Federated Searching Reconsidered

Matt Goldner
Product and Technology Advocate, OCLC
72,724 libraries in 147 countries

The OCLC Cooperative
1,472
57,411

929
5,332
1,669
3,866
1,666
359
Today will discuss federated search

• How it relates to OCLC vision
• What are its challenges
• New approaches
OCLC’s vision for delivery library services

Deliver library and information resources and services at point of need

- In a manner that users want and understand
- Using the aggregated resources of the world’s largest library cooperative

Encourage users to participate in network and community of libraries by enabling them to re-use information and socialize around information

Giving the user a local, group and global reach
First steps toward that vision

Open WorldCat - Seed major search engines with bibliographic data from WorldCat. Why? To make library materials findable on the open Web.

WorldCat.org - Make the entire WorldCat catalog available to users as an openly available service on the Web. Why? To provide one place for users to find and get materials from their closest libraries, and all libraries.

WorldCat Local - Customized for individual libraries and systems, closing the gap between discovery and delivery. Why? To emphasize local holdings and make it easier for users to find and get to resources that make the most sense for them.
Information discovery in the scientific community

- Numerous specialty databases
- Scientist friendly interfaces for simplified access
- Information needs span a broader spectrum
- Federated searching offers a possible solution
Federated searching basics

What it is:

Sending a search request to multiple search targets, receiving results back from them and displaying to a user

What it is called:

Federated searching, Broadcast searching, Meta-searching
The Meta-search Challenges

- Target databases may be slow
- They may be unreliable
- They may not sort/rank results the way you want
- They may not generate facets the way you want
- It is hard to provide an experience of 'one' set of results
- Most databases don't support standards
OCLC Stepped back to reconsider a solution to the problem
Highest-level architecture

User Interface

Merging/Ranking

Local indexes:
- WorldCat with your library holdings
- OCLC Licensed Content

Access Magic:
- Non-OCLC Licensed Content
- Remote Database
- Remote Database
Metasearch as it exists today

Metasearch Engine

Remote Database
Remote Database
Remote Database
Remote Database
Remote Database
Remote Database
Metasearch with WorldCat Local

WorldCat Local

Central Index

WorldCat with your library holdings

OCLC Licensed Content

Remote Databases

Non-OCLC Licensed Content

Remote Database

Remote Database
User searches default database or chooses another database by selecting advanced search
Metasearch - User selects databases

Select databases to search

Checked:
- WorldCat

Unchecked:
- Anthropology
  - Anthropological Index
  - Anthropological Literature
  - Anthropology Plus
- Federated databases
  - Bibliography of the History of Art
  - Academic Search Complete
  - Expanded Academic ASAP
  - Medline
  - Art Abstracts
- All Databases (A-Z)
  - ABI/INFORM
  - AGRICOLA
  - ATLA Religion
Metasearch of centrally indexed databases
- Brief results
New York Fall Sales: Through the Roof.

Author: John C.offman
Edition/Format: Article - English
Publication: Art & Antiques, v. 30 no.1 (January 2007) p. 32, 34
Other Databases: WorldCat

Summary: Sales of art and antiques held in New York in fall 2006 show that the peak of the market has not yet been reached. Over four nights of auction madness, more than $1 billion worth of impressionist, Modern, and contemporary art changed hands. The euphoric atmosphere was so powerful that not even the last-minute withdrawal of a Blue Period Picasso masterpiece at Christie's Impressionist and Modern sale could read more...

Get this item

You are not connected to the University of Washington Libraries network. Access to online content and services may require you to authenticate with your library.

Borrow or obtain a copy

This item is not currently available at University of Washington Libraries.

University of Washington Libraries

Get it online

Check for Electronic Resources

Get it in the library

1 copies

Location: Art Periodicals
Call number: N6506.A45 Shevel by
Notes:
Thank you!

Questions?