## The OPAC is Dead: Discovery versus Disintermediation

Jane Burke Senior Vice President, ProQuest

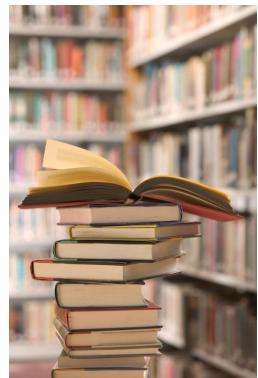
## Disintermediation

- disintermediation is the removal of intermediaries in a supply chain:
- "cutting out the middleman".

Increasingly, libraries are disintermediated from their end users in the information-seeking process.

#### Old Model of Library Use is Over !

- Old model resulted from \$\$\$ of the '60's
- Built BIG print collections
- Users had to come to the collections



#### OPAC is <u>really</u> dead!

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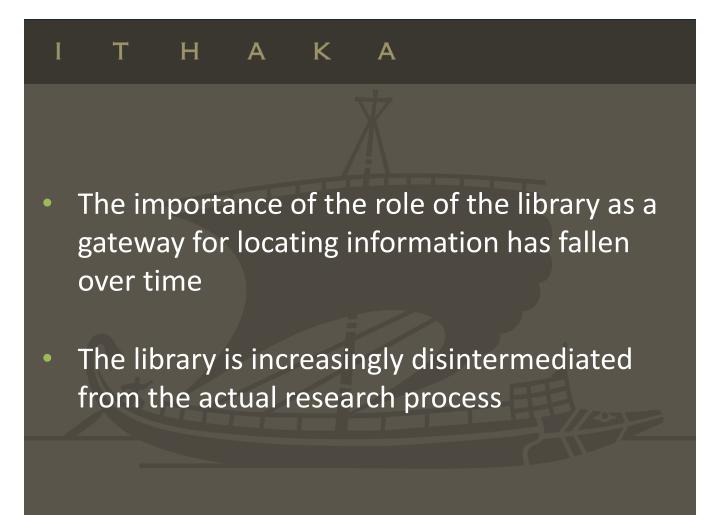
- Collections are primarily digital
  - Hundreds of "databases"
  - Articles not represented
- 50% + is spent on e-resources
- "Special" collections are also digital

# Value of the Library in question

• In 2001, Pew Internet and American Life:

"73% of online college students use the Internet for research more than the library "

#### Perceived Value of the Library's Role



Source: Housewright, R., & Schonfeld, R. (Aug2008).

# OCLC Perceptions of Libraries, 2010

#### The library brand—it's still BOOKS

The library brand is "books."

"Libraries = books" is even stronger than it was five years ago. As new consumer devices and online services have captured the information consumer's time and mindshare, his perception of libraries as books has solidified. OCLC Perceptions of Libraries, 2010 Context and Connectly

# The Millennials



- Want to be self-sufficient
- They do NOT ask questions
- They want to be anonymous
- They expect all search systems to behave like Google, Bing, and other Open Web search engines
- Today's student = Tomorrow's faculty

#### How Do You Know That? An Investigation of Student Research Practices in the Digital Age

Randall McLure and Kellian Clink Portal: Libraries and the Academy, Vol. 9, No. 1 (2009)

"It is also clear from teacher and student responses in the study that the library is seen as an intimidating and inconvenient place, especially and interestingly in its primary purpose – supporting student research and often assisting students in the identification, location, and evaluation of sources."

"We also concede it is understandable that students are drawn to using search engines on the Internet to conduct academic research. These engines are easy to use, available to anyone with an Internet connection, and quick and bountiful in their returns."

# Project Information Literacy

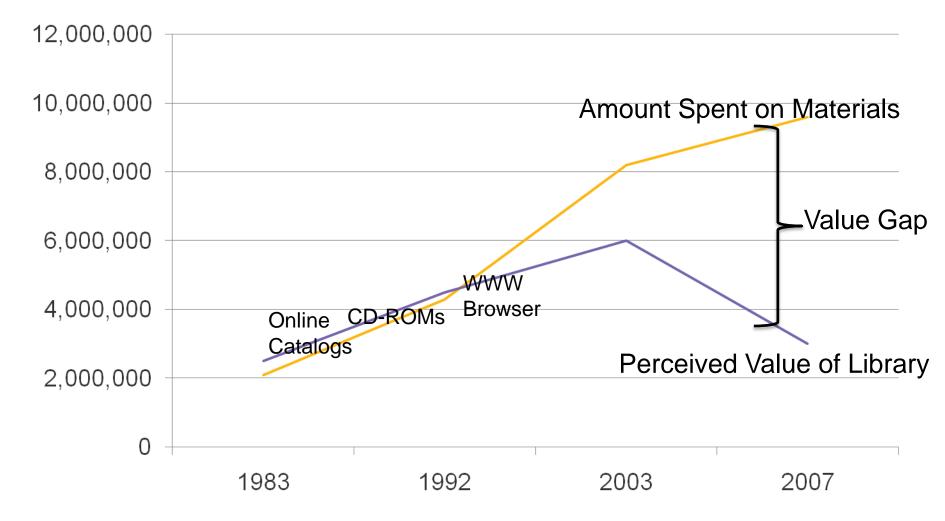


a large-scale study about early adults and their research habits

- Students are very busy !
- Article or chapter -- is the information object of choice
- Research is conducted "just in time"
- Students <u>will</u> try the Library 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Students start a research project by inputting a few search terms in the search engine of a database that had brought them "luck" on a previous assignment.

http://projectinfolit.org/

## Value Gap



NOTE: Medial amount spent on materials by ARL libraries

## **Primary Research**

- Observational research of student researchers
  - 70+ sessions across 8 universities, 2 continents
- Online focus groups with enduser researchers
  - 9 groups, 80 participants (multiple demographics)





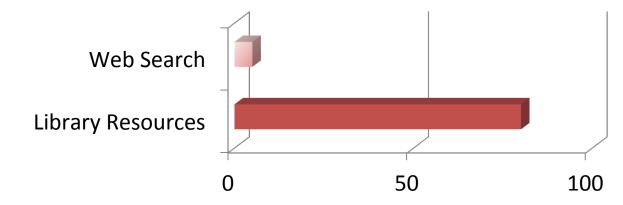
- Focus group sessions with librarians
  - 7 groups, 47 librarians
- Surveys of end-user researchers
  - 10,463 respondents across diverse demographics

## Expectations vs. Experiences

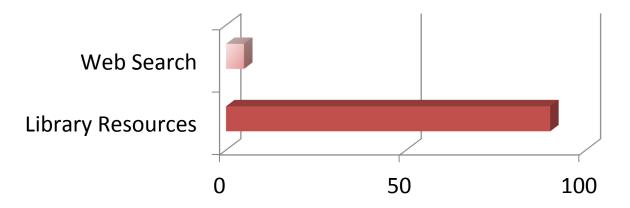
- Aaron: 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate student
  - Term paper evaluating treatment by alternative press of George Bush's handling of the Katrina disaster
- Susan: 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate
  - Scientific topic
- Josh: 4<sup>th</sup> year humanities student
  - Comparative Literature topic

#### **User Perception of Library Content**

#### The superior source for quality, credible content

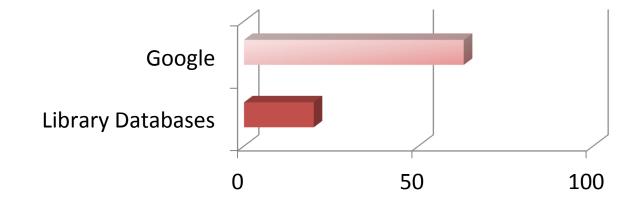


Preferred for academic research and course assignments

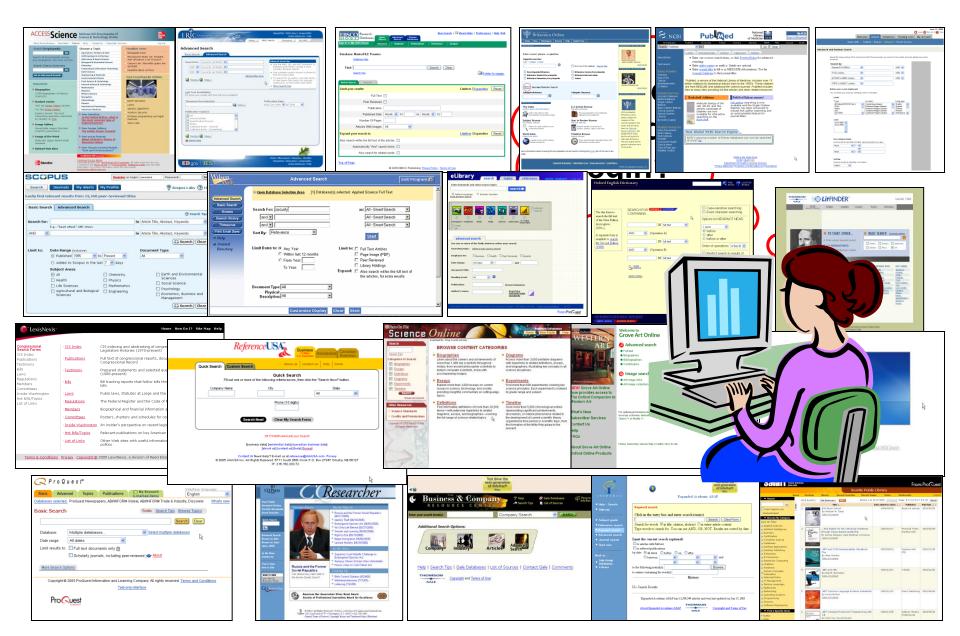


#### **Actual User Behavior**

#### The easiest place to start the research process



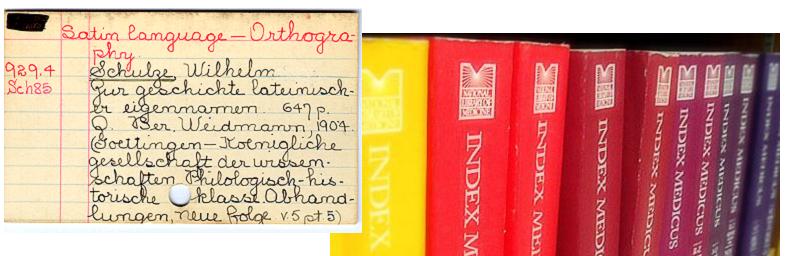
#### What the Patron Sees



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• Libra	(about)	Parliamentary Archives of the United Kingdom	History	Indexes
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	( <u>about</u> )	Periodicals Index Online (Segments 1 - 22, and 27)	<u>Social Sciences,</u> <u>Multidisciplinary</u>	Indexes
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	( <u>about</u> )	Pollution Abstracts	<u>Environmental</u> <u>Studies</u>	Indexes
	( <u>about</u> )	Popline	Sociology	Indexes

# We <u>can't</u> teach the difference

- We've tried and tried
- Card catalog vs. print indexes
- Online catalog vs. databases
- Give it up !



#### **Researchers Speak for Themselves:**

I get confused and end up going in circles.

Library sources are great but internet sources are the most convenient.

If only there was a Google-like search...

## Why Not the Library First?

No clear and compelling starting place

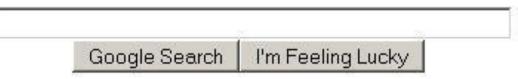
Difficulty identifying appropriate resources

General lack of awareness of resources

• Simple



- Easy
- Fast



# Discovery: "Compelling Interface"

- Single search across the full breadth of ALL of the Library's collections
- Showcase all content equally



 Content + Community + Technology

## Success: Part A

- Users find what they need quickly
  - In a simple way
  - Wherever they are
  - So they don't have to go somewhere else

## Success: Part B

- Measurement
  - What's being used and how often
  - The meaning behind the statistics
  - Some way to measure return on investment

## Success: Part C

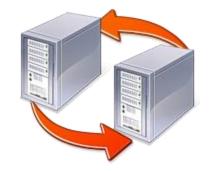
- Providing a competitive advantage over the Internet
  - Honing in on the value we add to the research experience

# **Continuum of Discovery Solutions**

- 1. Federated search
  - Proven, affordable technology
  - Increasingly integrated
- 2. Discovery Layer
  - More than "next generation catalogs"
  - Customizable presentation interface
- 3. Web-scale Discovery
  - Pre-harvested metadata
  - Single index of all of the library's holdings

## 1. Federated Search

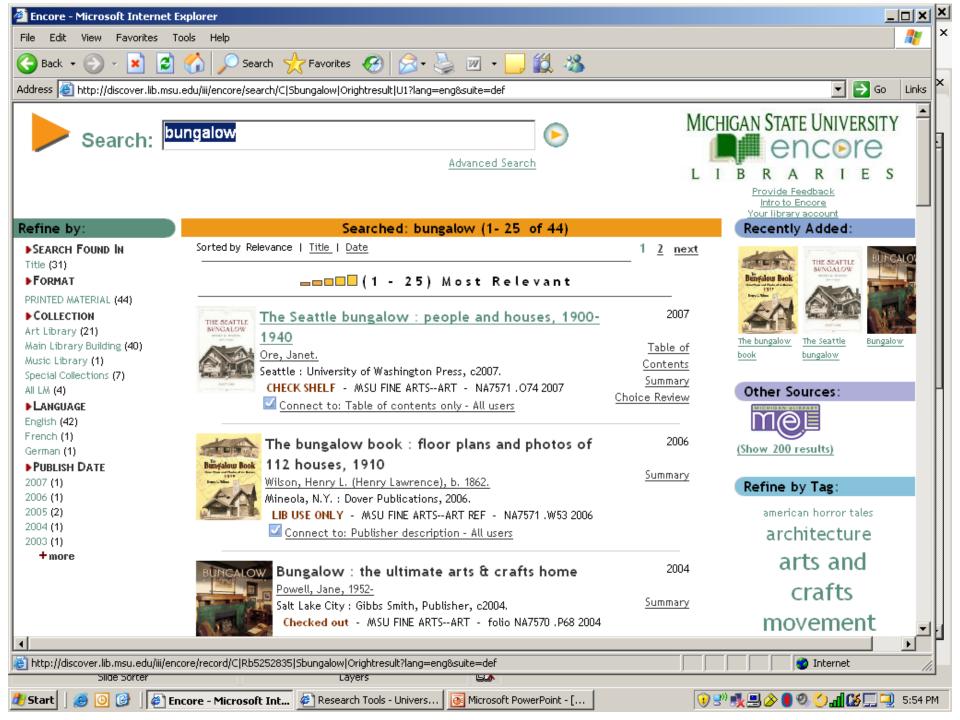
- Mature
- Good connector technologies
- Possible to connect to all resources
- Recent entrants:
  - Ebsco EHIS
  - WorldCat Local
- Can be integrated

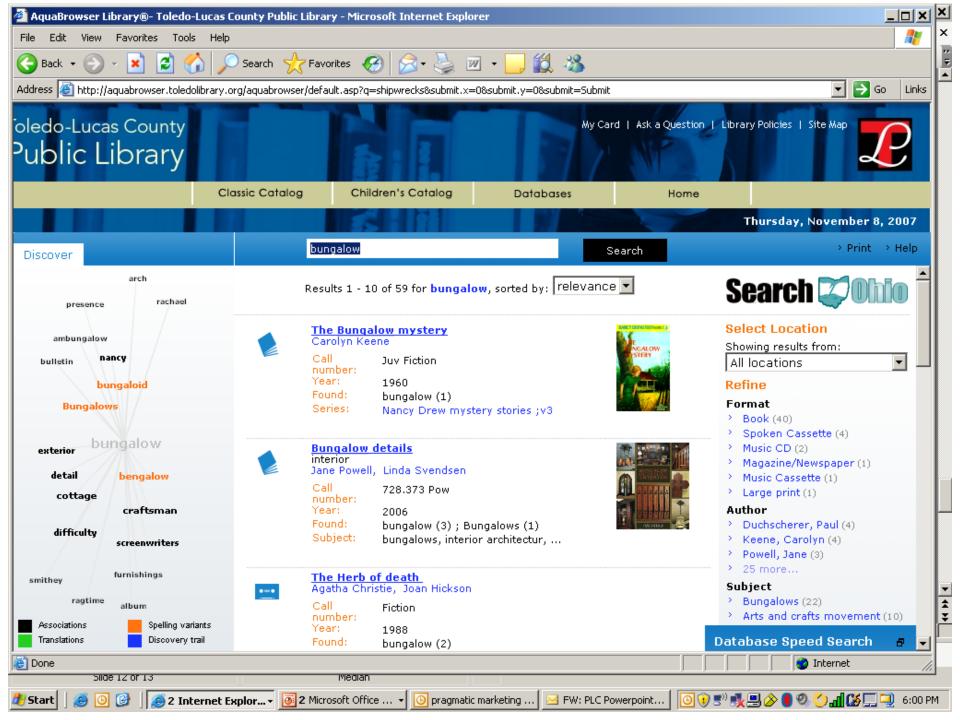


#### 2. Discovery Layer

- "Next generation catalog"
- Improved search of catalog and local resources
  - Keyword
  - Facets
  - Visualization
- Locally installed
- Highly customizable
- Social information tools tagging, etc.
- 2 types of players
  - Commercial vendor supplied
  - Open Source library efforts

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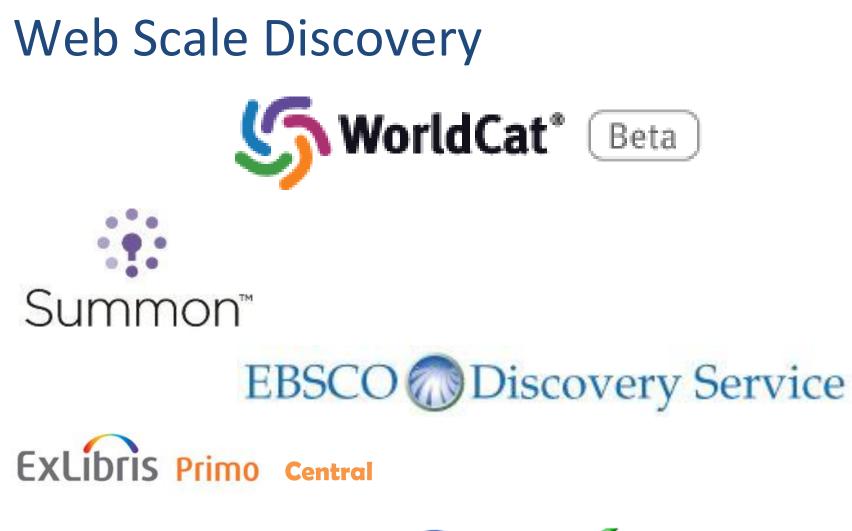
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# 3. Web Scale Discovery

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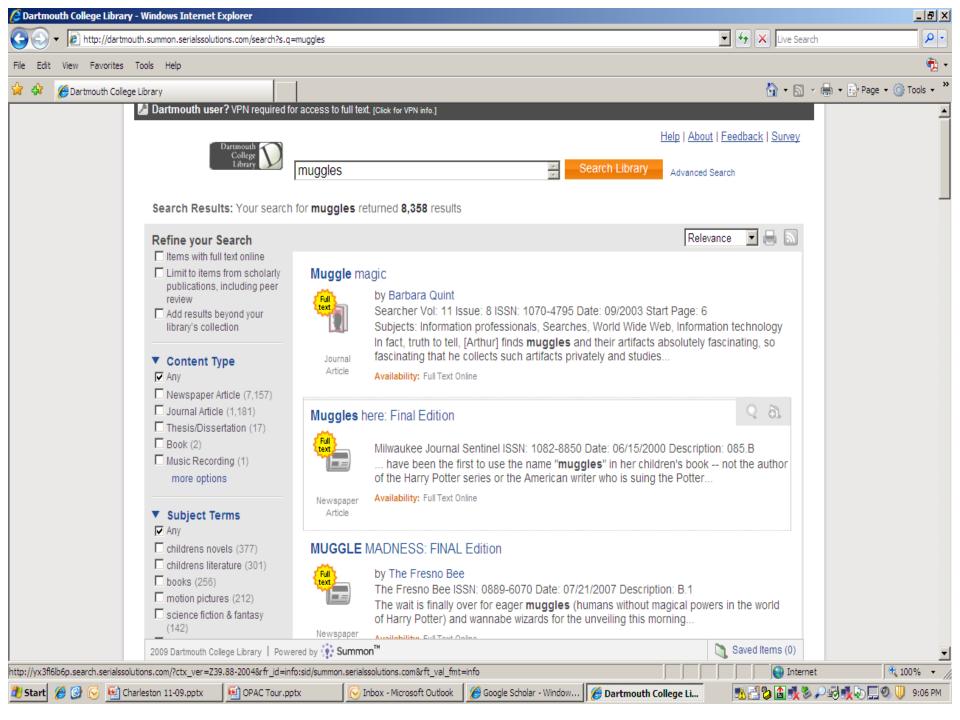
- Hosted Index
- Pre-harvested
- Pre-coordinated
- Contributions directly from publishers

   Coverage
- Collection and ingest capabilities
  - Local catalog updates
- Scale !!





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# Web Scale Discovery is the Answer

Meets End User Expectations

- Comprehensive
  - Searches all library resources
  - Broader coverage than the catalog
  - Best discoverability

• Proven value for the Library

# The Information World is Flat

 Every information object is <u>equal</u> in potential value

• Print is not preferred

• No "silos" by format



# KISS: Simple approaches

- Watchwords:
  - Simple
  - Easy
  - Fast
- Discovery is for end users



# Marketing and Branding

- Discovery is your library's "Digital Front Door"
- Create a single, branded starting place
  - Market it !!!
  - Take it to the classroom
- Listen to the Freshmen, not the Faculty

### Today's Library: New World of Users

- Meet the end users where they are !
- Accept the new search paradigm
- Accept short term risk to avoid long term "disintermediation"
- Give up our rules
- Make the complexity of information simple



## Move toward the Users

 Discovery puts us on the path to the New Library

• Hurry Up !

