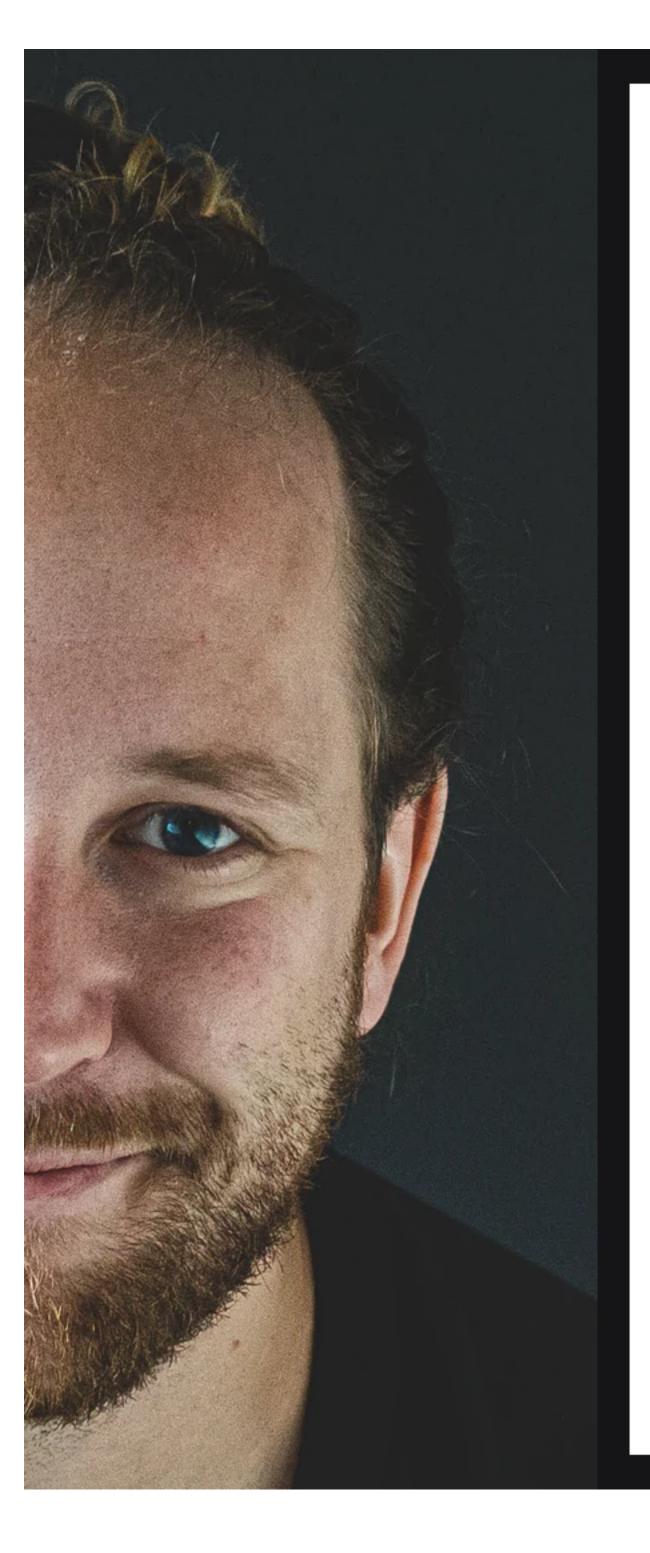
Fave brands











Buddy Brewster

MEDIUM BOOKSTORE OWNER



38 years old



Brooklyn, NY



Bookstore Owner



Lives with partner

Tech savvy. Eager to make a sale.

Buddy owns a very busy bookshop in the Brooklyn Heights area. He's dispensed a lot of the duties on his son, Jasper, but he still likes to oversee things and spends about four days in the shop, per week.

Buddy buys only from publishing houses. He's not in the business to pass used books on to the public. He can manually enter about sixty books per hour. He realizes that this is inefficent, but he has to get the books online somehow.

Buddy enjoys his off-hours and knows that his leisure time will be taken care of by the efforts of his sun and employees.

"I need the transactions to take to my taxman, like, now."

Tech

Internet

Early Adopter

 $\bullet \bullet \circ \circ \circ$

Online Shopping



Goals

- · Quickly upload inventory to the web site.
- · Retrieve transactions for his accountant for tax season.
- Search for and use descriptions of similar books for his inventory.
- · Ability to put shop on vacation with no hassle.
- Download inventory list to help with book purchases.

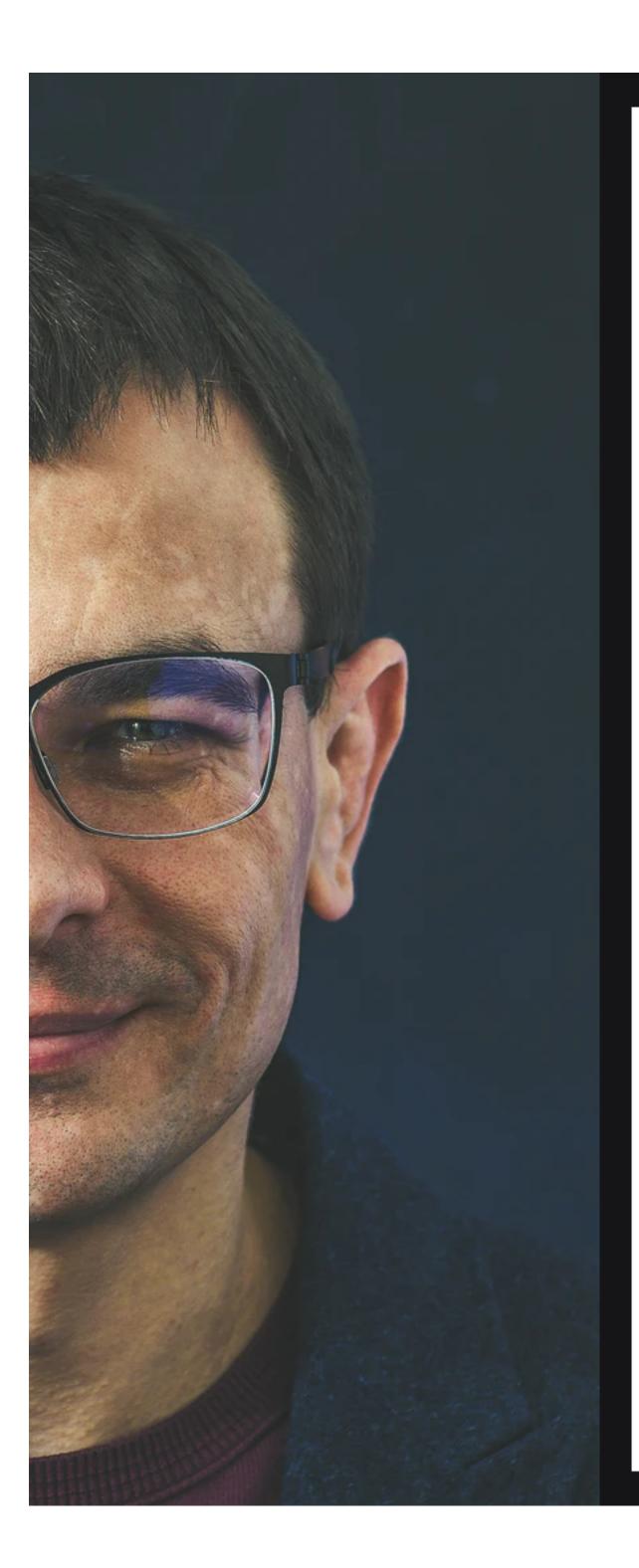
Fave brands











Nicolas Gagosian

CUSTOMER-AS-SELLER



35 years old



Newark, NJ



Technology Consultant

Tech friendly. Sell-curious.

Nic lives in an apartment in Newark, New Jersey. He's collected comics and other fantasy collectibles for years and he's being pressured to make space in his home.

In addition to these collectibles, Nic hasn't been quick to get rid of his college textbooks. Those will need to go, as well. Maybe he'll sell on eBay, but he's curious about whether or not the company will take too much off of the top of his sales.

During his off-hours, Nic likes to stream television series on Netflix. He wants to get more exercise in the form of long walks.

"It'd be nice to sell these old books and collectibles online - you know, like on eBay."

Tech

Internet

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet \circ \circ$

Early Adopter

Online Shopping



Goals

- Sell personal items (used books and media) from his home.
- · Help getting started in a seller platform.
- Search for books and other products to help set up inventory.
- Easy uploads and sales no checking account information.
- Download inventory list to help with book purchases.

Fave brands

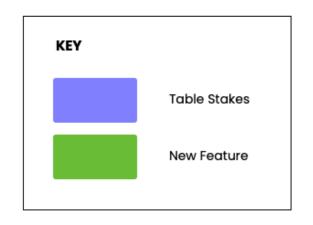


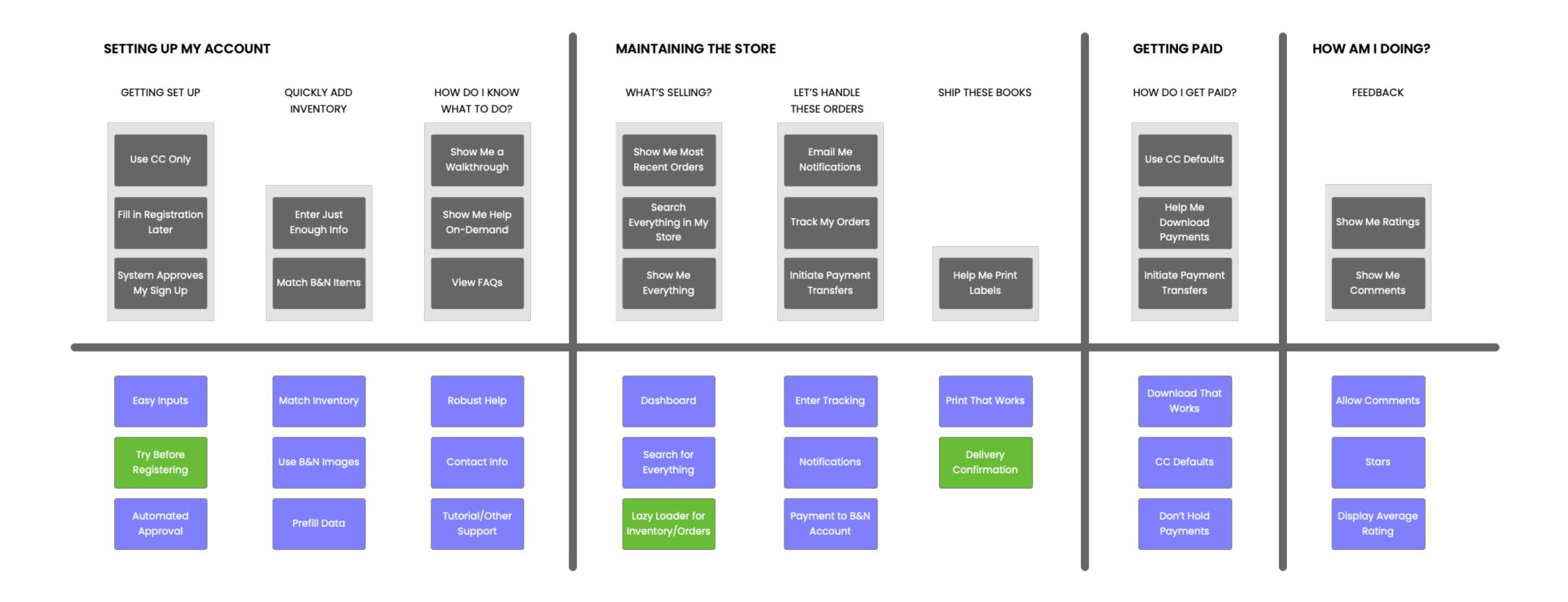






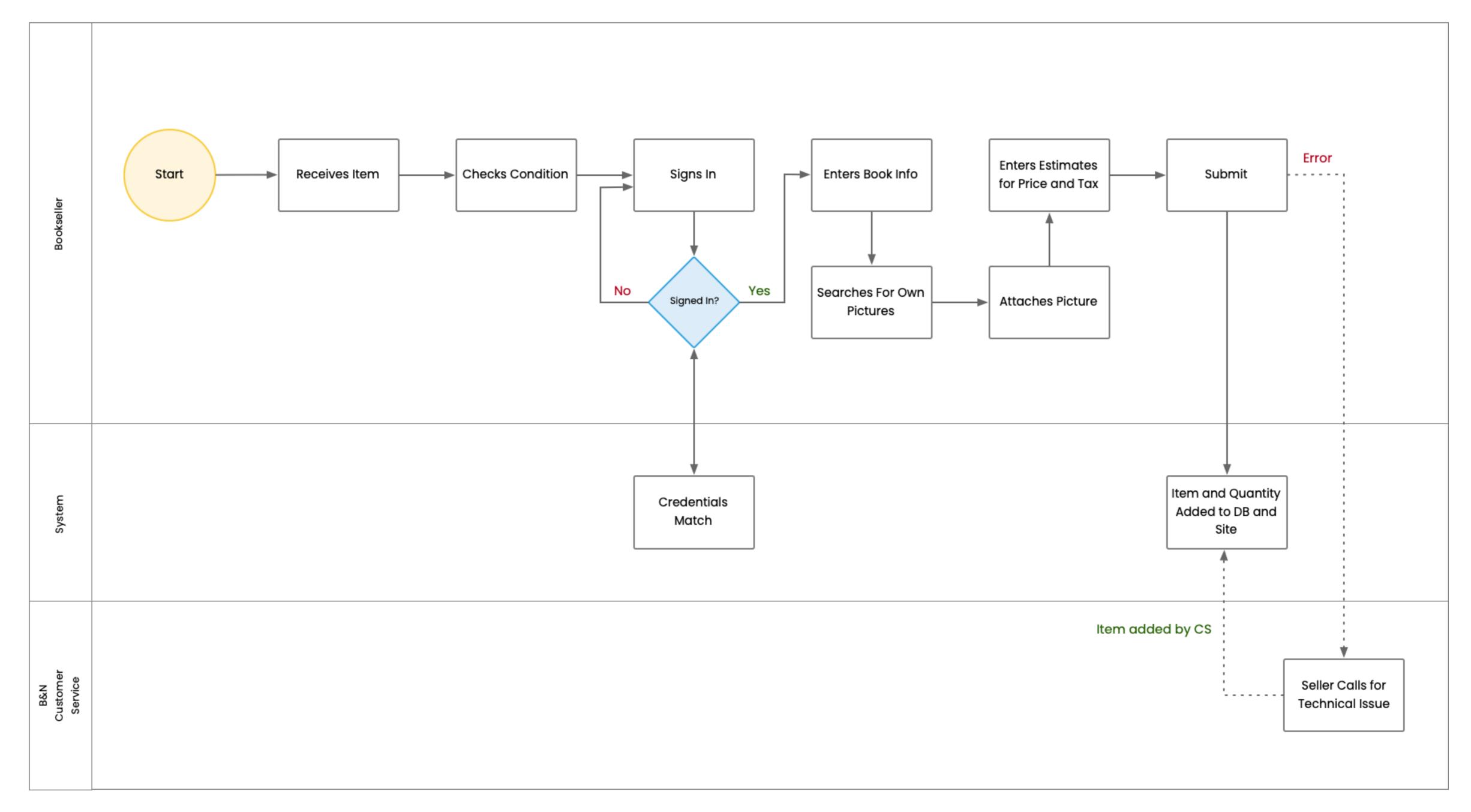
Mental Models





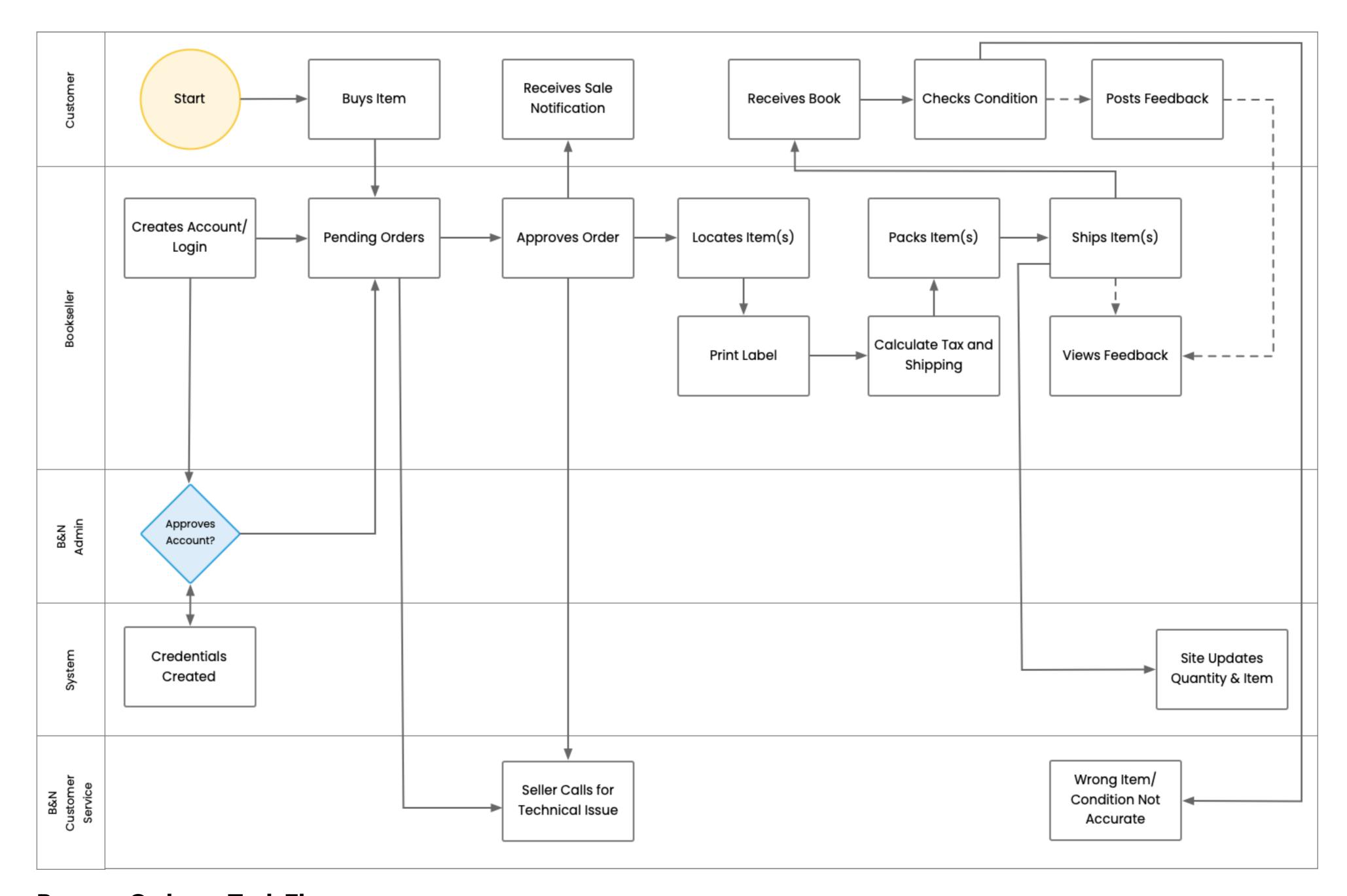
Seller and Customer-as-Seller

Task Flows - Current State



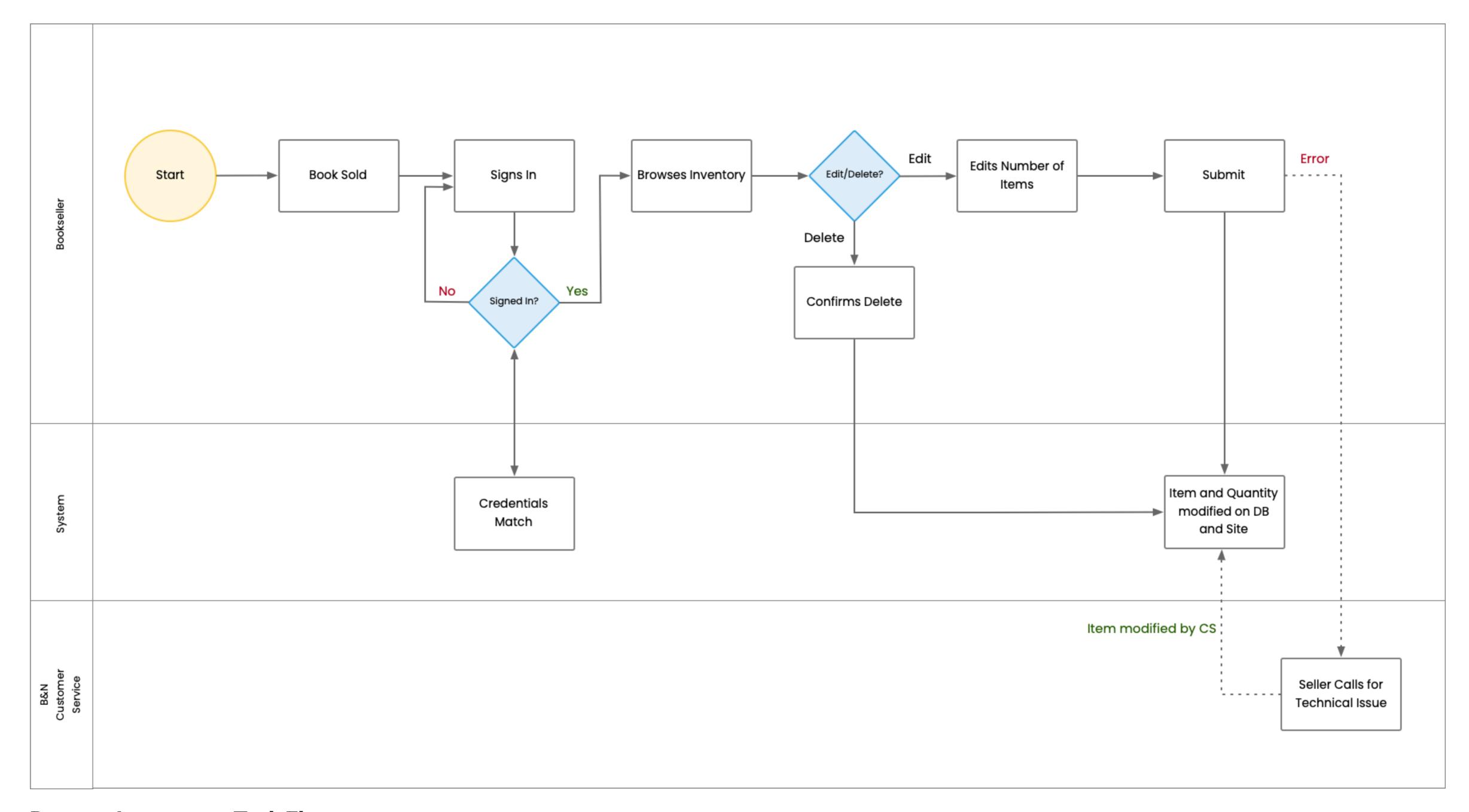
Add Inventory - Task Flow

E1



Process Orders - Task Flow

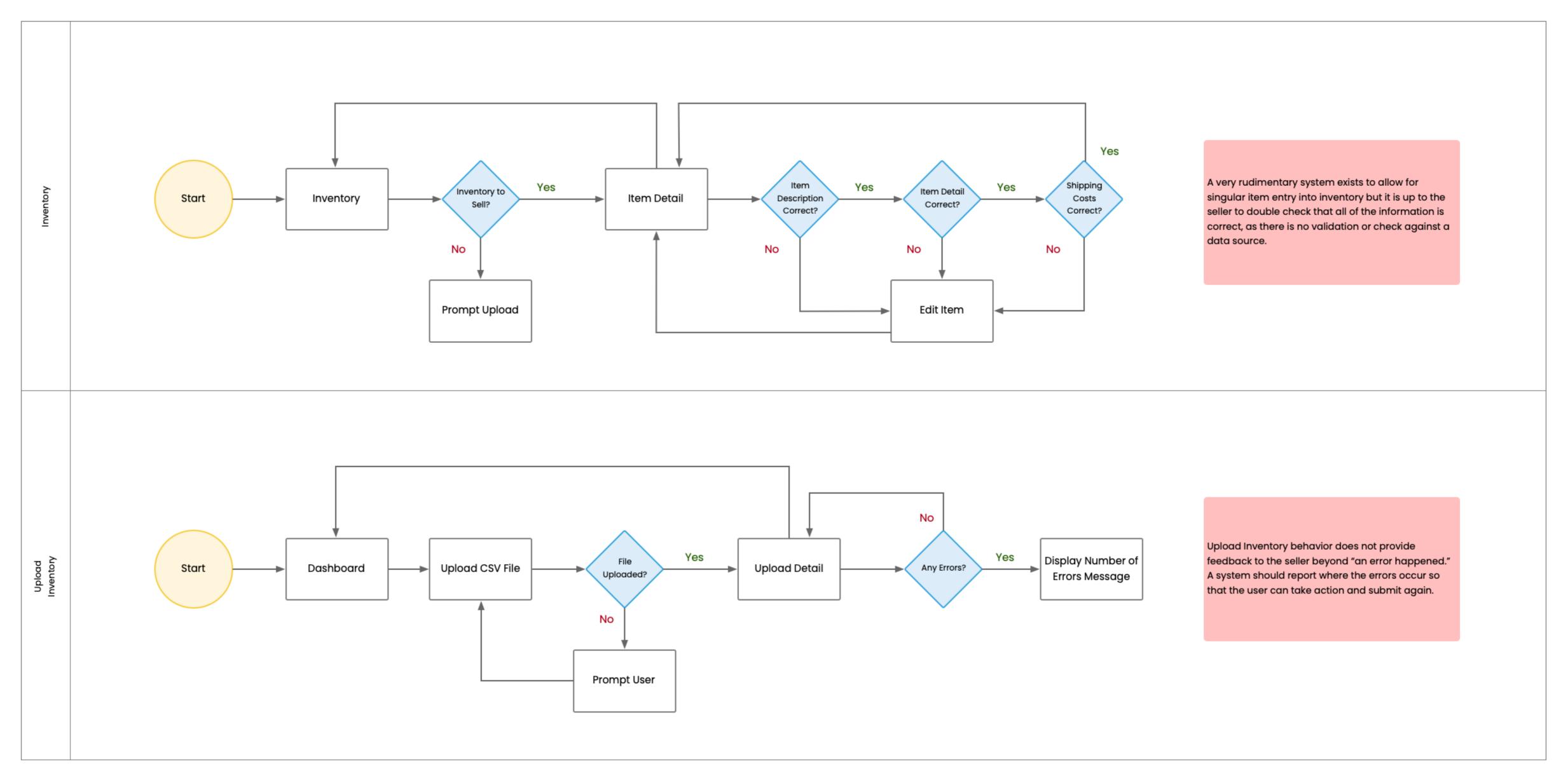
E2



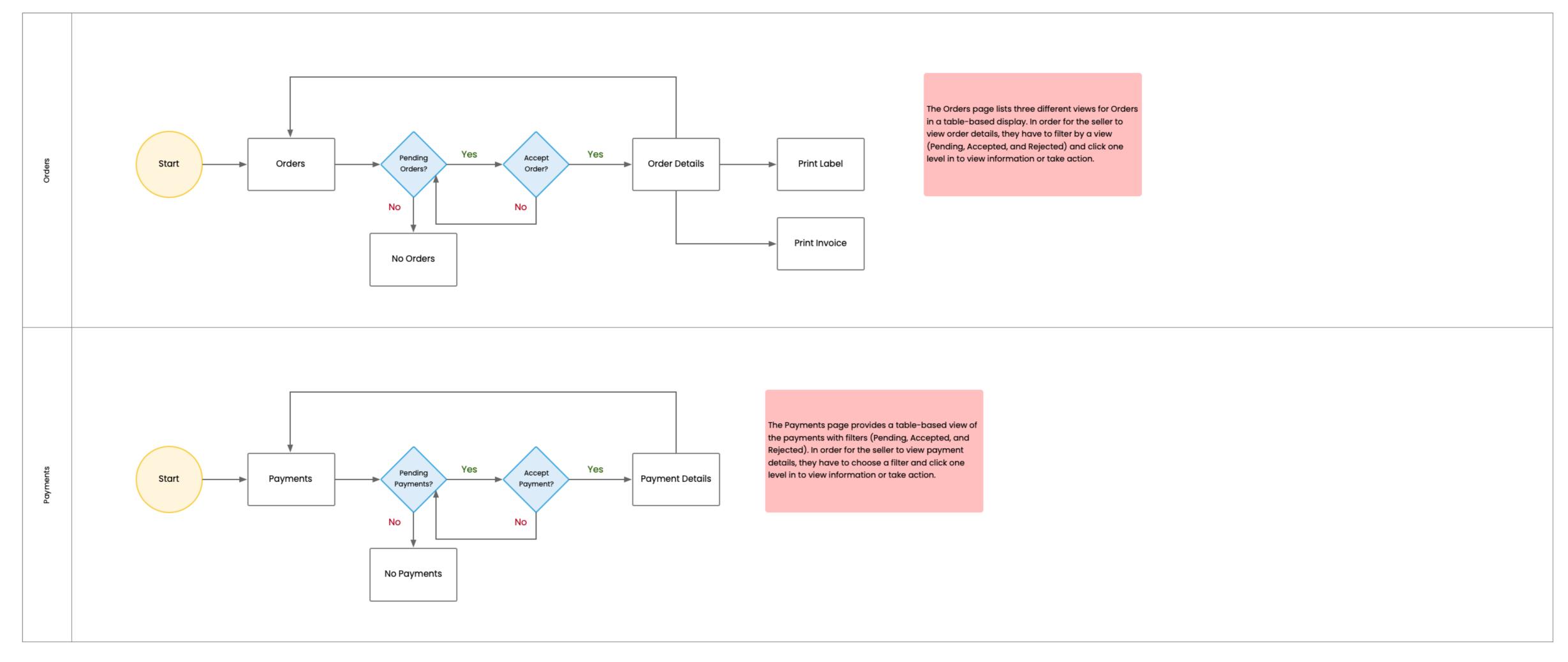
Remove Inventory - Task Flow

E3

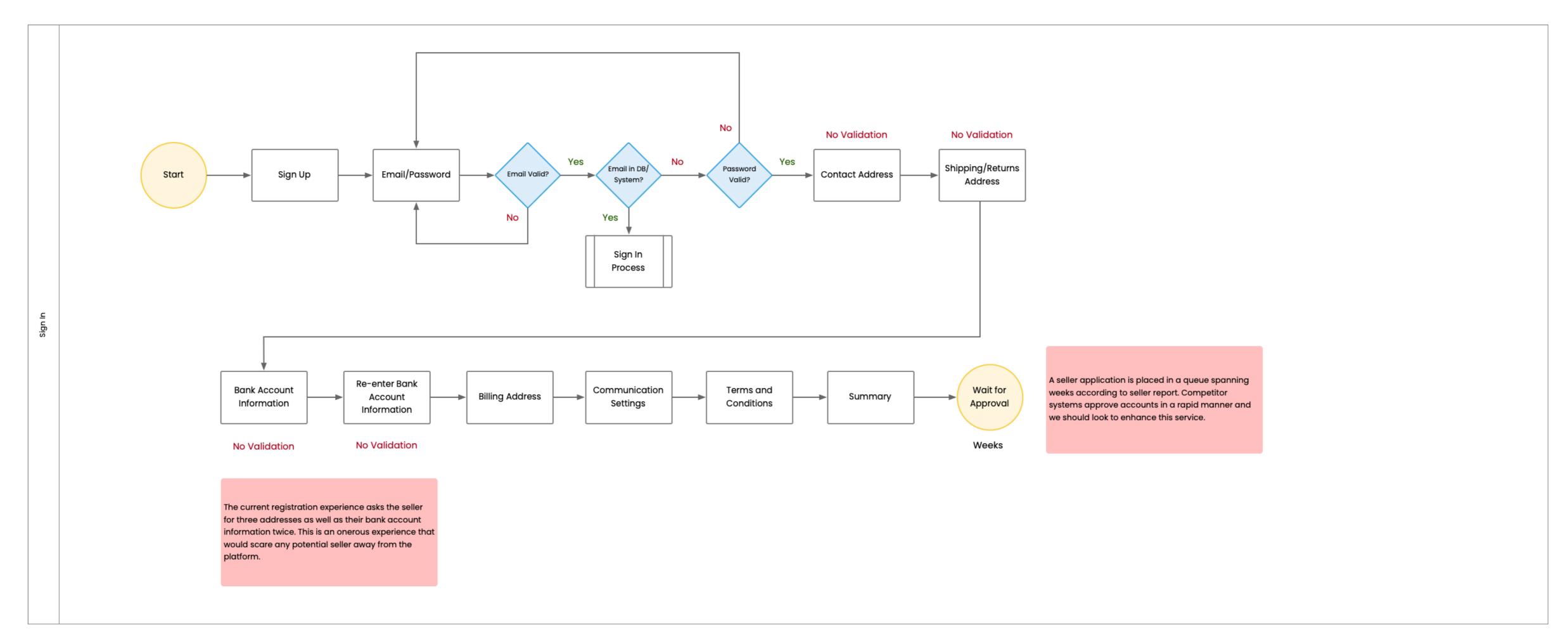
Process Flows - Current State



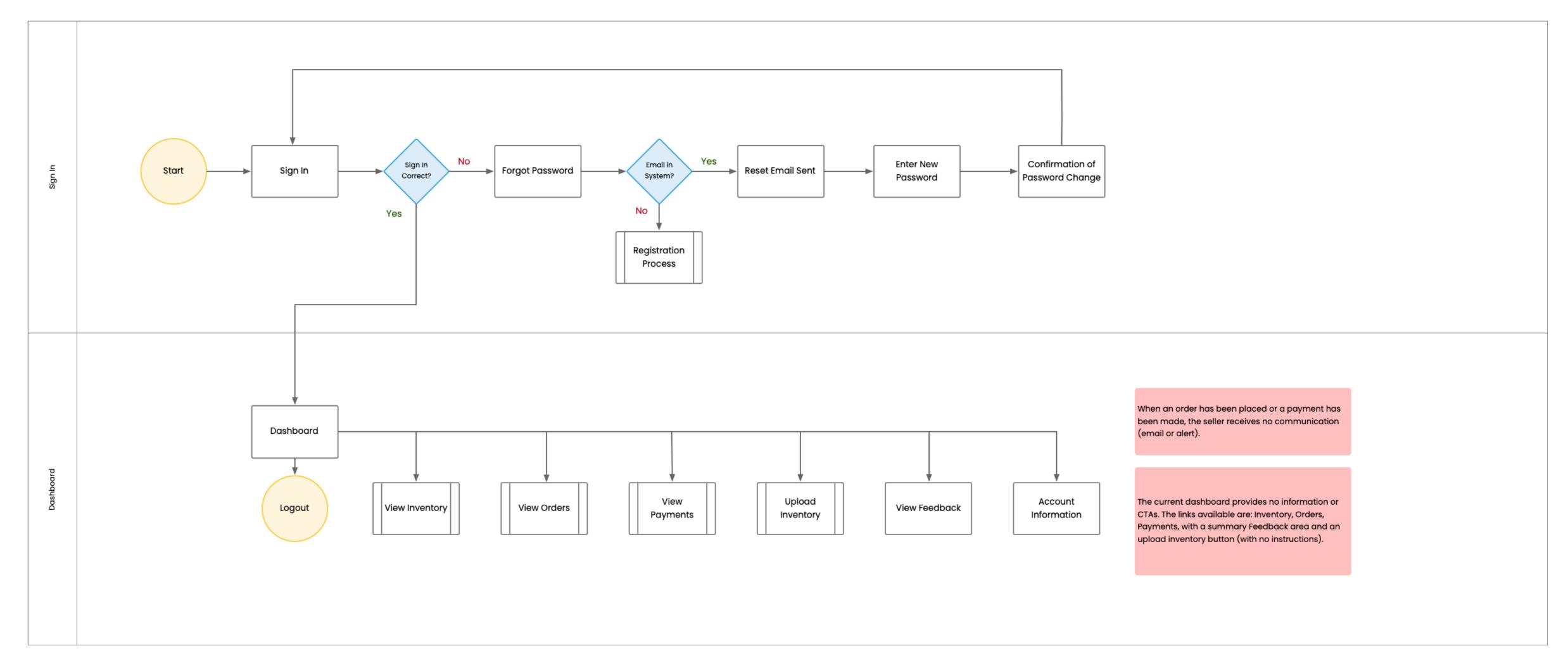
Inventory & Upload Inventory - System Process (w/ issues)



Orders & Payments - System Process (w/ issues)



Registration - System Process (w/ issues)



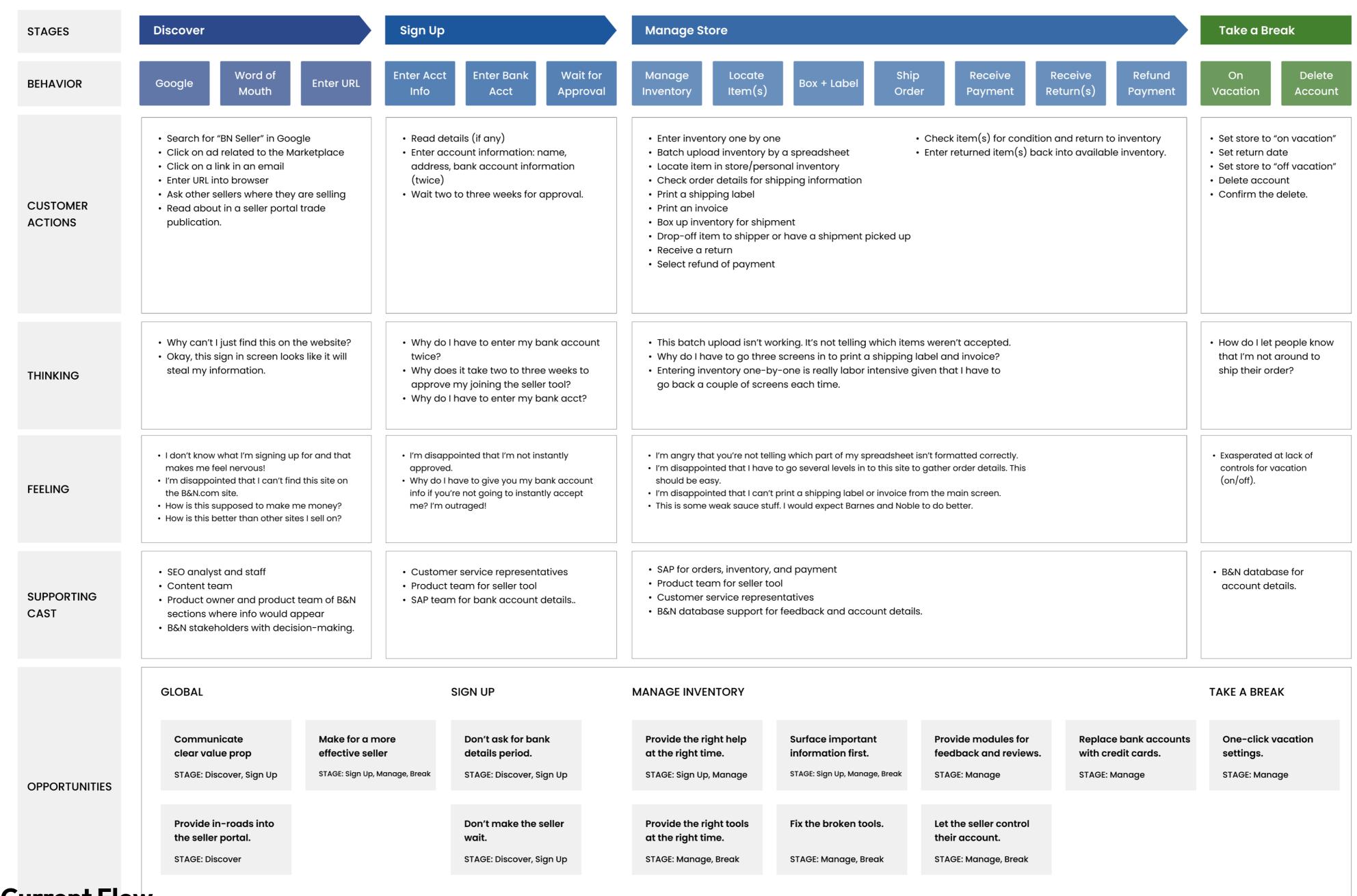
Sign In & Dashboard - System Process (w/ issues)

Journey Maps Current State

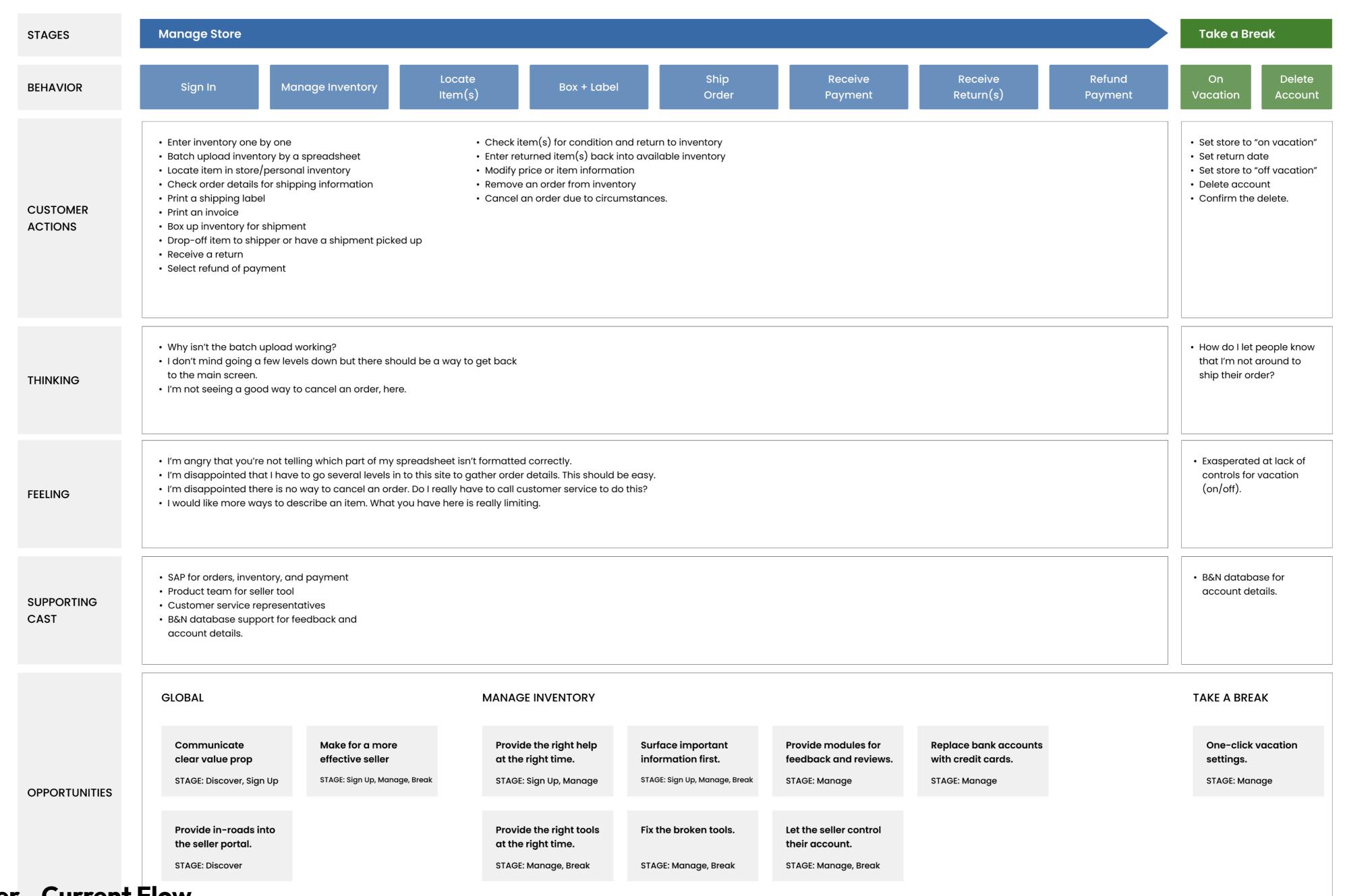
NEW SELLER

CURRENT FLOW

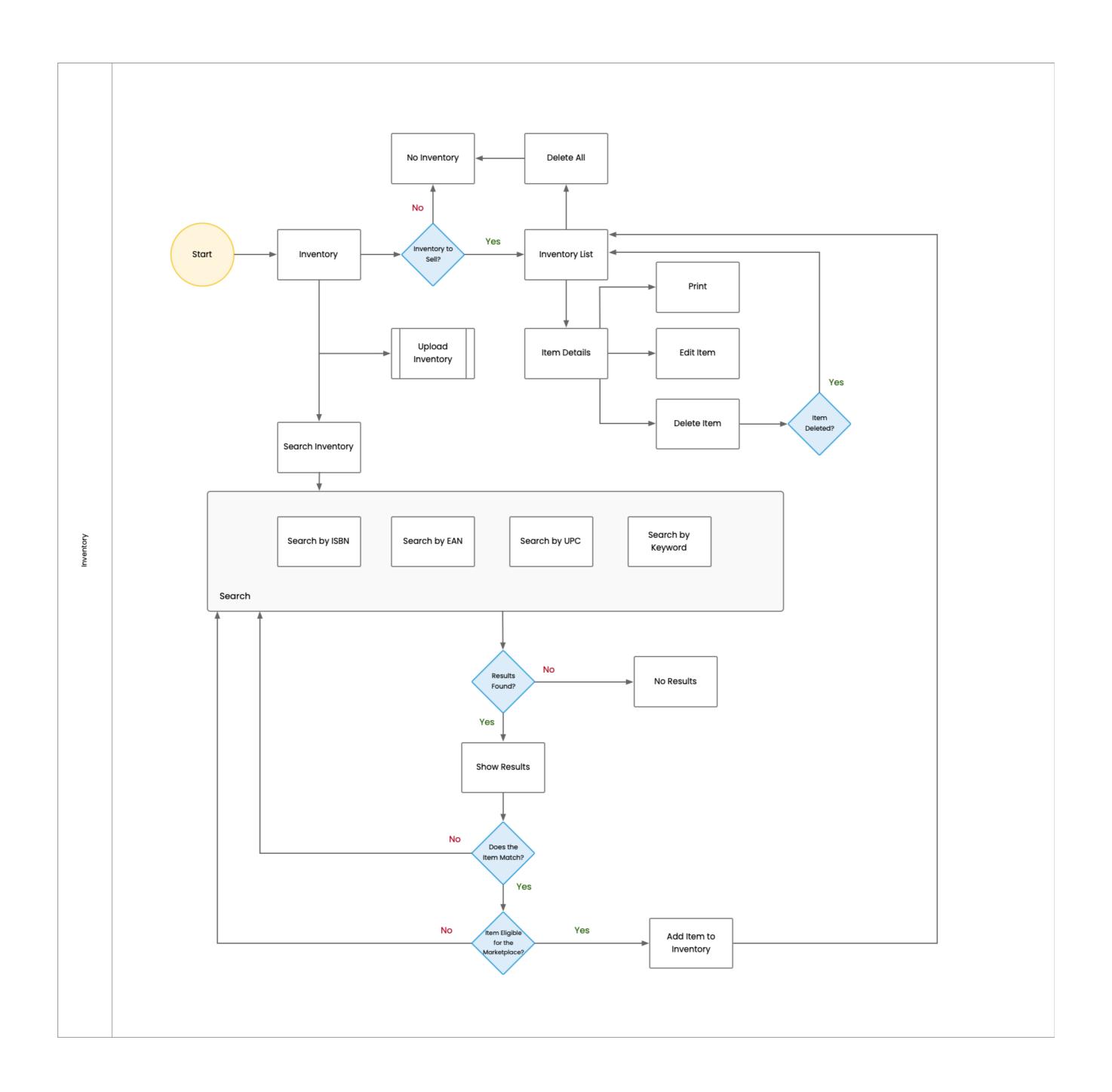
GOAL OF JOURNEY: To illustrate future state for new sellers



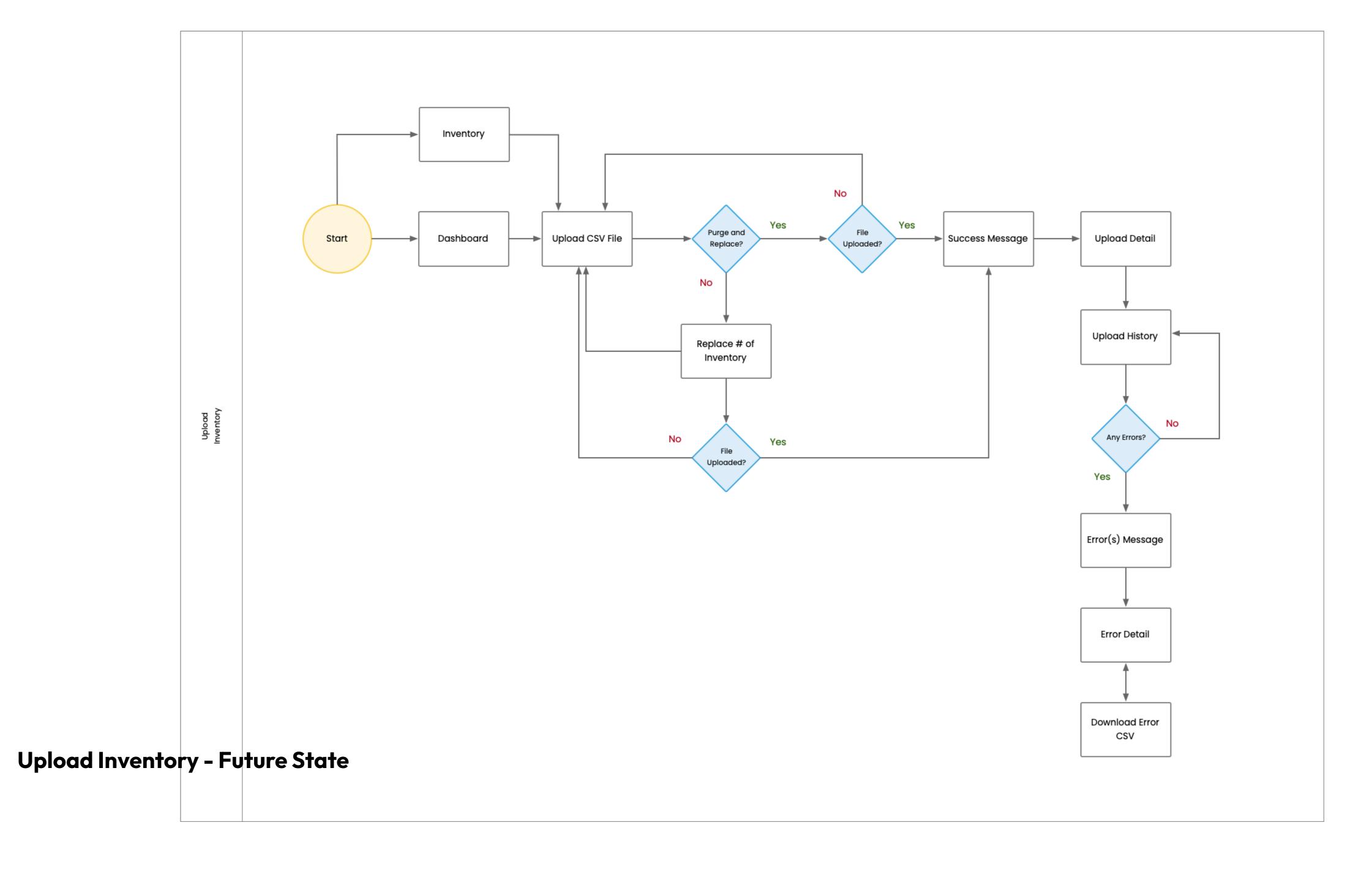
GOAL OF JOURNEY: To illustrate current state for existing sellers

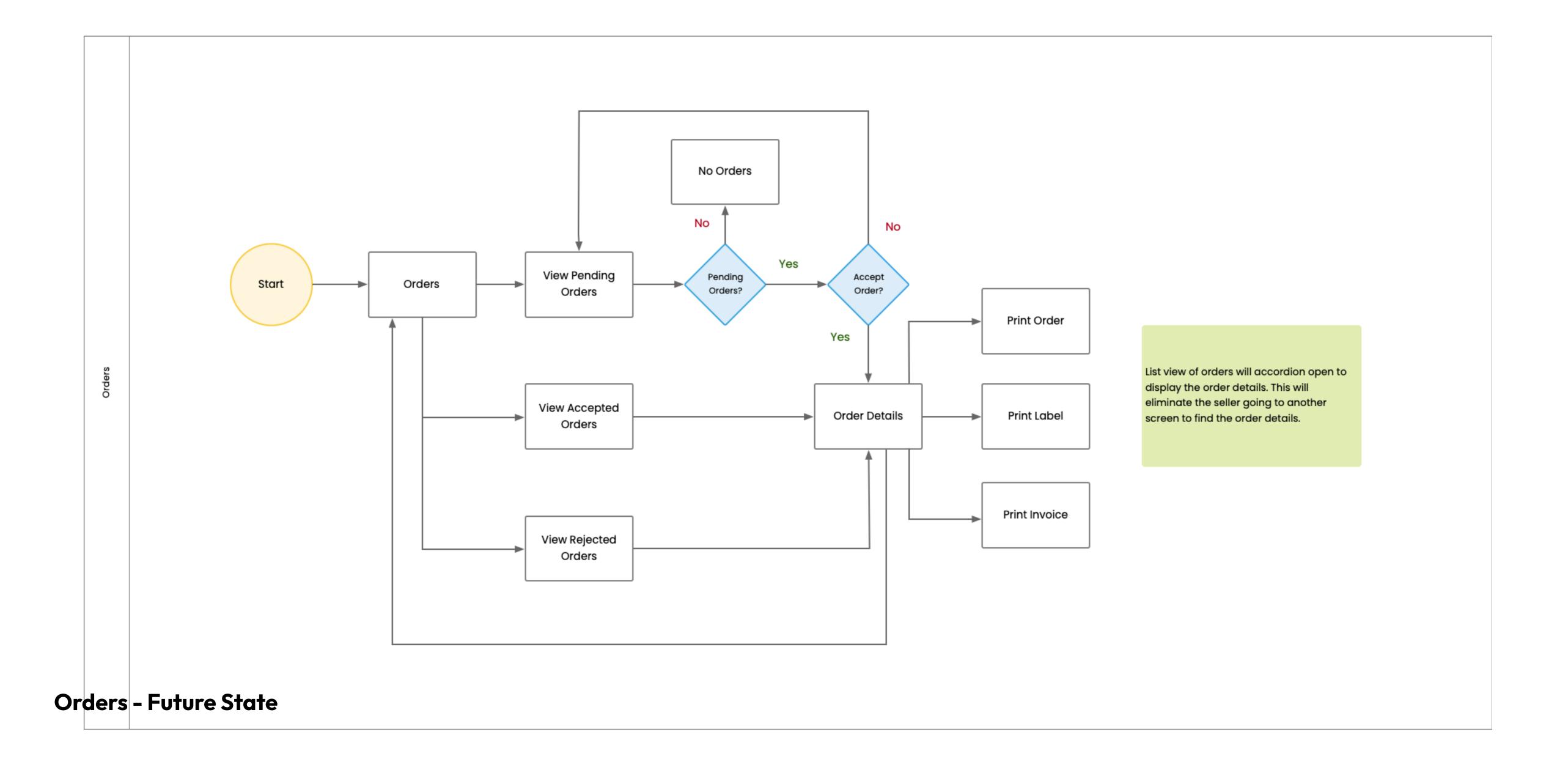


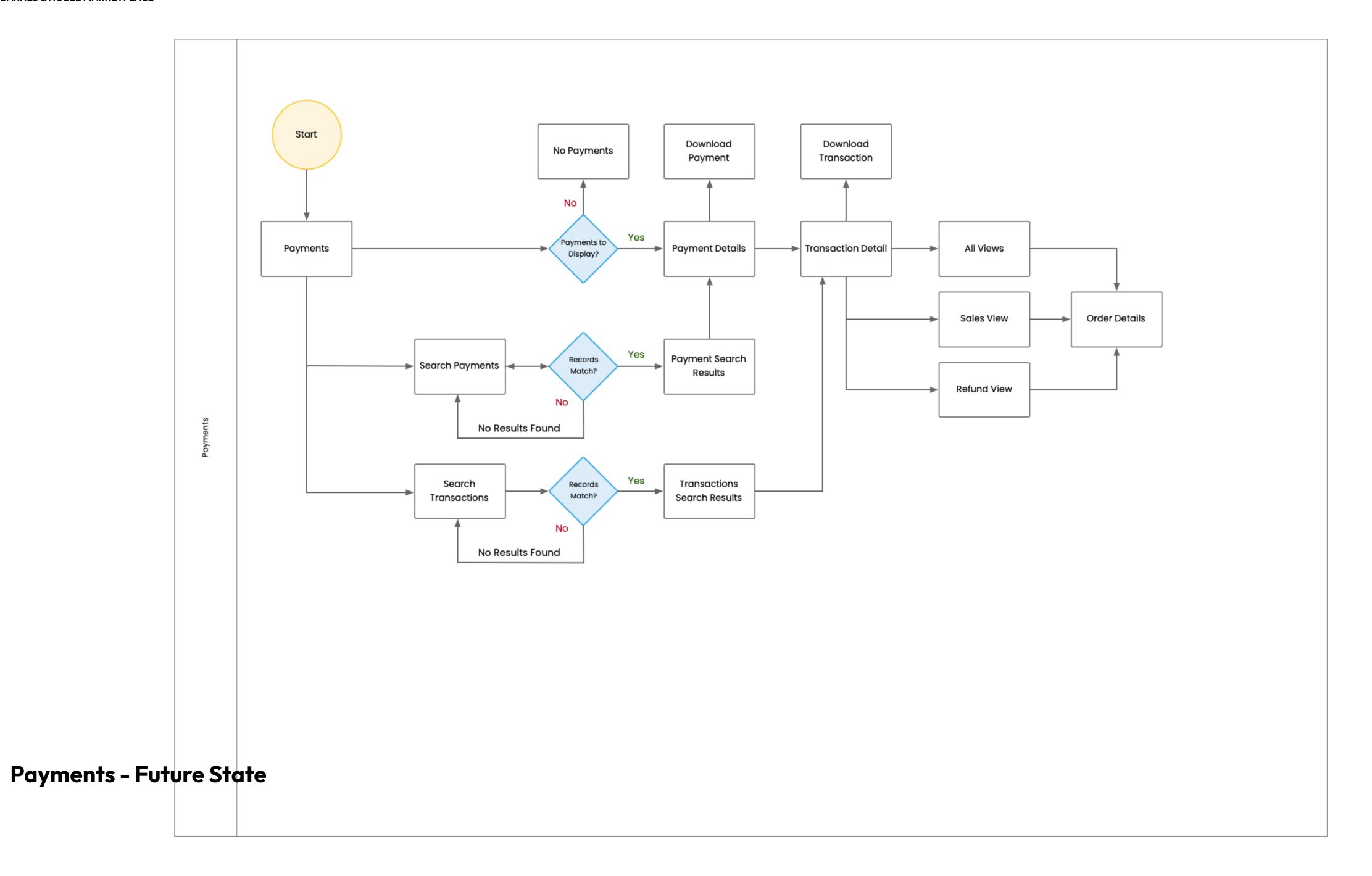
Process Flows Future State

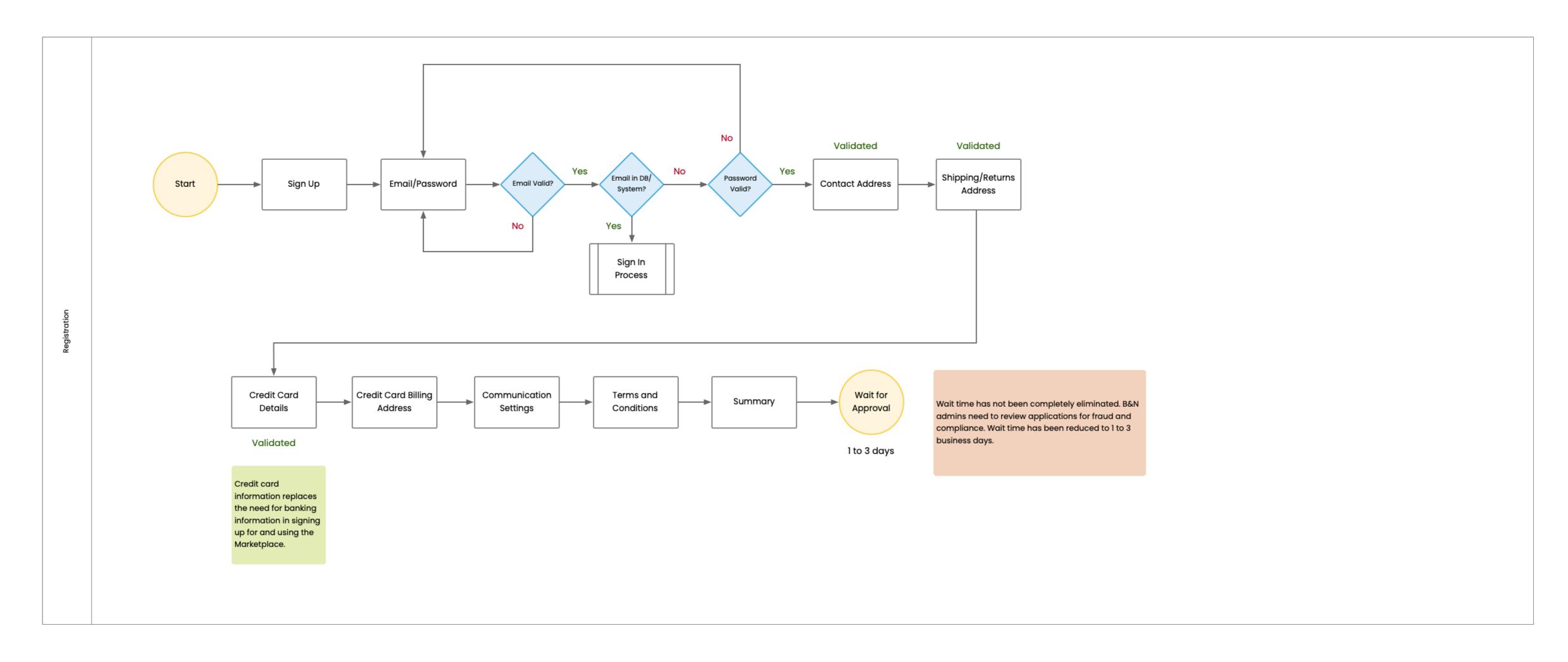


Inventory - Future State

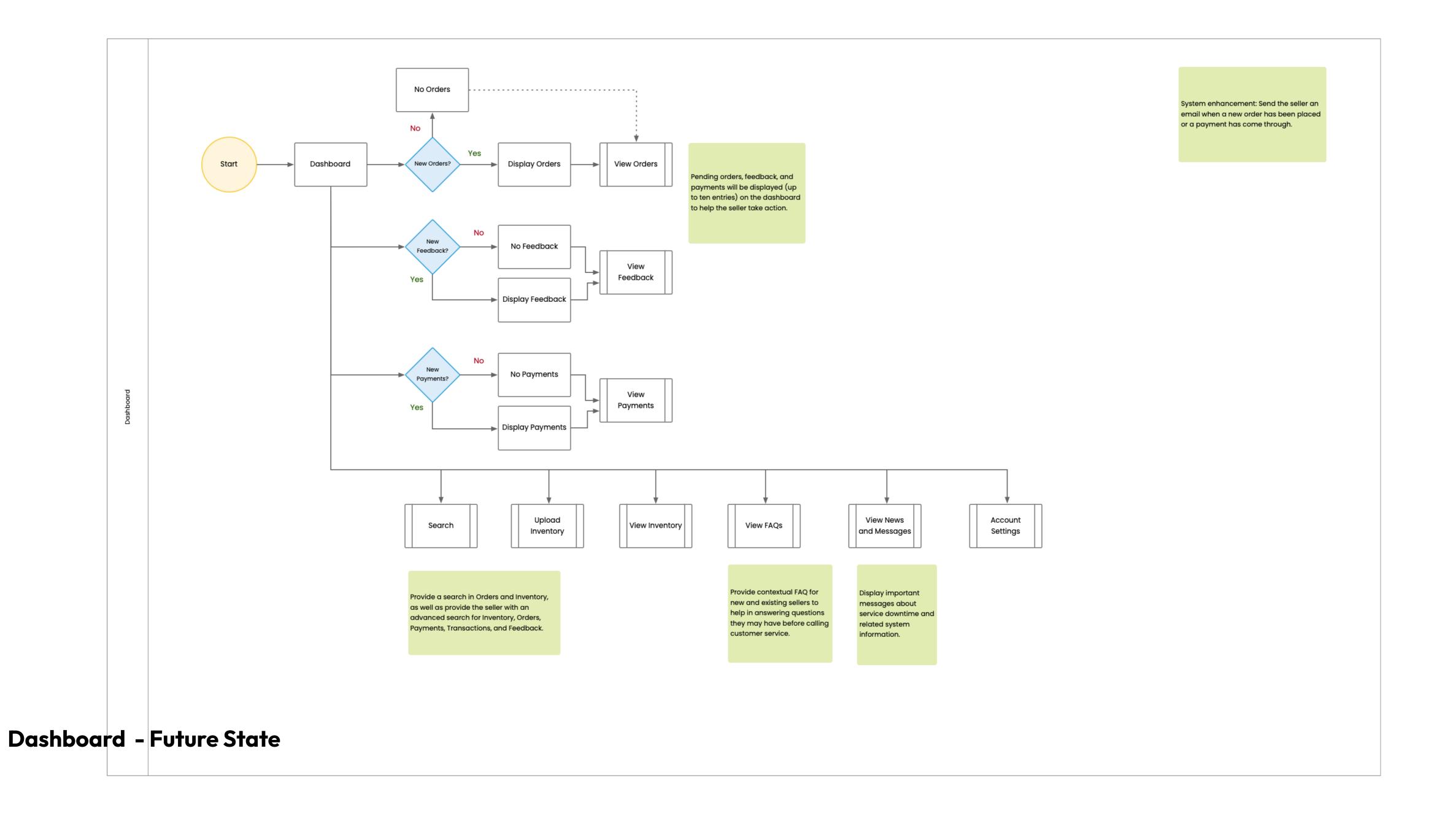


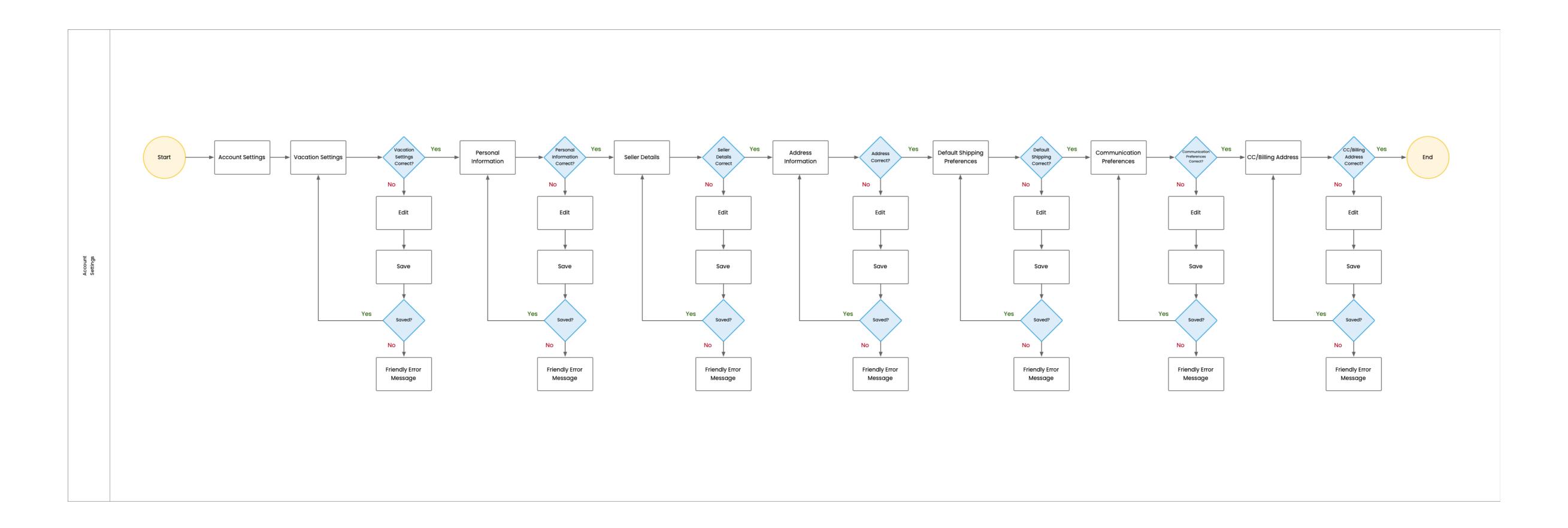




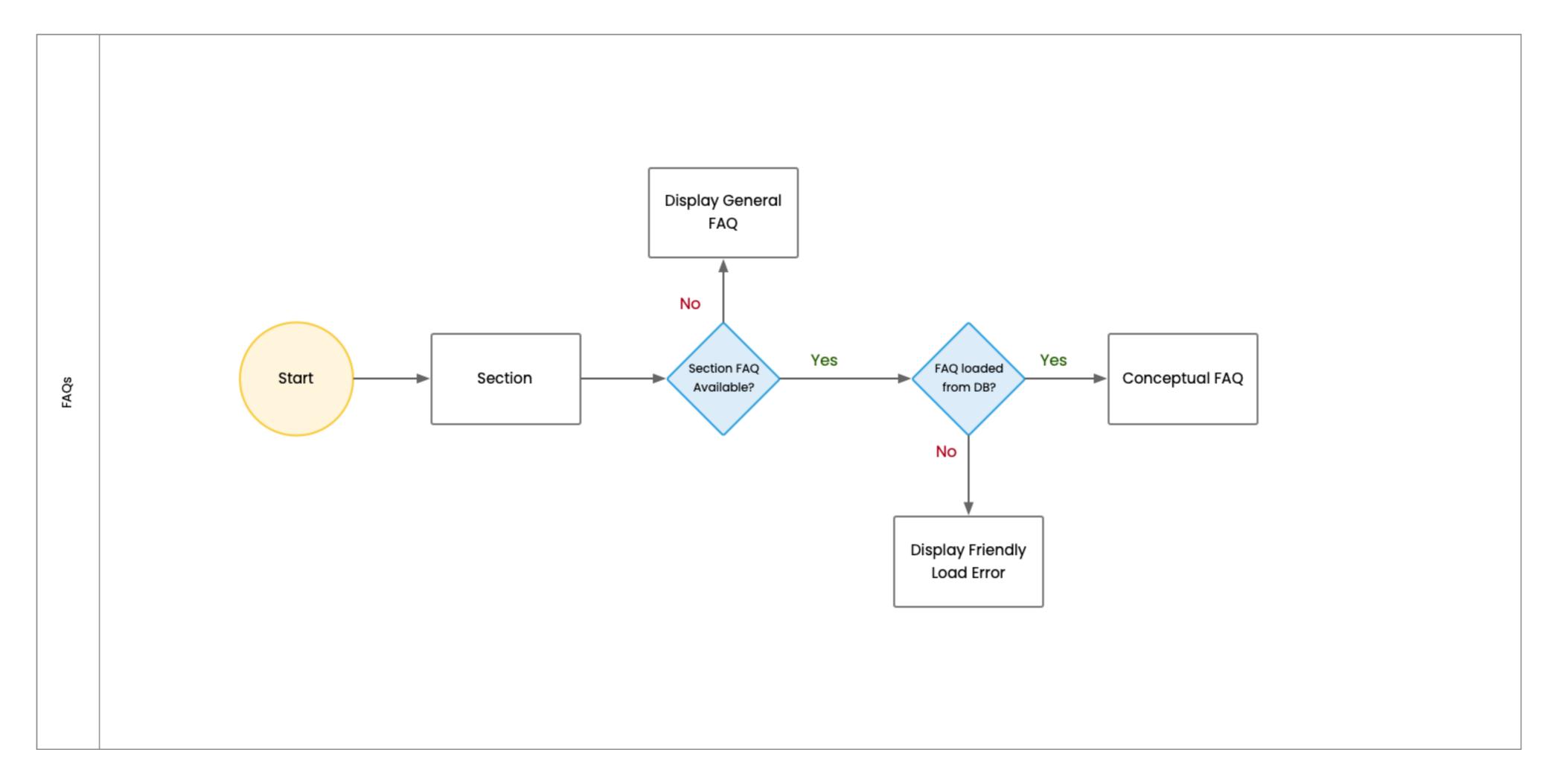


Registration - Future State





Account Settings - Future State



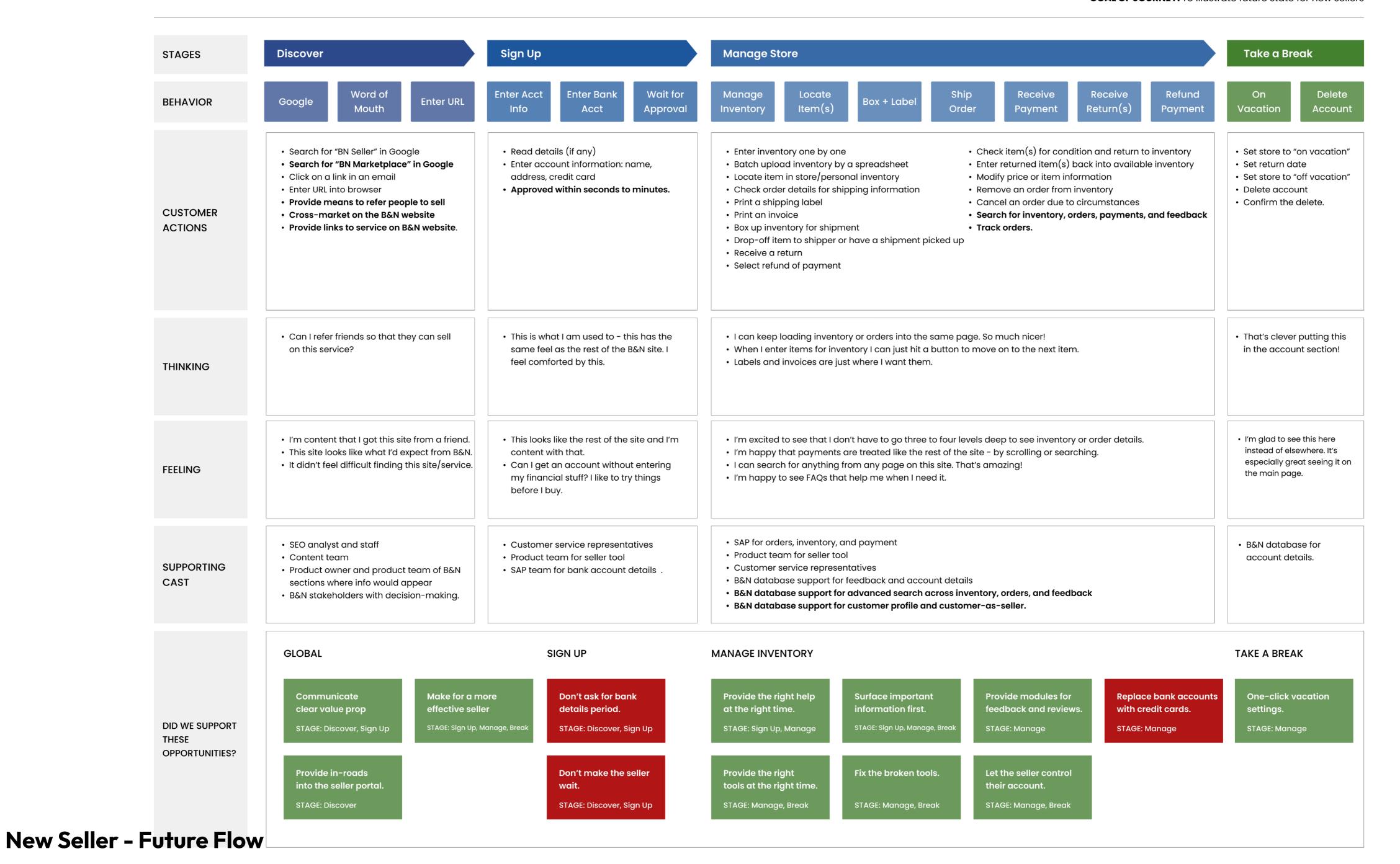
FAQs - Future State

Journey Maps -Future State

NEW SELLER

FUTURE FLOW

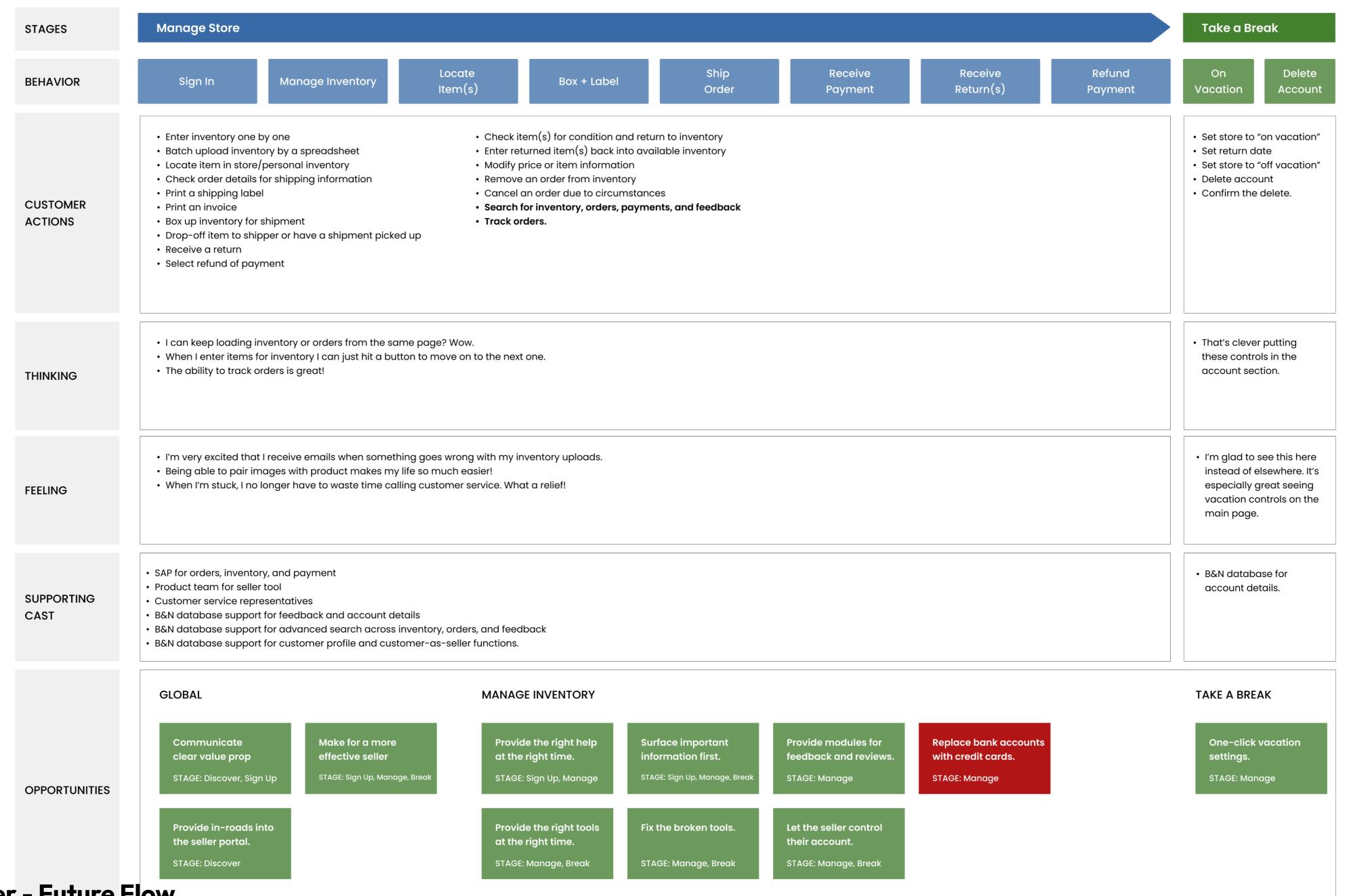
GOAL OF JOURNEY: To illustrate future state for new sellers



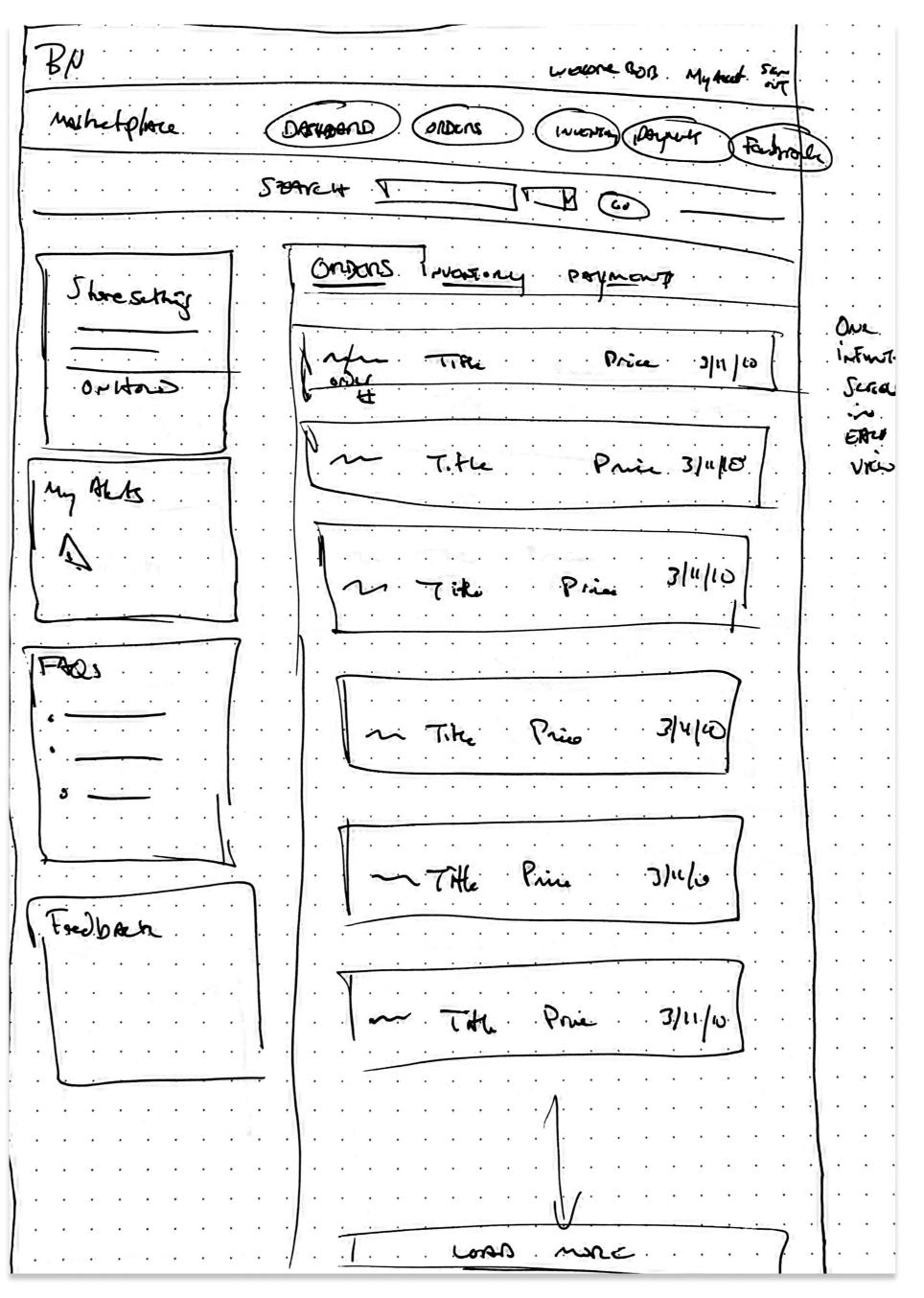
EXISTING SELLER

FUTURE FLOW

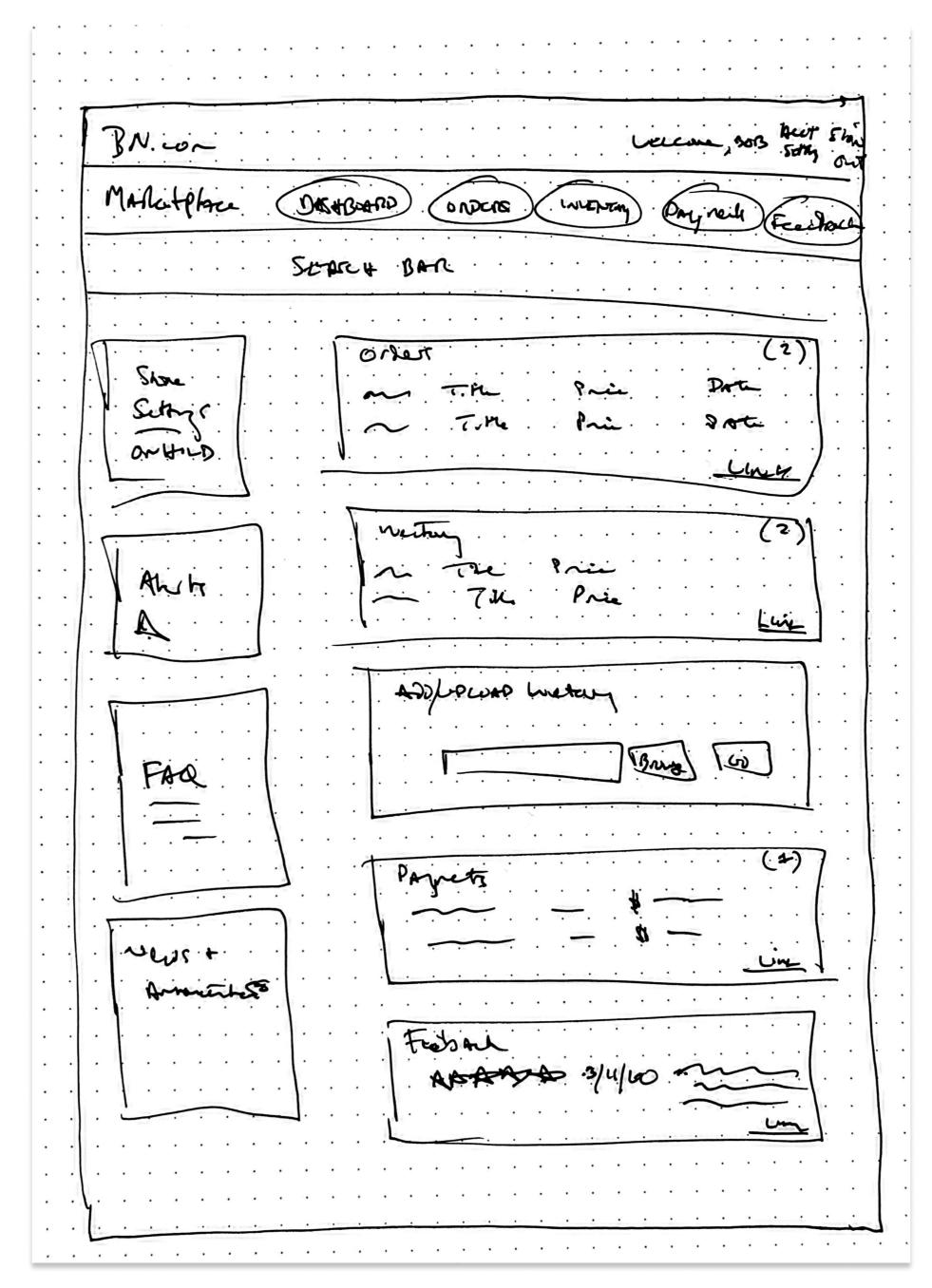
GOAL OF JOURNEY: To illustrate future state for existing sellers



Sketches



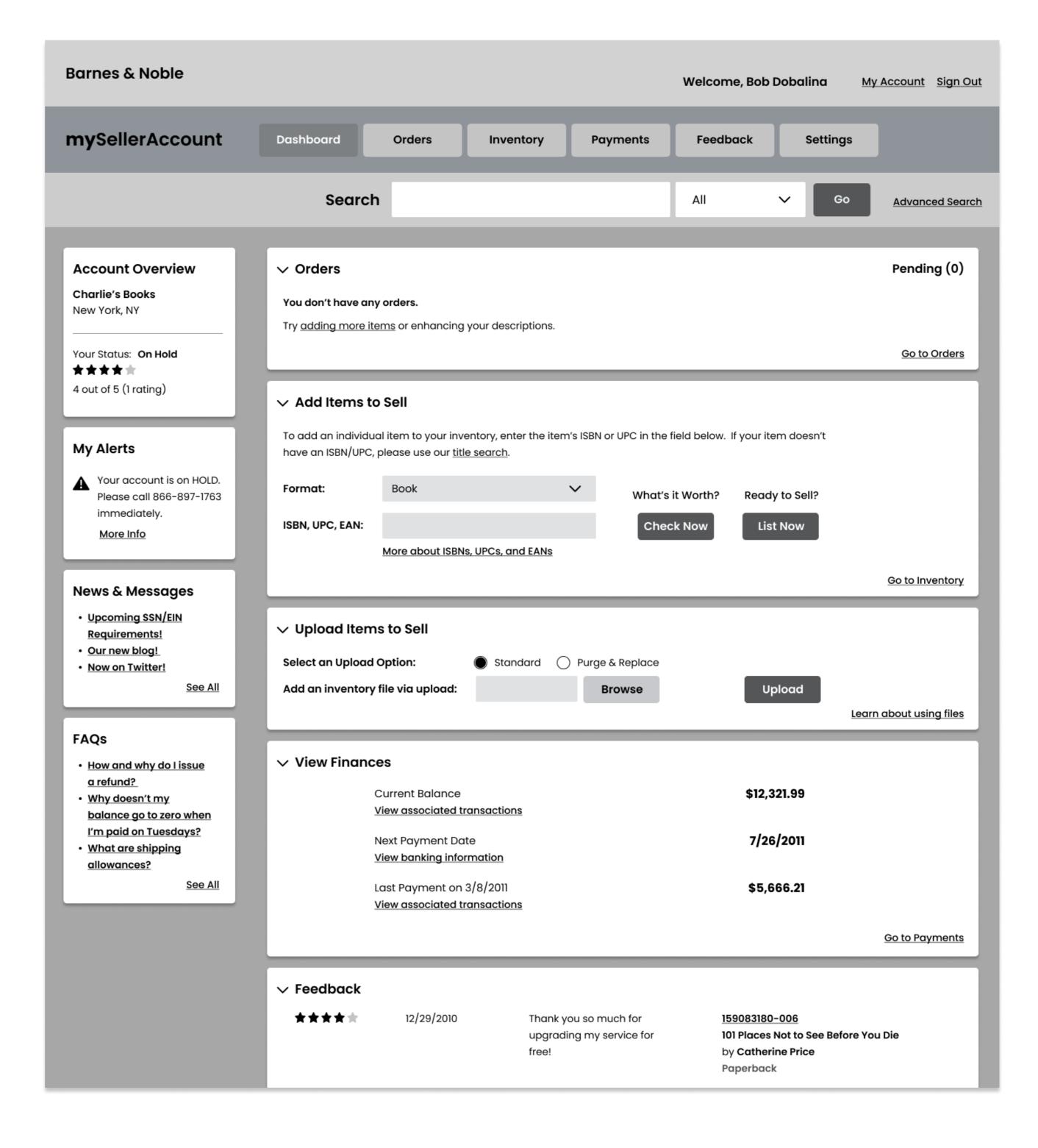
Dashboard V1



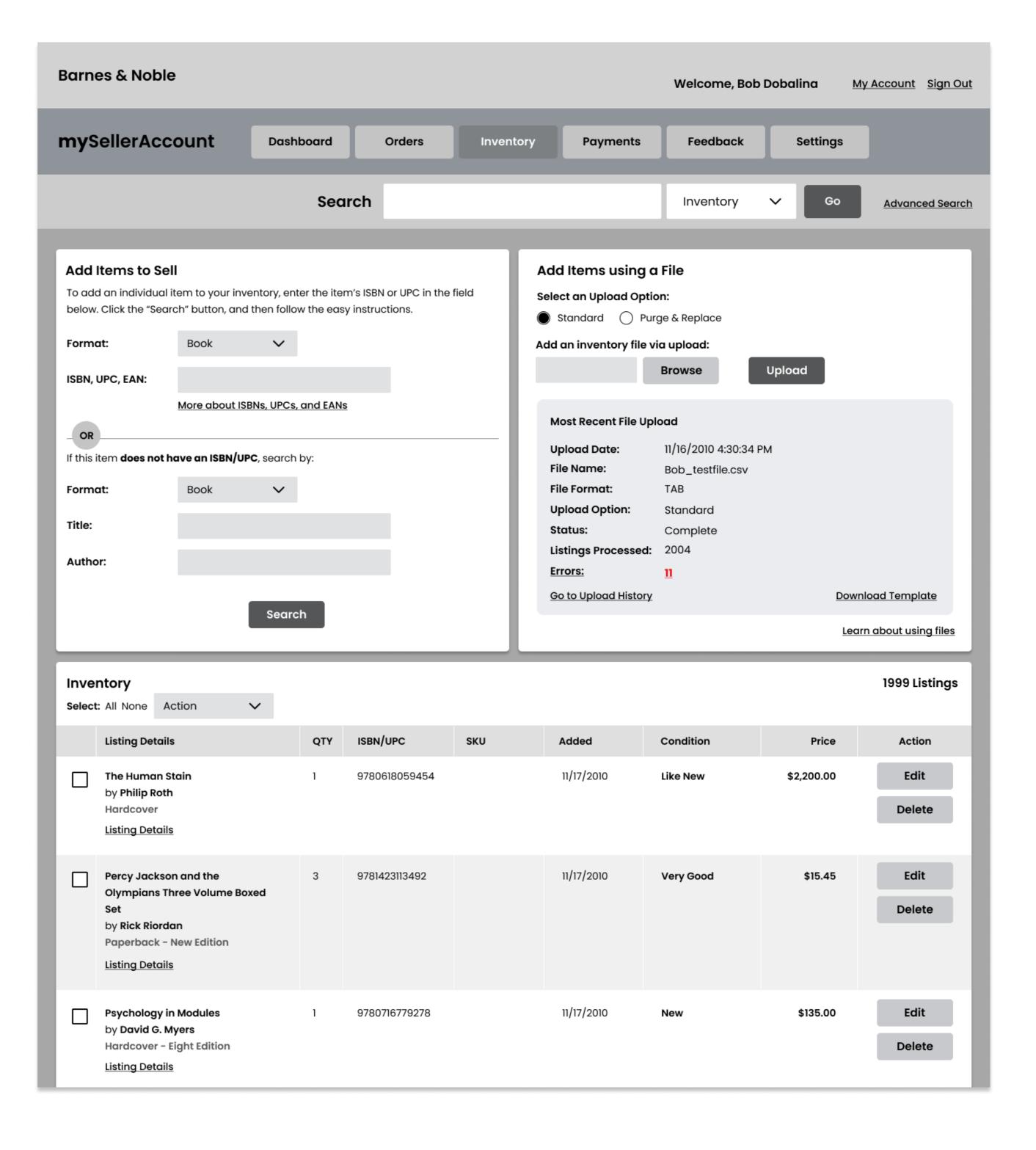
Dashboard V2

Wireframes

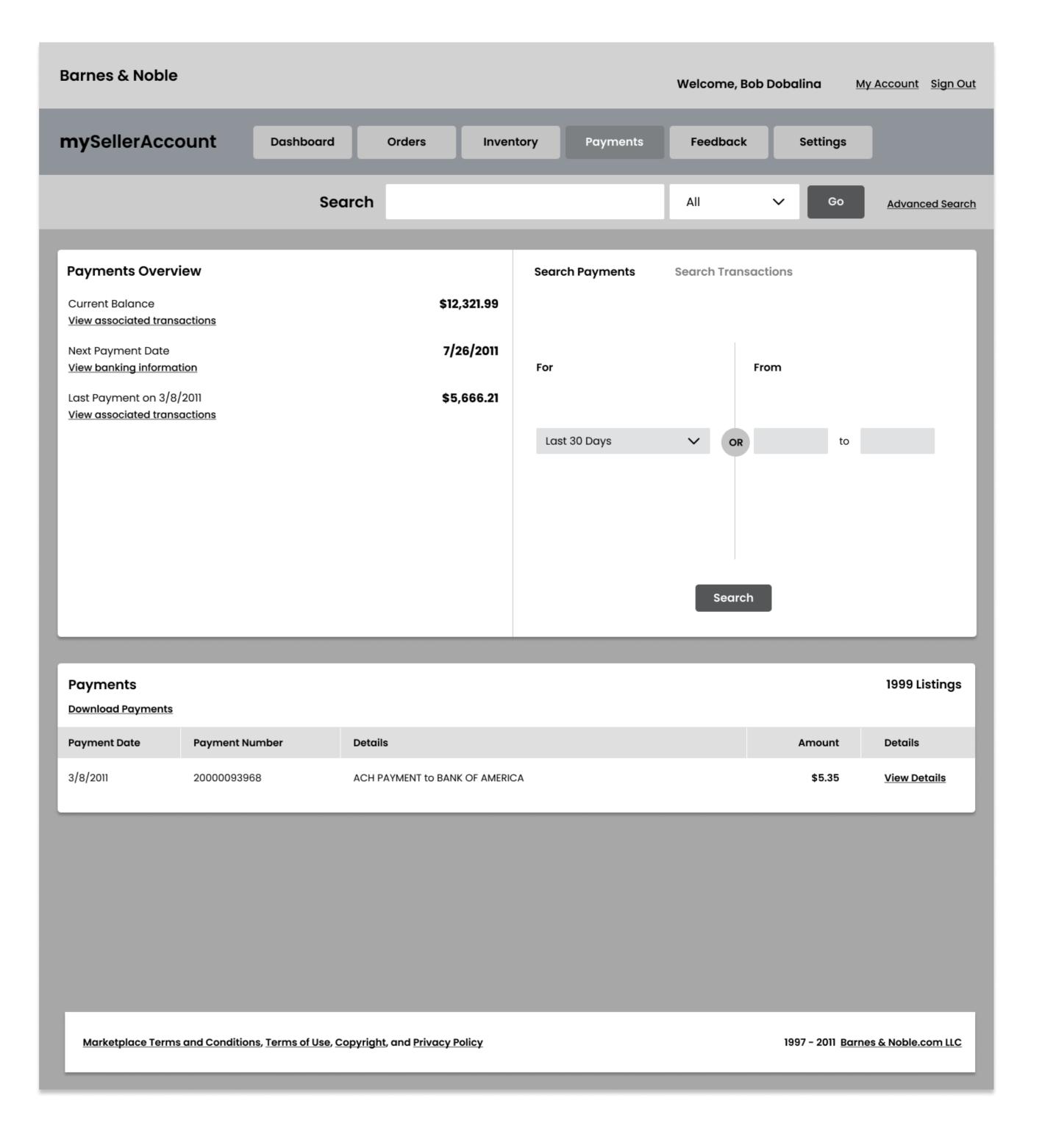
Dashboard View



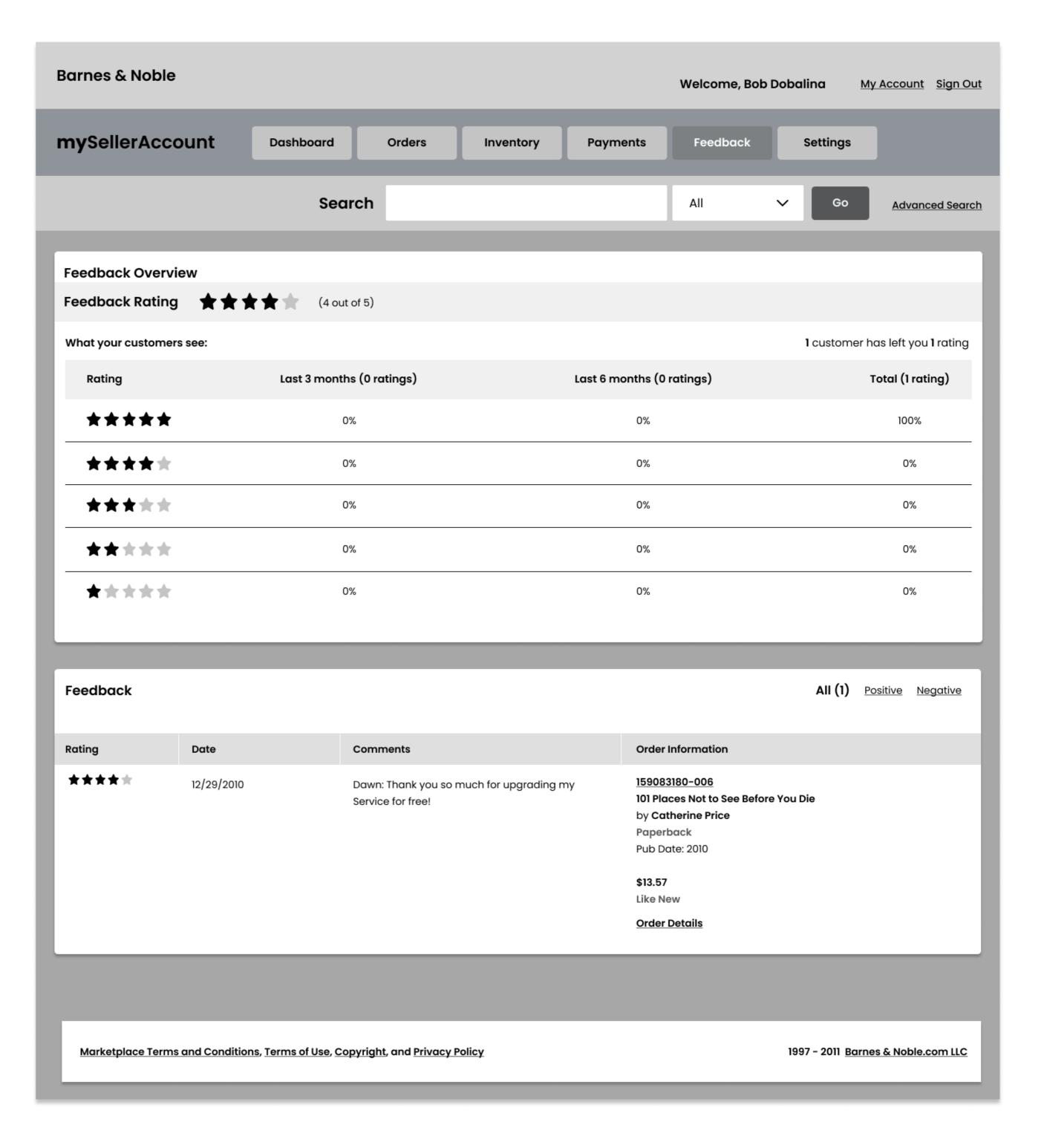
Inventory View



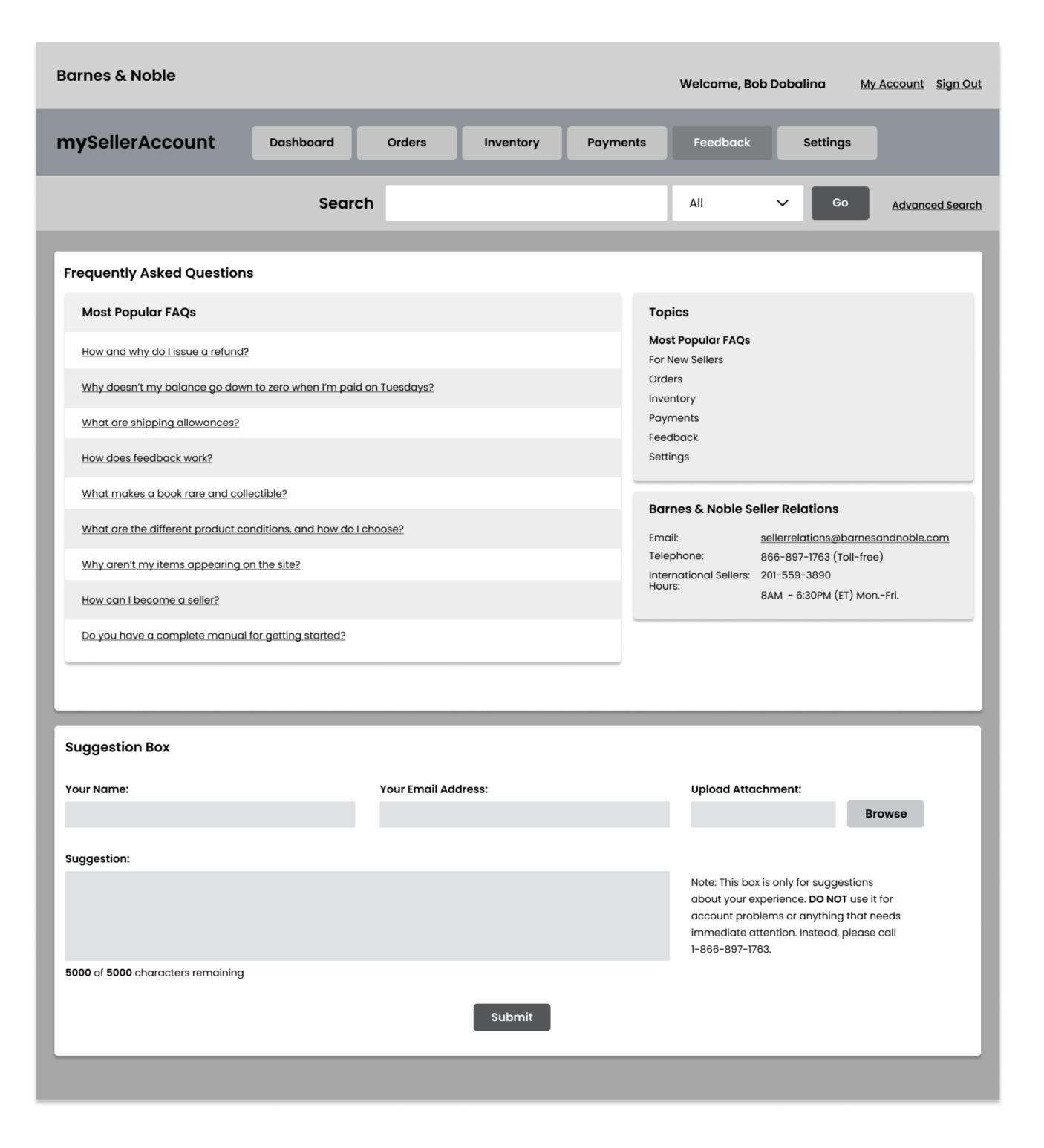
Payments View



Feedback View



FAQs View

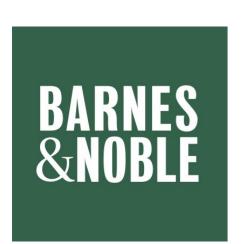


Usability Test Report

Usability Test Report

Marketplace/My Seller Portal

Joshua Line



Background Summary

Brief Summary

After wireframe designs were closer to complete, a prototype was creted in Axure in order to test the usability of the app.

Testing Team

Josh Line - lead IA/UX designer

Testing Materials

The testing prototype consisted of a clickable Axure prototype. Each test was performed on a PC laptop.

Goal

The goal of the sessions was to verify the usability of the design so the team could move ahead with designing the UI and all of the assets.

Methodology

Tested prototype with eight participants in a guerilla test. Participants were provided with a prototype and compensated with coffee and a pastry.

The participants used the talk-aloud method (clickable prototype) in a usability test covering the following eight scenarios:

- (1) View Orders
- (2) Search Inventory
- (3) Search Payments
- (4) View Feedback for an Item
- (5) Edit Account Settings
- (6) View Upload History and Details
- (7) Sign Up for an Account

The participants were asked to explain what was happening on the screen as well as work through these scenarios. A scenario was considered "passed" if it achieved an 80% or higher pass rate across all participants.

8 participants 7 scenarios

Usability Test Summary

Participants	Sign Up for Account	Orders	Search Inventory	Search Payments	Feedback	Account Settings	Upload History
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	_	_	✓	✓	_
3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Success	8	8	7	7	8	8	7
Completion Rates	100%	100%	88%	88%	100%	100%	88%

Usability Test Scenarios

Every Page - General Questions

What do you think you'd find on this page? What's going on here?

Sign Up for an Account

Let's say you're new to the site. How would you sign up for an Account? **Success Criteria: Navigates through the entire Sign up experience.**

View Orders

You'd like to add orders to your account. How would you add an item? **Success Criteria:** Clicks on Orders or "adding more items" link.

Search Inventory

Okay, we've looked at yourorders, but let's say you want to look up information for an item in your inventory. How would you do that?

Success Criteria 1: Clicks on search bar, selects Inventory, clicks on "Go" button.

Search Payments

Let's say you want to look for a specific payment. How would look for this information?

Success Criteria: Clicks on Payment and Date Range Search.

View Feedback for an Order

Let's shift gears a bit. Let's go back to the main page and search for feedback on an order. How would you do that?

Success Criteria 1: Clicks on Feedback link in the module in the Dashboard and then the Order Details link.

or

Success Criteria 2: Clicks on the main navigation item for Feedback and then clicks on the Order Details link.

Edit Account Settings

You want to change some details on your account. How would you make changes to your account?

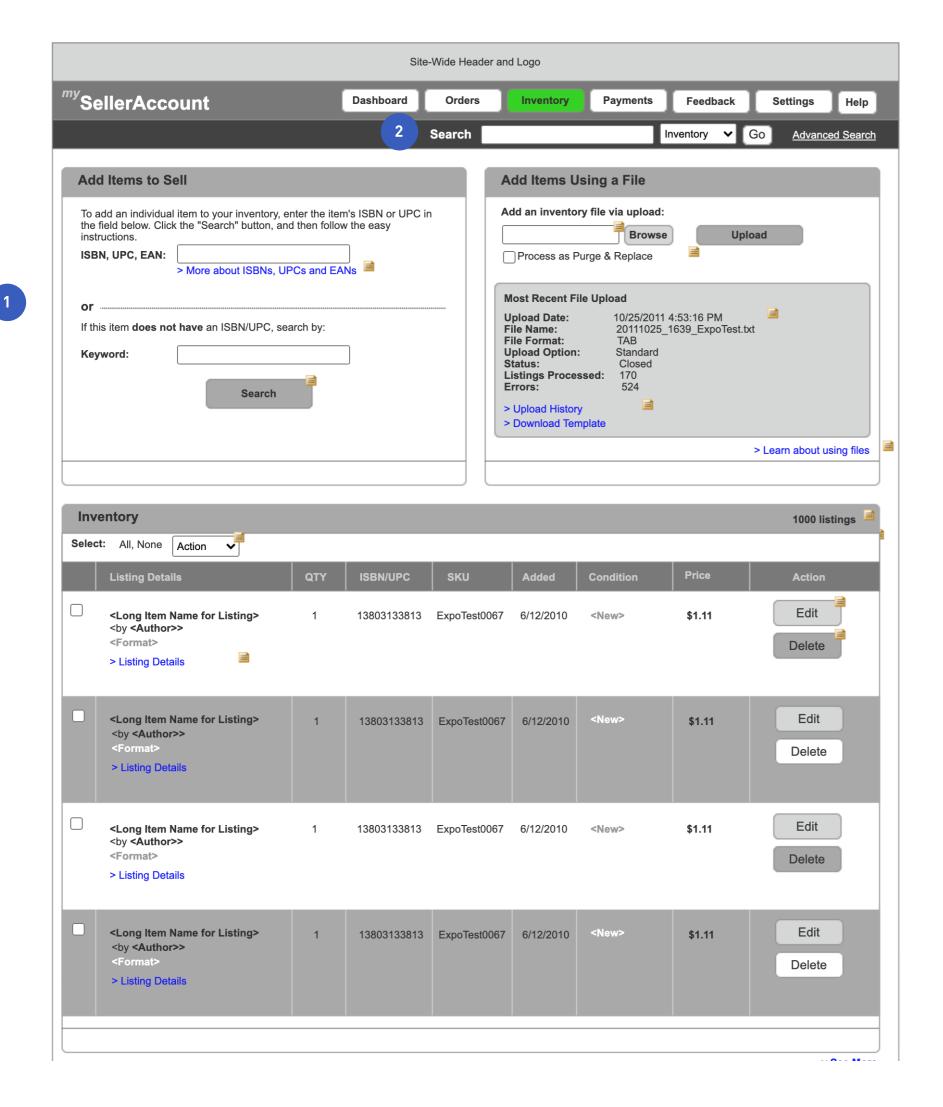
Success Criteria 1: Clicks on Account Settings and then edits and saves a portion of the Account Settings.

View Upload History and Detail

You've recently uploaded some inventory and you want to check if everything uploaded okay. How would you check this?

Success Criteria: Clicks on Inventory, Upload History, and then View Details.

SEARCH INVENTORY

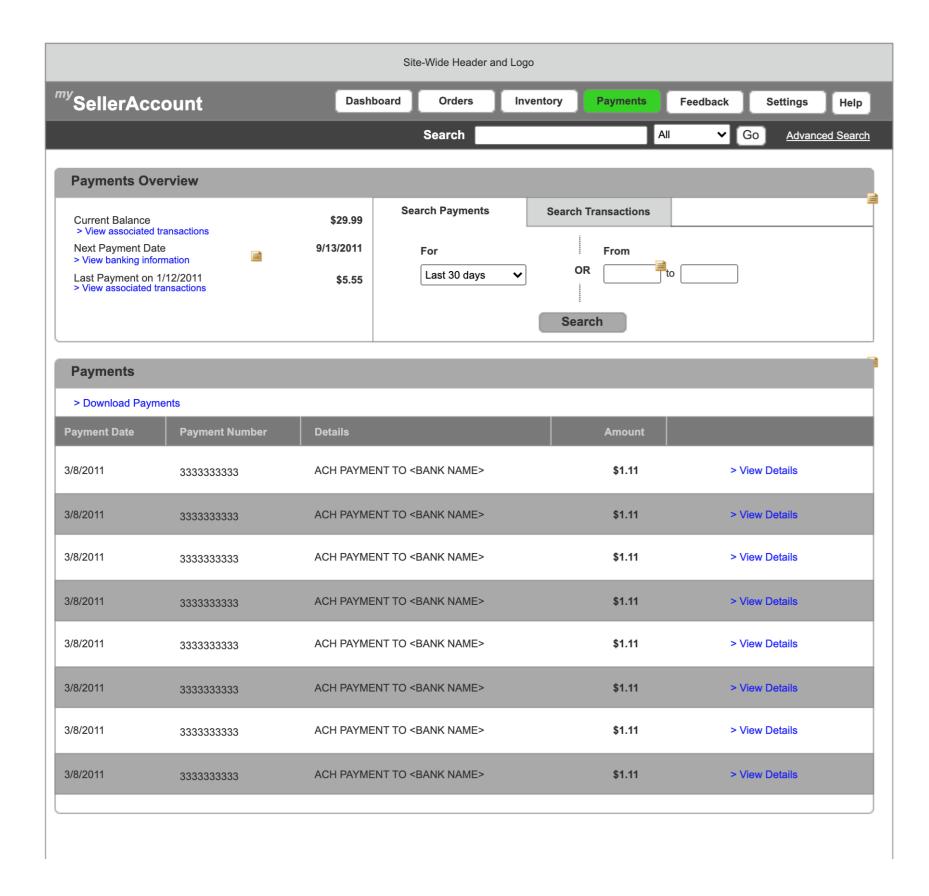


ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Number	Recommendation	Justification	Severity
1	Make it more apparent that this is where they can search for Inventory for sale.	Although not many participants didn't click here, they did hover over this area thinking this is where you would search for Inventory.	High
2	Make search box more prominent.	It took most of the participants a minute to register that they could search on this site.	High



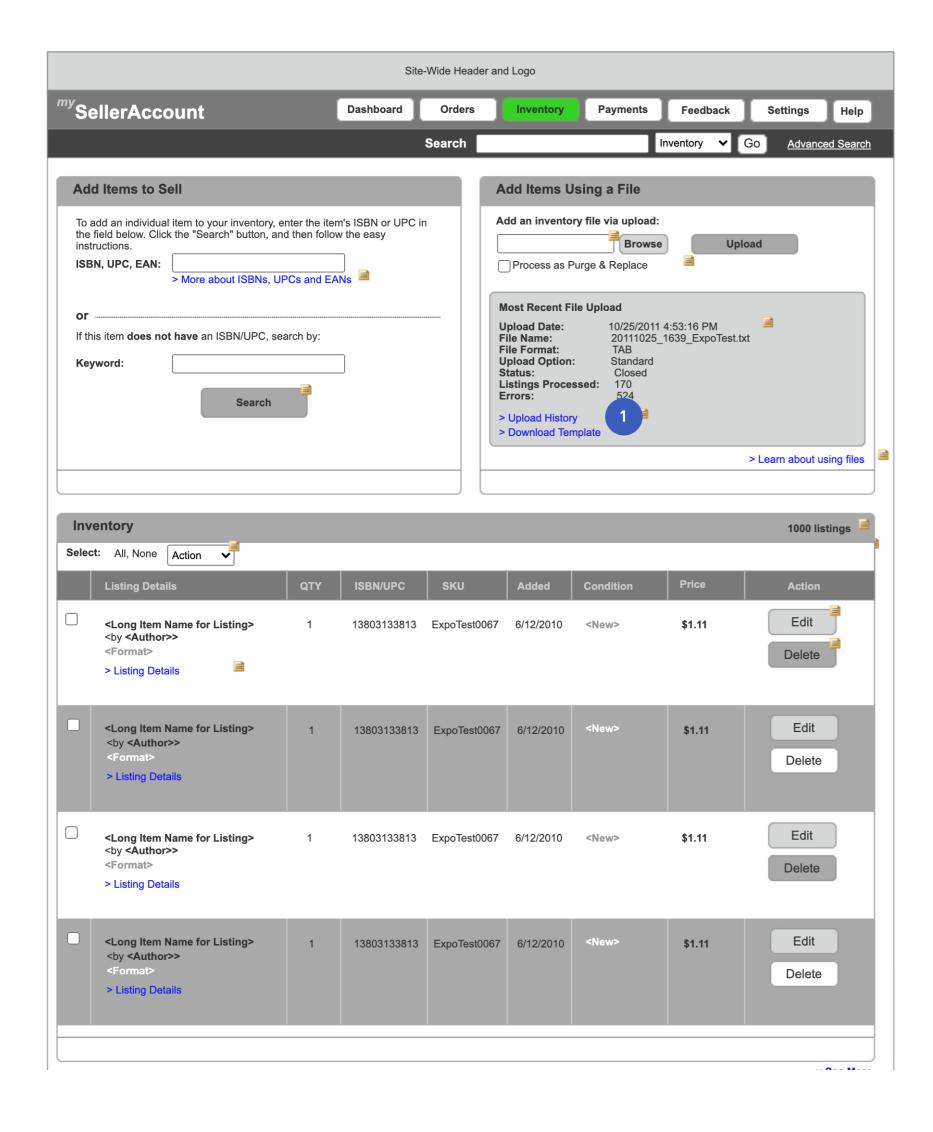
SEARCH PAYMENTS



ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Number	Recommendation	Justification	Severity
1	Consider breaking the search out of the overview.	Half of the participants had questions about the placement of the search next to the overview.	High

UPLOAD HISTORY



ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Number	Recommendation	Justification	Severity
1	Convert Upload History link to a CTA for better usability and findability.	Half of the participants had to root around for this link.	High

Conclusion

Seven scenarios were tested with eight participants from March to April of 2010. The results of the usability test involved prioritizing critical issues and examining the causes behind scenarios not being completed.

There are many areas of overall improvement for this redesign to increase usability, findability, and accessibility. There are 4 high severity items to consider within this redesign effort. Many of these issues include the following:

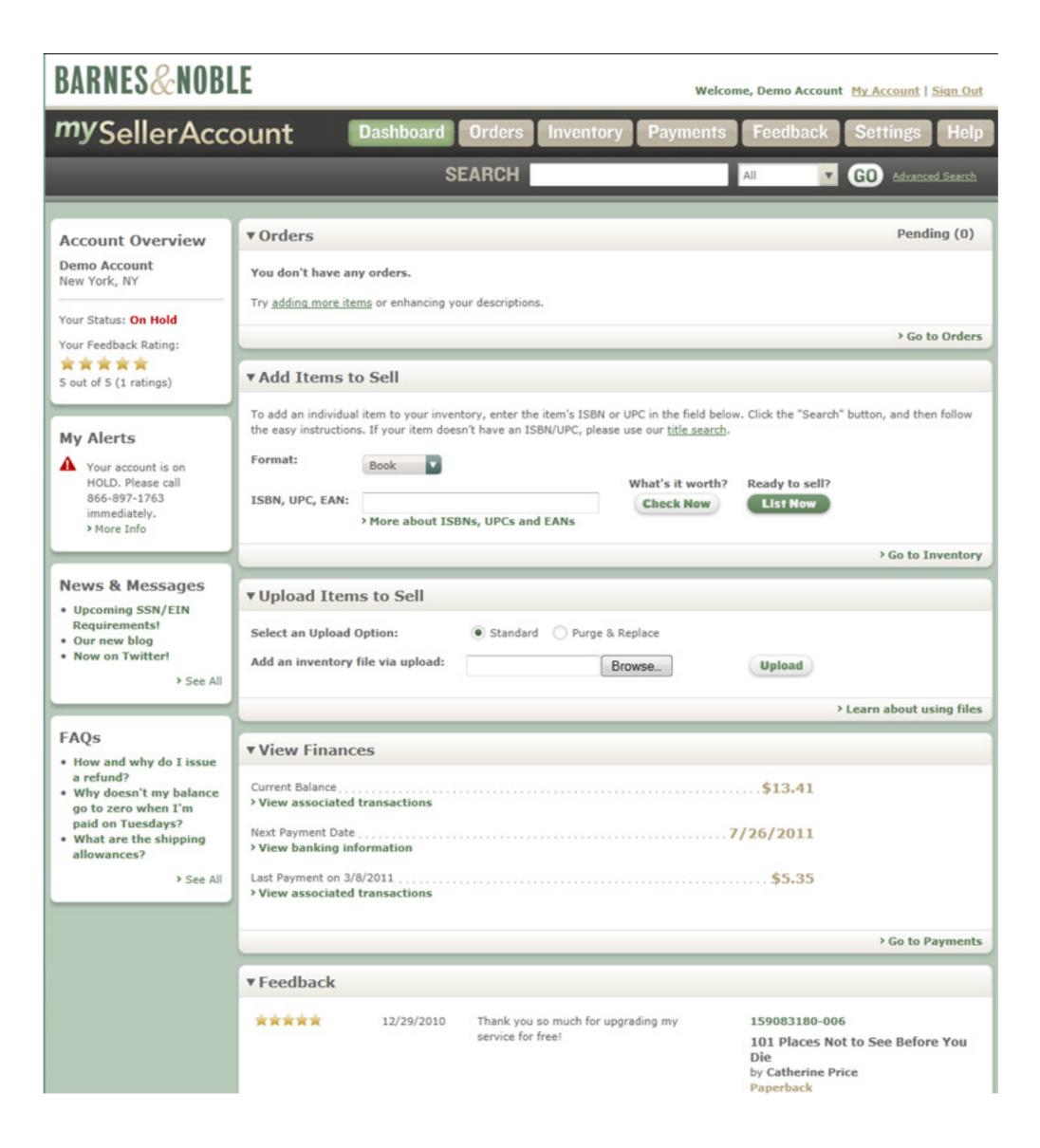
Converting links to more noticeable CTAs

Consider taking identified links and converting them to CTAs so the user can both perform the task they are looking to do on the Marketplace/MySeller Account pages.

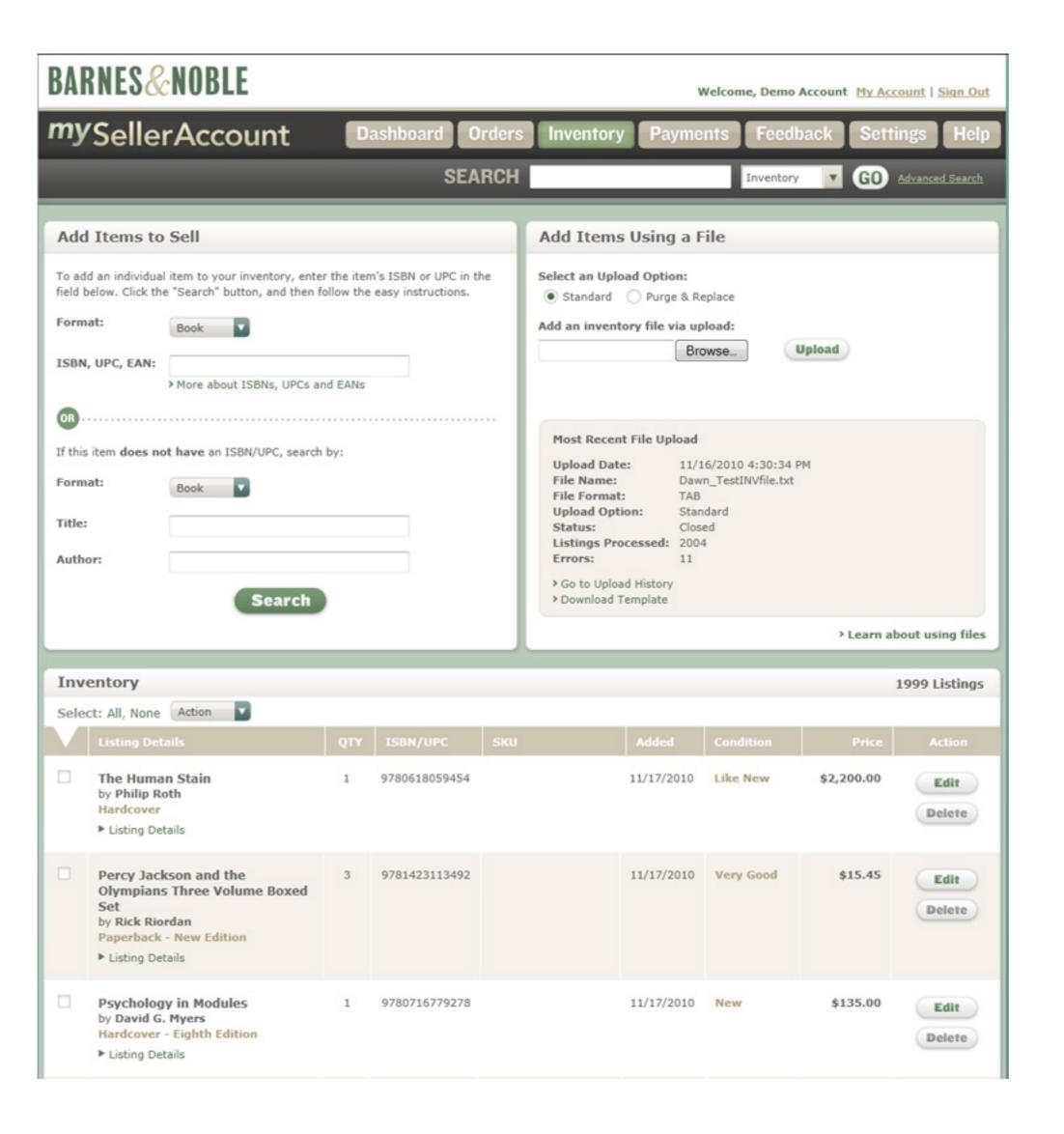
Making search more prominent

Across the pages of this application, make search more prominent so the user knows they can search as a behavior and can also search for orders, inventory, payments, and transactions.

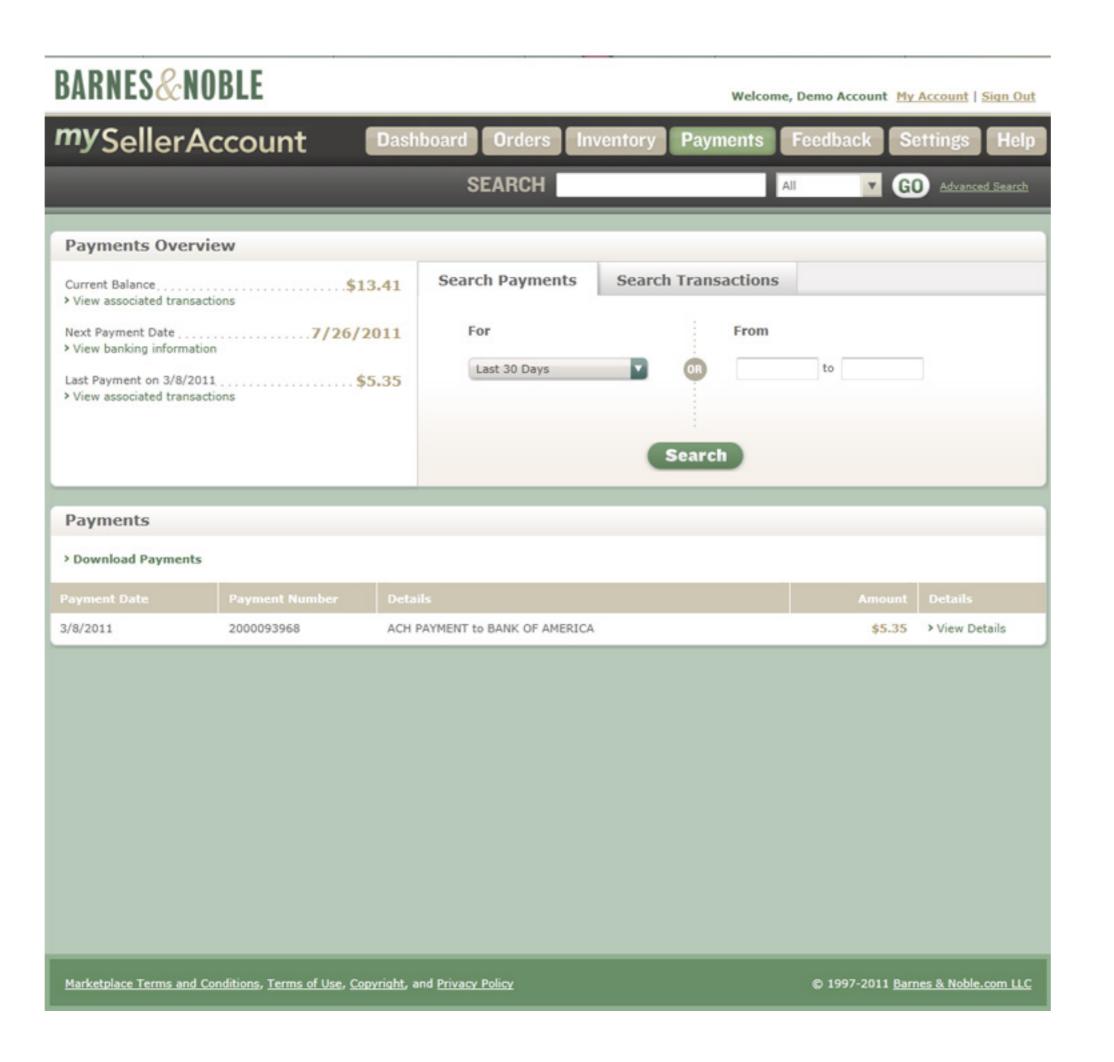
Final Designs



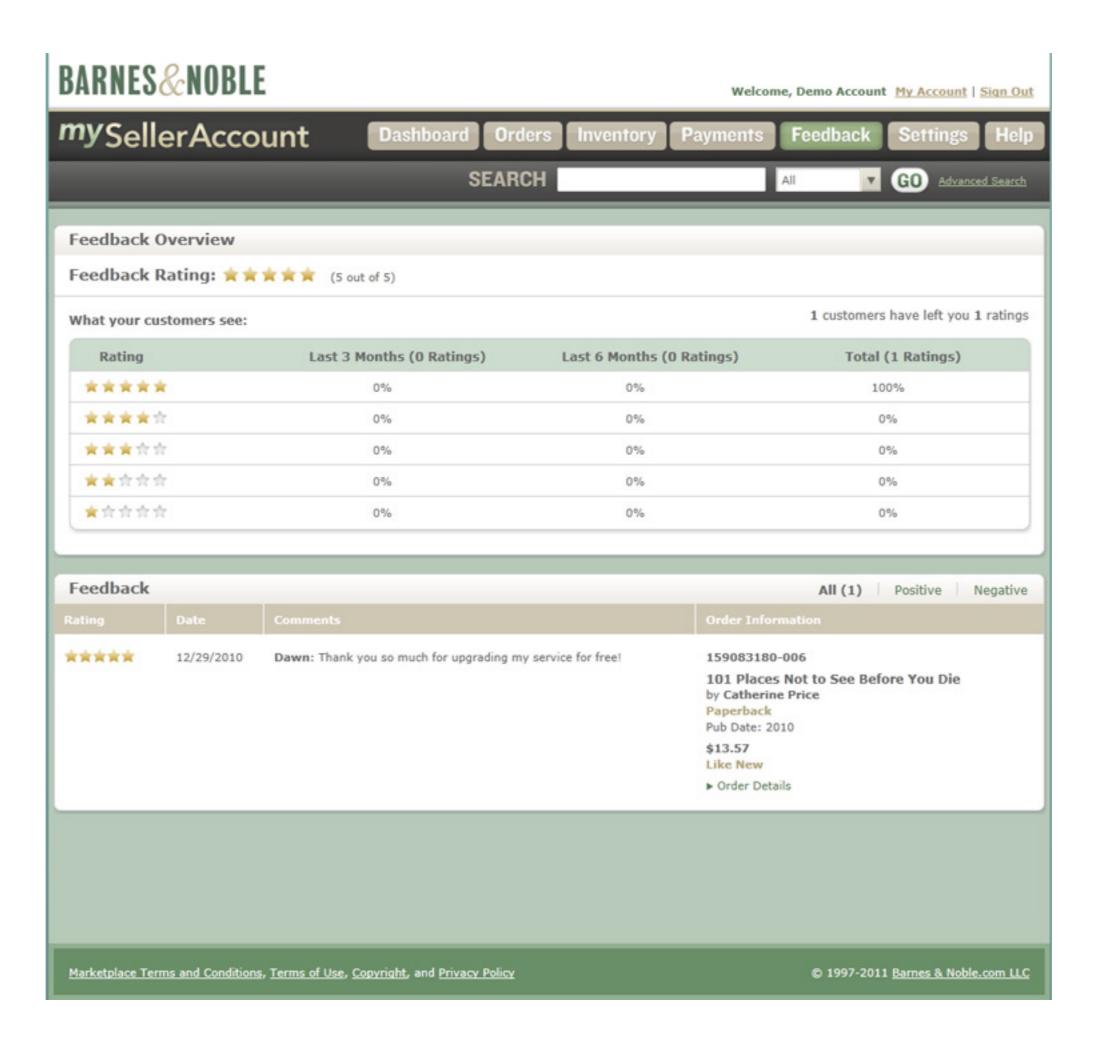
Dashboard



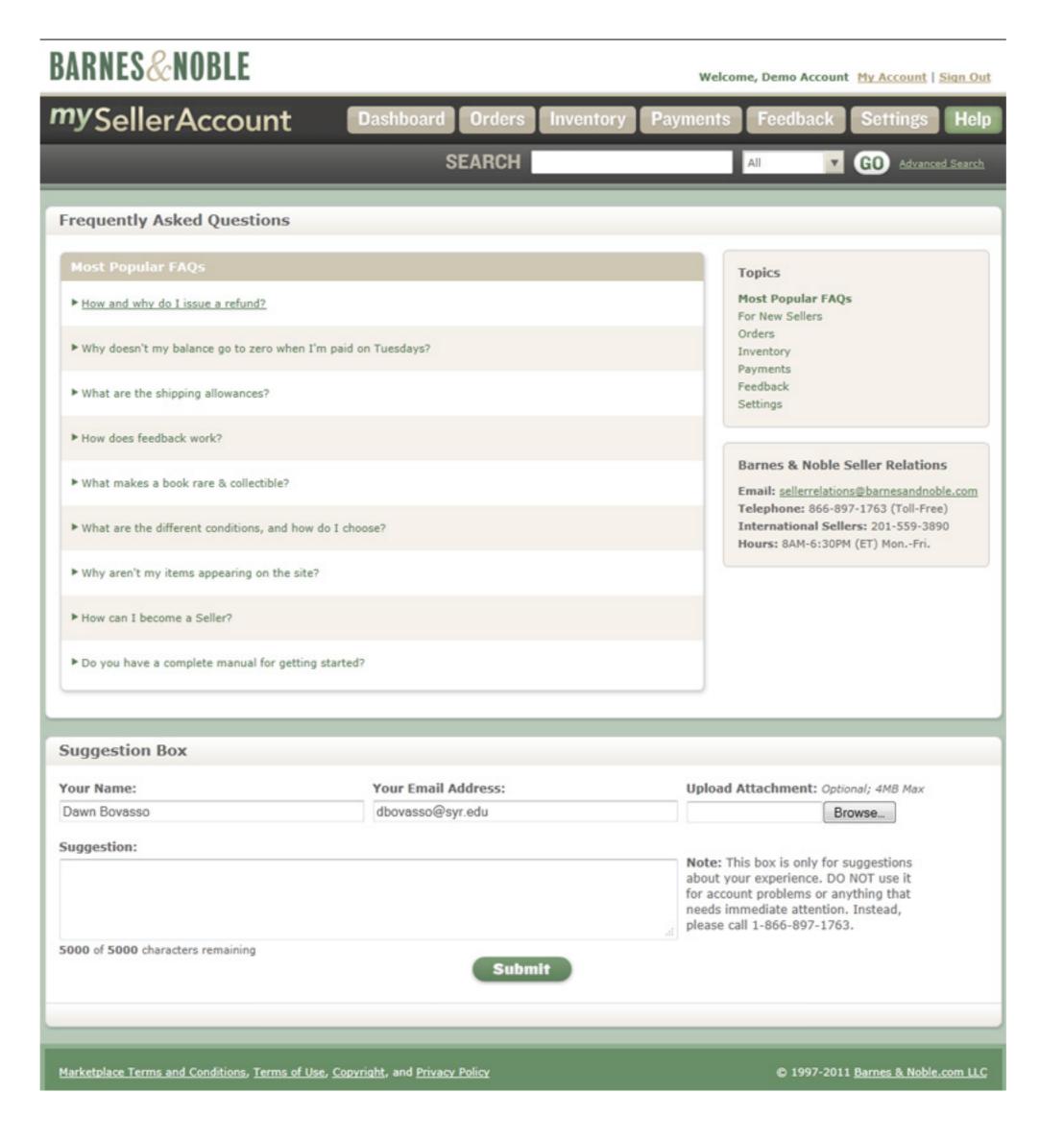
InventoryM2



Payments M3



Feedback M4



Thank you for reading!