Federated Search: What’s It All About?

Christine Pouncey
Head, Library Information Technology, UALR

Alexis Linoski
Collection Development Librarian, UCA
What is Federated Searching?

- Also known as metasearch, parallel searching, broadcast searching.
- Allows the user to search across multiple resources: subscription databases, library catalogs, websites.
Have you already seen it?

- Multiple database searching from the same vendor
- Google Scholar
The Argument Against

- Advanced search features are lost
- Database specific search features are lost
- Not every product offers relevancy ranking
- It takes away from traditional information literacy teachings and favors a “Google” style approach to research
The Argument For

- Allows the user “one stop searching”
- Takes the pressure off of user’s in determining which database to search
- Reduces the amount of time involved in the initial searching of information
- May increase usage of less frequently used databases
The Argument For

- Increase awareness of available databases
- “Beginners” don’t have to learn to use multiple database interfaces
- Can development pre-defined subject categories
- Allows access to multiple resource types
Features to look for

- Ability to search beyond keyword, author, title
- Ability to save, print, or e-mail the search itself and the search results
- Ability to create pre-defined subject groupings for searching
- Ability for the user to select which databases to search
Features to look for

- Ability to display results by source (i.e. databases, library catalog, website)
- Ability to sort results (date, author, resource)
- Easy to configure/customize
- Ability to de-dupe
In the end....

- It’s a tool that could provide a starting point for users
- Make sure that you determine the features best suited for your organization, then evaluate the products that meet your need
1. Naked conversations: how blogs are changing the way businesses talk with customers / Scoble, Robert, 1965-; Israel, Shel.
   View Source

2. Blogging for dummies / Hill, Brad.
   View Source
1. **The Power of Blogs**  
   Fialkoff, Francine, *Library Journal* (1976) v. 130 no. 6 (April 1 2005); p. 8  
   In an editorial, the writer reflects on the reaction to Michael Gorman’s scathing indictment of bloggers, which appeared in *Library Journal*, February 15, 2005. The article sparked outrage from librarians, the blogging community, and technophiles ...  
   View Source | Full-Text HTML | Full-Text PDF

2. **Preparing for the Birth of Our Library BLOG.**  
   Blair, Joanna; Cranston, Cathy  
   By: Blair, Joanna; Cranston, Cathy., Computers in Libraries, Feb2006, Vol. 26 Issue 2, p10-54, 5p

Database:  
WilsonWeb OmniFile Full Text Mega

Descriptors:  
Weblogs | Library journal | Gorman, Michael, 1941-
| Results 1 - 25 of 587 for "subject contains library and science and abstract contains blog" |
| Hide summary |
| | | |
| ABC-CLIO (295) | EBSCOhost (68) | Oxford University Press |
| ARTstor | Google.com | Palomar Library Catalog |
| Austin Peay State University Woodward Library | H.W. Wilson | ProQuest (10) |
| CBB Catalogs | IEEE (124) | Thomson Gale |
| Chadwyck-Healey (90) | James A. Cannavino Library Catalog | |
| Congressional Quarterly Inc. | Minneapolis Public Library | |

   Source: MasterFILE Premier
   Show/Hide Abstract
   4 Duplicate Records

   Source: Nursing & Allied Health Collection: Comprehensive
   Show/Hide Abstract
   6 Duplicate Records
1. Playing with Technology.
Library Journal (0363-0277)
Source: Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition
Show/Hide Abstract
4 Duplicate Records

2. Pop Goes the Librarian.
Library Journal (0363-0277)
Source: Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition
Show/Hide Abstract
The article profiles children and teen librarian Sophie Brookover, of the Camden County Library in Voorhees, New Jersey. Brookover has incorporated pop culture into her library to appeal to teen users. Her blog, Pop Goes The Librarian, urges libraries to cater to their teen users and bring pop culture into the library. Brookover wants librarians to embrace the perspectives and skills their younger staff members have to offer.
4 Duplicate Records

3. User-Centered "Geek"
Library Journal (0363-0277)
Source: Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition
Show/Hide Abstract
4 Duplicate Records
1. Blogging in a snap  
   Meloni, Julie C.  
   2006.  
   Source: Innovative Catalog (Z39.50)

2. Ex- rating : a novel  
   Standiford, Natale..  
   2006.  
   Source: Innovative Catalog (Z39.50)

3. Blamed conversations : how blogs are changing the way businesses talk with customers  
   Scoiolo, Robert.  
   2006.  
   Source: Innovative Catalog (Z39.50)

4. Secrets of podcasting : audio blogging for the masses  
   Farkas, Bart..  
   2006.  
   Source: Innovative Catalog (Z39.50)

5. Baghdad burning : girl blog from Iraq  
   Riverbend..  
   2005.  
   Source: Innovative Catalog (Z39.50)

Author: Kline, David
Title: Blog! : How the World of Blogs And Bloggers Is Changing Our Culture
Imprint: Client Distribution Services 2005

2 holds on First Copy Returned
1 copy ordered for Nokomis on 01-18-2006.
1 copy ordered for Pierre Bottineau on 01-18-2006.
1 copy ordered for Walker on 01-18-2006.
1 copy ordered for Washburn on 01-18-2006.
1 copy being processed for Central--Closed until May 20, 2006.

ISBN: 1593151411 : HRD

As of December 5, 2005, Central Library materials will no longer be available for request due to preparations for opening the New Central Library in 2006. Any requested materials that have a pick-up location of “Central” will be sent to Pierre Bottineau Library for pick-up after December 3, 2005. If you would like to change the pick-up location of your current requests for Central, please contact a staff person at 612-630-6040; otherwise your holds will be sent to Pierre Bottineau. Pierre Bottineau Library is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
Find Federated Search Vendors

- Library of Congress Portals Applications Issues Group – Federated Search Products and Vendors
That’s all....

Questions?