


# MetaSearching

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## Evolution of Metasearch

- ◆ 70s - Dialog
  - enabled database searching
- ◆ 80s Aggregators
  - provided a common platform
  - Silverplatter, Ovid, EBSCO
- ◆ 90s Web
  - metasearch engines




## Metasearch Functions

- ◆ Allows user to identify sources
- ◆ Eliminates search repetition
- ◆ Consolidates search results





## Library Access



- ◆ Online Catalog -> Books
- ◆ Indexes -> Journals
- ◆ Website -> Databases



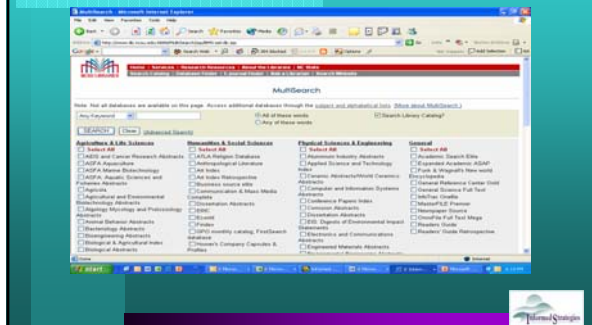
## The Entry Point



## Which Database?



## More and Growing



## Search Options

- ◆ Single search vs list of databases
- ◆ Include books
- ◆ Organize resources
  - By subject
  - By type of content
  - By type of user

## Results Presentation

- ◆ Working
  - See results in process
  - Simple message
- ◆ Results list
  - By database
  - Merged and duplicates removed

## Results Order

- ◆ Bibliographic databases
  - Most recently published
- ◆ Full text
  - Keywords in article/keywords in database
- ◆ Relevance
  - Most used or linked to

## Post Search Processing

- ◆ Store searches
- ◆ Set up alerts
- ◆ Export citations

## Experience vs Reality

- ◆ Google
  - Indexes standard URLs
  - Ahead of time
- ◆ Metasearch
  - XML, Z39.50, HTTP
  - On the fly

## Publisher/Vendor Issues

- ◆ Lack of brand recognition
- ◆ Server capacity
- ◆ Lost functionality
- ◆ Whose results selected



## Trends

- ◆ Shift from browse -> search
  - Publishers of journal databases
  - Reference works in online collections
- ◆ Increased volume of digitized content
  - Booming offshore conversion
- ◆ Navigate content visually
  - Grokker, Vivisimo



## NISO Initiative

- ◆ Identifying metasearch queries
- ◆ User authentication
- ◆ Standard search protocols
- ◆ Analyzing results sets
- ◆ Usage statistics



## Stakeholders

- ◆ ILS Systems
  - ExLibris, Endeavor, III, Sirsi, Dynix
- ◆ Aggregators
  - EBSCO, ProQuest, Gale
- ◆ Platform hosts
  - MetaPress, Extenza, Ingenta, HighWire
- ◆ Software designers
  - WebFeat, MuseGlobal



## Future

- ◆ Trends
  - Increasing digital content
  - User expectations
- ◆ Old issues
  - Standards
  - Statistics
- ◆ New tools
  - Metasearch engines
  - Google

