



Comparisons of the strengths and weakness of the available commercial discovery services

Marie Pascale Baligand, Irstea Lyon, France

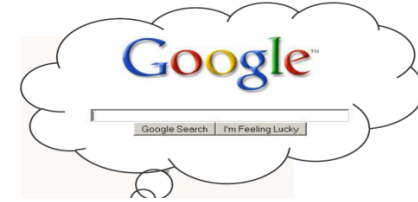
Colette Cadiou, Irstea Aubière, France



www.irstea.fr

38th IAMSLIC conference, Anchorage, Alaska, August 26-30, 2012

Basic requirements for discovery tools



- Easiest place to start the research process
- Simultaneous search through multiple data sources (library catalogues, databases, ebooks, libguides...)
- Global search index instead of federated searches
- Hosted instead of local installation (human resources for IT are often limited)



Main criteria analysis for a discovery tool



1. First, it should enable our users to explore the full extent of the library resources, and offer relevant content within these resources (*content and relevance*)
2. Second it should offer simple and powerful search capabilities – faceted navigation (*search functions*)
3. Third, search results should be attractive and allow the user to interact efficiently with them (*interface*)
4. Simple system administration (*administration*)



Four commercial discovery tools will be compared

1. EBSCO Discovery Service (EBSCO)
2. Summon : (Serial solutions – Proquest)
3. Primo Central (Exlibris)
4. WorldCat local (OCLC)

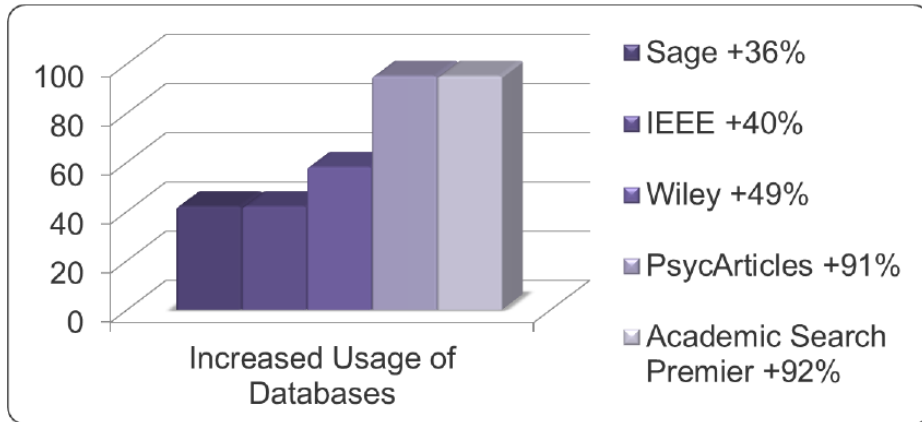


	<i>Content and relevance</i>	<i>Search functions</i>	<i>Interface</i>	<i>administration</i>
EDS <i>(EBSCO)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ EBSCO Databases content (Global Search index), Connectors for other databases (federated research) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Weakness of EDS's faceted navigation (impossible to keep selected facets when performing a new search) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Friendly interface (widgets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Problematic upload of the catalog data
Summon <i>(Serial Solutions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ One Global index : Rich up to date content for articles , no federated research ☺ Relevance ranking satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Fast search « Database recommender » and « did you mean » are appreciated ☺ Faceted navigation appreciated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Advanced research less friendly and intuitive than EDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Usage statistics available ☹ Not directly compatible with the existing link solver ☹ No Web 2.0 functionalities



	<i>Content and relevance</i>	<i>Search functions</i>	<i>Interface</i>	<i>administration</i>
Primo Central <i>(Exlibris)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ☹️ No central index (catalog on one side and Primo central index) ▪ ☹️ Relevance ranking is unsatisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ☹️ Primo Central don't de – duplicate the results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ☹️ No export BibTex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ☹️ Poor customization
Worldcat Local <i>(OCLC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 😊 Excellent database for books ▪ ☹️ Central index limited, often federated search ▪ Less journals articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 😊 More sort options than the other ones ▪ ☹️ Slow search 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 😊 Well designed facets ▪ 😊 Pleasant display of results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 😊 Web 2.0 functionality

The most popular in USA: Summon



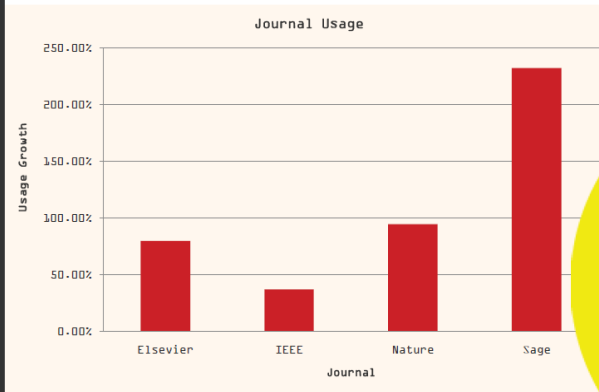
LexisNexis up 642%

JSTOR up 146%



38th IAMSLIC conference, A

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON LIBRARIES



Summon uncovers content independently of how popular a database is. It's wonderful! We're paying a lot for these resources and now people don't have to hunt to find them.

Anne Mitchell
Head of Cataloging & Electronic Resources
University of Houston Libraries

In conclusion, for discussion

- No suitable candidates : severe shortcomings found in all products (*Mancton university Canada, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Swizerland*)
- With this study, we realized that we're not players in the discovery game – we're pawns !
We can't foresee a time when the major database vendors will find it profitable to combine their metadata for our benefit
- It's an end-user tool, not a replacement for any databases or OPAC.

