Future of A&I Services

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DEATH SPIRAL
Paradigm Shift

- Are traditional fee-based abstracting and indexing services in the physical sciences and engineering in a “death spiral”?

- What should libraries do to prepare for the future?
Traditional A&I Services

- METAL ABSTRACTS
- INSPEC
- COMPENDEX
- BIOSIS
- CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS
- DERWENT WORLD PATENT INDEX
Budgetary Environment in Libraries

- Library budgets are shrinking
- Library purchasing power is smaller due to price inflation
- Resources are cancelled
- Corporations are closing libraries
- Library as a place ceasing to exist in companies
Perceptions are Changing

- Traditional A&I services are considered “finding” tools
- A&I services give citations and abstracts
- “Information source” is now defined as full text
- Interface is unfriendly, confusing and unforgiving
- Keyword searching is King
- Value of library “brand” is decreasing
Information overload
Too much irrelevant information
Multi-tasking accepted operating approach
Instant gratification
Time is most important
Free information
Open source access tools
Federated search services
Seamless flow from discovery to delivery
Traditional A&I Services

- Expensive!
- Available primarily via library
- Require specialized skills
- Hierarchical arrangement
- Often require additional steps for source
- Often time delays before obtaining source
Chemical Information – CA
Chemical Information – Google
Google Scholar vs. Chem. Abs.

  - Science and Technology Libraries
  - Vol. 27(4), pp. 3–16, 2007
  - 65 % overlap
Google Scholar vs. Compendex


- Journal of Academic Librarianship

- 90%
Undergraduate Students

- Google
- Wikipedia
- JSTOR
- Google Scholar
- EBSCO Host
- Wilson Web
What Do Librarians Want?

- Students to use A&I Services
- Students to use online catalogs and library collection
Online Catalogs – OCLC Study

- Influenced by classical principles of information organization – librarians
- Influenced by organization and operations of popular web sites – users
Perceptions of Libraries – OCLC

- Time is the new currency
- Convenience will always trump quality
- Free information trusted as much as fee
- Decline and fall of the expert
- Learn of new resources from friends
- Save time and get better grades
- Lacking information literacy
Reality

- Landscape has changed
- Undergraduates will follow directions to complete assignments
- Graduate students will continue to use A&I
- Some A&I services will go the way of newspapers
- Life long learning will be different
- Open access movement will grow
Do Alternatives Exist?

- Provide relevant articles quickly and easily
- Return focused results
- Are cheap and free
Free Alternatives

- Google Scholar
- Scitopia
- Scirus
- CiteSeer
- ScienceResearch
- Pubget
Free Chemistry Alternatives

- ChemSpider
- SureChem
- PubChem
- ChemSeer
Thank you

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