

An INFORUM 2012 Presentation
by Greg R. Notess, greg@notess.com
Twitter: @notess

DISCOVERY ENGINES AND LIBRARIES

DISCOVERY DEVELOPMENT

- ✘ Response to Federated Searching Problems
 - + Slow to Search Each Separate Database
 - + Some Databases Would Time Out
 - + Different Data Structures Create Merging Problems
- ✘ Discovery Key Points
 - + Single Index (Database)
 - + Includes Both Full Text and Citations

DISCOVERY DATABASE

- ✘ Combines
 - + Books and Other Catalog Items
 - + Article Indexing
 - + Full Text Articles
 - + eBooks
 - + And as many other resources as possible
- ✘ Single Combined Database = Faster Results

VENDORS SAY

Primo

Empowering Libraries to Address User Needs

Meeting user expectations for quick, easy, and effective searching and retrieval, Primo® is a one-stop solution for the discovery and delivery of local and remote resources, such as books, journal articles, and digital objects.

Primo assists libraries in exposing the richness of their collections and engaging users with an up-to-date discovery and delivery experience.

× What about **SEARCH?**



WorldCat® Local

Single-search access to 956+ million items from your library and the world's library collections

✓ **Fast, simple access to all of the library's full-text content (electronic and print)**

Journals, Books, Magazines, Special Collections, and more

e

Library Content - Easy & Fast.

Your library, with a single starting point.

SINGLE SEARCH BOX

ADVANTAGES

- ✘ Know Where to Start
- ✘ Looks Like Google
- ✘ Simplifies Search

DISADVANTAGES

- ✘ May Not Be Best Starting Point
- ✘ Looks Like Google
- ✘ Oversimplifies Search

SINGLE INDEX

ADVANTAGES

- ✘ Faster Searching
- ✘ Faster Updating
 - + By Provider
- ✘ Combines Resources

DISADVANTAGES

- ✘ Not Always Fast
- ✘ Complex Updating
 - + Match Holdings?
- ✘ Students May Want a Single Type

FULL TEXT SEARCHING

ADVANTAGES

- ✘ Deep Searching
- ✘ Finds Mentions
- ✘ Broad Searching

DISADVANTAGES

- ✘ Finds Too Much
- ✘ Finds Mentions
- ✘ Citation Only
Results May Get Buried

A MARCH 2011 OVERVIEW

- ✘ Judy Luther & Maureen C. Kelly. “The Next Generation of Discovery.” *Library Journal*. 136 (5): 66-71. March 15, 2011.

snipr.com/lj-discovery

QUOTES

- ✘ “I can explain to library patrons why we don’t have a particular database, but I can’t explain why they have to use different search boxes for books and journals.”
- ✘ WorldCat Local Library
 - + “Some librarians love it and some hate it”
- ✘ Summon Library
 - + “We’ve had a business faculty who loves it and a philosophy faculty who hates it.”

Based on One Library's Experience

LOCAL SUMMON ANALYSIS

COVERAGE INFORMATION

Full
 Partial
 None
 Not Applicable



Data From Publisher / Provider	Status	Coverage	Full-Text Searchable
Yes	In Progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100%	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100%
Yes	Indexed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100%	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100%
Yes	In Progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100%	<input type="radio"/> **
Yes	Covered	<input type="radio"/> 90% *	<input type="radio"/> 87% **
No	Covered	Analysis in progress *	<input type="radio"/>
Yes	Indexed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100%	<input type="radio"/>

DATABASE RECOMMENDER

- ✘ In 2010
 - + 4 of 21 Worked (19%)
- ✘ Oct. 2011
 - + 13 of 21 Worked (62%)
- ✘ March 2012
 - + 11 of 21 Worked (52%)
- ✘ But customization opportunities

KNOWN ITEM SEARCHES

- ✘ In 2010
 - + 7 of 12 Worked (58%)
- ✘ March 2012
 - + 7 of 12 Worked (direct link to articles/books)
 - + 4 of 12 Partial
 - ✘ articles from journals
 - ✘ Not linking to journal itself
 - + 1 Failed

MANY REASONS FOR FAILURE

- × Audio CDs
- × HathiTrust
 - + Full text vs. Bibliographic Record Only
 - + *History of Egypt*
- × OpenURL Linking
 - + Failure Could be Due to Problem in
 - × Discovery Engine
 - × Link Resolver
 - × Publisher
 - × User

FULL TEXT LINKING

- ✘ In Late 2010
 - + 42% Failure Rate
- ✘ In Oct. 2011
 - + 28% Failure Rate
- ✘ New Analysis Starting

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Code of Practice: Discovery Services

Review of Draft

February 1 – March 16, 2012

Introduction

The National Federation of Advanced Information Services ([NFAIS™](#)) is releasing a draft Discovery Service Code of Practice for review and comment by March 16, 2012. NFAIS believes that discovery services have the potential to provide ease of information discovery, access, and use, benefitting not only its member organizations, but also the global community of information seekers. However, the relative newness of these services has generated questions and concerns among information providers and librarians as to how these services meet expectations with regard to issues related to traditional search and retrieval services: e.g. usage reports, ranking algorithms, content coverage, updates, product

OPPORTUNITIES

✘ Instruction

- + Reduce Number of Databases Taught
- + Focus More on Evaluating and Refining Results

✘ Cost Savings?

- + With Full Text and Discovery
- + Do We Need as Many A&I Databases?

✘ Deeper Integration on University Sites

CONCLUSION

- ✘ Discovery Improving
- ✘ Often a Good Starting Point
- ✘ But Not Always Best Starting Point
- ✘ Still Seeking the Holy Grail

Greg R. Notess
greg@notess.com
Twitter: @notess

QUESTIONS?

