

# **FEDERATED SEARCH ENGINES** *The Unified Search Environment:* The Western Health Experience 2006

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# **Success** of the Internet





# Federated search engines can 'out- Google - Google

# by 'returning relevant results in 'real time'.

## So what is federated searching?

- •Parallel searching
- •Meta searching
- •Searching in real time
- Information not in silos
- •No multiple passwords
- •No confusion about sources of information
- •The ability to perform a single search

#### Authentication



- •Access to password protected databases
- •IP validation
- •Access to licensed users only

# **Benefits & Drawbacks of Federated Searching**

- •Saves time for users
- Consolidated mode of access
- •Cross searching possible
- •It is NOT 'power searching'/'deep searching'
- •No true de-duping
- •Relevancy ranking limited
- •Federated searching is more a service than software

**The process -Implementation Stages** 

Project planning
MetaLib
SFX (open URL resolver)
Interface
Production



Project Planning
Discussions regarding:
-Content
-Timeframes
-Launch of product

# METLIB



Points to remember when picking a metasearch engine/federated search engine:

The maximum number of resources the software can include

- •The ease of setting up resource targets
- •Availability of simple search results
- •Limiting and refining searches
- •Ranking results by relevance
- •Export options i.e. print, e-mail, download to Endnote / Procite/ RefWorks etc.
- •Adequate statistics and reporting features

#### **SFX - Pervasive Open URL Linking**



**The USE Link Resolver converts standardized Open URL links into the proprietary link used by targets** 





# Interface

What one needs to consider prior to purchasing a Federated Search engine:

- •Trial system with in-house databases
- •Determine if authentication is possible using your 'target areas'
- •Compatibility with Z.39.50 standards and web standards
- •100% compatibility with in-house and subscribed databases
- •Ability to display full-text and true native interfaces
- •Open URL compatibility with all databases
- •Access to external links via link resolver
- •24x7 monitoring of links by federated search vendor
- •Don't pay a lot of money for a federated search product unless it sits on top of a large and well maintained knowledge base



# Introduction



Western Health comprises of :
Three Teaching Hospitals

Williamstown, Western & Sunshine

Library Service at 3 hospital sites
Drug & Alcohol Service
Two nursing homes

The challenge - to provide equity of access to these geographically set-apart sites

# **The Library's Aim**

"To provide a relevant library information service to Western Health staff and students, with the resources available. To further teaching, research, education and support Health Care Professionals in the provision of quality patient care."

# Start Button Access From Chaos!



# To More Chaos!

Western Health Libraries

#### **ELECTRONIC JOURNAL PASSWORD SHEET**

Please Do Not pass on passwords to non Western Health Staff/Students

If passwords are abused our suppliers will discontinue access to online journals

Western Health Electronic Journal Website

http://atoz.ebsco.com/home.asp?Id=2473

The following passwords will help you access journals from different suppliers once you access the above website

BIOMEDIAL REFERENCECOLLECTION, NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH COLLECTION, PSYCHOLOGY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES COLLECTION, HEALTH BUSINESS FULLTEXT

Accessing (otherwise excellent) knowledge sources was complicated – users had to know about multiplicity of passwords, publishers & access locations



# Scratching...

# where it





# **To Cohesion!**

Purchase and implementationof a Federated Search EngineU.S.E – Unified Search Environment

# The Process

Writing away for a grant
Contract with HCN (3 year period 2005–2007)
Constant communication & continued development - with HCN

# The Process contd...

- Vic. DHS (Department of Human Services) purchased USE for Clinician's Health Channel (CHC)
- CHC provided to all Vic. Teaching Hospitals
  U.S.E. Australia
- (NSW,Northern Territory & ACT, Vic.)

#### **Project Planning** WH Subscribed Databases (searchable via U.S.E.):

#### WH In-house & Subscribed Databases: **MD** Consult Lawlex Aust. Standards **Up-To-Date** ARCHI ADCA **E-Journals: Emergency Med. Abstracts EJS** Host **Ebsco Biomedical Collection MD** Consult Proquest CHc (Lww) VHLC (Science Direct/Wiley) WH Policy & Procedure Manual Interactive learning – ECG Library Catalogue - Horizon

Useful links: PubMed **NCBI** Health Translations Directory Australian Red Cross Better Health Channel / Mayo clinic Free Medical Books / Evaluating Internet Info. Historical Anatomies/ The Nat. Autistic Soc. Clinician's Health Channel Databases: A-Z (LWW e-journals) AustHealth & Meditext Books @ Ovid CINAHL MEDLINE / Clinical Evidence Harrison's Online (textbook) MIMS Micromedex Paediatric Pharmacopoeia **PsycINFO** Therapeutic Guidelines (12 texts) Joanna Briggs Institute



#### **Production - going live at WH!**



- •Competition to name the portal (W.H.A.L.E.S)
- •Launches at 3 teaching hospitals
- •Training sessions
- Promotional events
- •Communicated widely to all sectors of Western Health

#### **Intranet Access to Library Electronic Services (W.H.A.L.E.S.)**





## **Internet access to Web Page**



# Western Health after U.S.





# W.H.A.L.E.S - ability to access catalogue, web page, & databases



#### **Role of U.S.E.**

#### DOES



#### **DOESN'T**

\* Replace advanced search features specific to an individual database



#### **Successful conclusion - WH**

-Happy end users
-Saves time locating and searching for information
-Promoted database use by 82% from 40%
-Excellent management tool for e-resources

# **Project awaiting completion**

EzProxy – IP authenticationBorrower Surname/Barcode

# **Conclusion - Do federated search engines replace librarians?**

Librarians are 'bridges' between technology & user requirements
Librarians are trainers
Librarians are 'expert' searchers
Librarian are content managers

It's all about the end user!

### **OUR USERS NEED US!**



**"If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are the banks."** *Senator Wendell Ford* 

Knowledge is

POWER!

# HAPPY FEDERATED SEARCHING!

*"The best way to predict our future is to invent it."* Alan Kay

