What’s new in federated search?

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What is federated searching?

There isn’t any one best database for articles on usability. How can I search them all?

Merged results list

EBSCO
FirstSearch
ProQuest
Federated search product
Kluwer
Is federated search any good?

- Very little difference in quality between federated and non federated results
- Faculty, more so than the librarians, rated the federated search results to be of reasonably good quality


Shooting yourself in the foot

1. Federated search engines leave no stone unturned
   - Federated search vendor’s “reality”: Not all federated search engines can search all databases, although most can search Z39.50 and free databases.
2. De-dup really works
   - Federated search vendor’s “reality”: True de-duplication is virtually impossible.
3. Relevancy rankings are totally relevant
   - Federated search vendor’s “reality”: It’s impossible to perform a relevancy ranking that’s totally relevant.
4. Federated searching is software
   - Federated search vendor’s “reality”: It certainly is software, but it’s best consumed as a service.
5. We don’t make your search engine. We make your search engine better
   - Federated search vendor’s “reality”: You can’t get better results with a federated search engine than you can with the native database search.

Options are decreasing

- End users
- Discovery: Finding
- SirsiDynix Horizon Consolidated Searching
- MetaLib

Removing confusion by eliminating choices
Open source strategies

- Library Find (Oregon State)
  - libraryfind.org/
- dbWiz (Simon Fraser University)
  - dbwiz.lib.sfu.ca/dbwiz/
- Masterkey (Index Data)
  - www.indexdata.dk/masterkey/
- Care Affiliates: Open Translators
  - Open source friendly
  - www.care-affiliates.com
Silo Bustin’!

Federated search as one module of a larger effort to integrate ALL content into a single discovery tool

• WorldCat Local
• Primo
• Aquabrowser
• Encore
Looking outside of libraryland

- Kind of like something out of Deuteronomy
  - And thus Inktomi begat Ultraseek who begat Verta who begat Autonomy who begat...
  - Universal Repository Interfacing
    - Automatic taxonomy generation
- Endeca
  - Doesn’t count...it’s just the catalog
- Siderian
  - Seamar Navigator
  - Going beyond search, Siderian illuminates previously unseen relationships that can help you discover new avenues of exploration and “let you know what you don’t know” while navigating from a “bird’s-eye” to a “bug’s-eye” view.
  - They don’t want to deal with libraries anymore
- Microsoft Enterprise Search
  - Connectors to
  - Information Resources: MSDN, TechNet, Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, Yahoo
  - Media: Flickr, Yahoo Images, YouTube, PodScope
  - Blogs: Technorati, Google Blog Search

http://openly.oclc.org/openurlref/
Trends

• Number of vendors is shrinking
  — Open source options increasing
• Progress on the standards front
  — SRU/SRW, OpenSearch
• Resources migrating to XML information feeds
  — SRU searching is becoming more common
    • Better control of search parameters
    — Z39.50 still the most prevalent

Questions?

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