

MetaSearching

Judy Luther
Informed Strategies
NFAIS Federated Search
July 2005



Metasearch

- ◆ Functions for user
 - Eliminates search repetition
 - Consolidates search results
- ◆ Benefits for library
 - Allows user to identify sources
 - Better use of existing resources




Vive L' difference

- ◆ Federated search – just in case
 - Pre-indexed data
 - Familiar URLs
- ◆ Metasearch – just in time
 - On the fly
 - Diverse sources
 - ◆ Z39.50
 - ◆ XML
 - ◆ HTML parsing




Evolution of Metasearch

- ◆ 70s Dialog
 - enabled cross database searching
- ◆ 80s Aggregators – journal articles
 - provided a common platform
- ◆ 90s Web – full text journals
 - Web metasearch engines
- ◆ 2000 Google – reference and books





Google

- ◆ It's everywhere – toolbar
- ◆ Puts the user in control
- ◆ All digital content the same
- ◆ Lacks essential features
- ◆ Driving user expectations



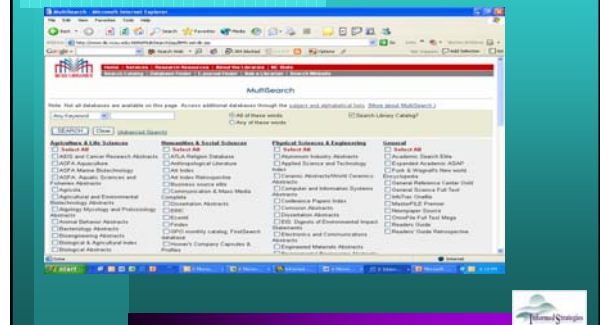
The Entry Point



Which Database?



Too Much of a Good Thing....



Decisions - Search Options

- ◆ Single search vs list of databases
- ◆ Include books in OPAC
- ◆ 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

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 Metasearch Initiative

- ◆ Access management
- ◆ Collection description
- ◆ Search / retrieve



Stakeholders

- ◆ ILS Systems
 - ExLibris, Endeavor, Ill, Sirsi, Dynix
- ◆ Aggregators
 - EBSCO, ProQuest, Gale
- ◆ Platform hosts
 - MetaPress, Extenza, Ingenta, HighWire
- ◆ Software designers
 - WebFeat, MuseGlobal
- ◆ Service providers
 - Serials solutions, TDNet
- ◆ Content providers
 - ISI, CSA, Elsevier



Future

- ◆ Digital trends
 - More options
 - More customization
- ◆ Old issues
 - Standards
 - Statistics

