Federated Search: What's It All About?

Christine Pouncey

Head, Library Information Technology, UALR Alexis Linoski

Collection Development Librarian, UCA

What is Federated Searching?

- Also know as metasearch, parallel searching, broadcast searching
- Allows the user to search across multiple resources: subscription databases, library catalogs, websites.

Have you already seen it?

- Multiple database searching from the same vendor
- Google Scholar

The Argument Against

- Advanced search features are lost
- Database specific search features are lost
- Not every product offers relevancy ranking
- It takes away from traditional information literacy teachings and favors a "Google" style approach to research

The Argument For

- Allows the user "one stop searching"
- Takes the pressure off of user's in determining which database to search
- Reduces the amount of time involved in the initial searching of information
- May increase usage of less frequently used databases

The Argument For

- Increase awareness of available databases
- "Beginners" don't have to learn to use multiple database interfaces
- Can development pre-defined subject categories
- Allows access to multiple resource types

Features to look for

- Ability to search beyond keyword, author, title
- Ability to save, print, or e-mail the search itself and the search results
- Ability to create pre-defined subject groupings for searching
- Ability for the user to select which databases to search

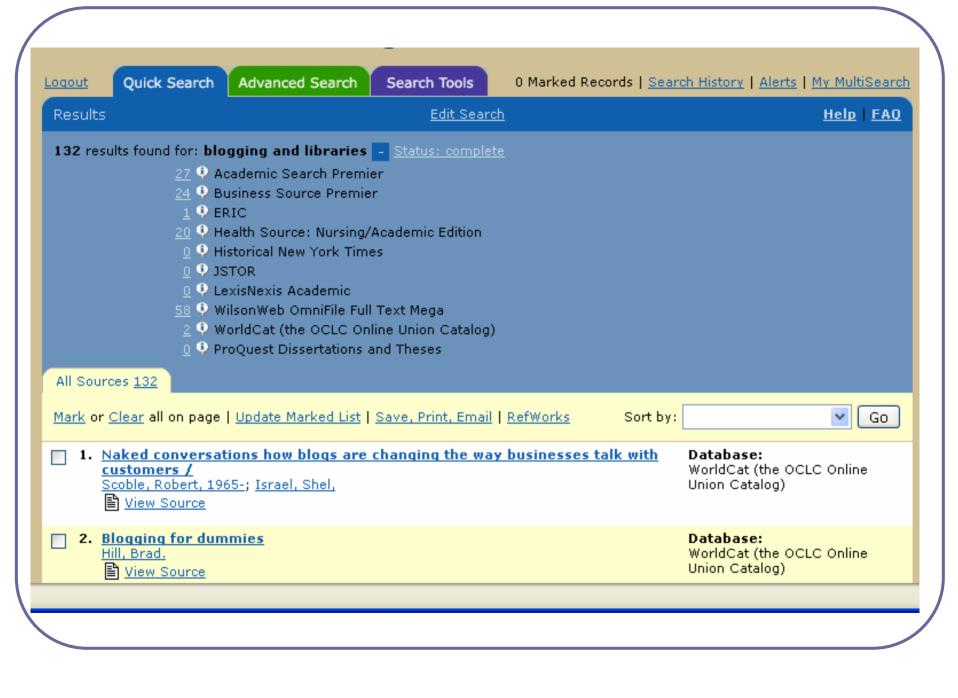
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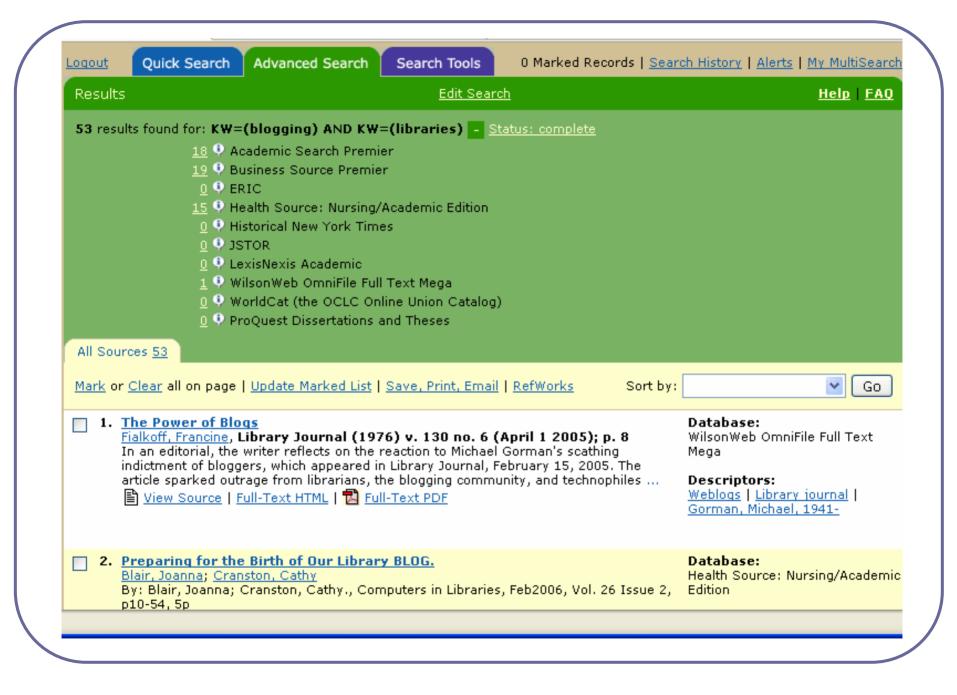
- Ability to display results by source (i.e. databases, library catalog, website)
- Ability to sort results (date, author, resource)
- Easy to configure/customize
- Ability to de-dupe

In the end....

- It's a tool that could provide a starting point for users
- Make sure that you determine the features best suited for your organization, then evaluate the products that meet your need

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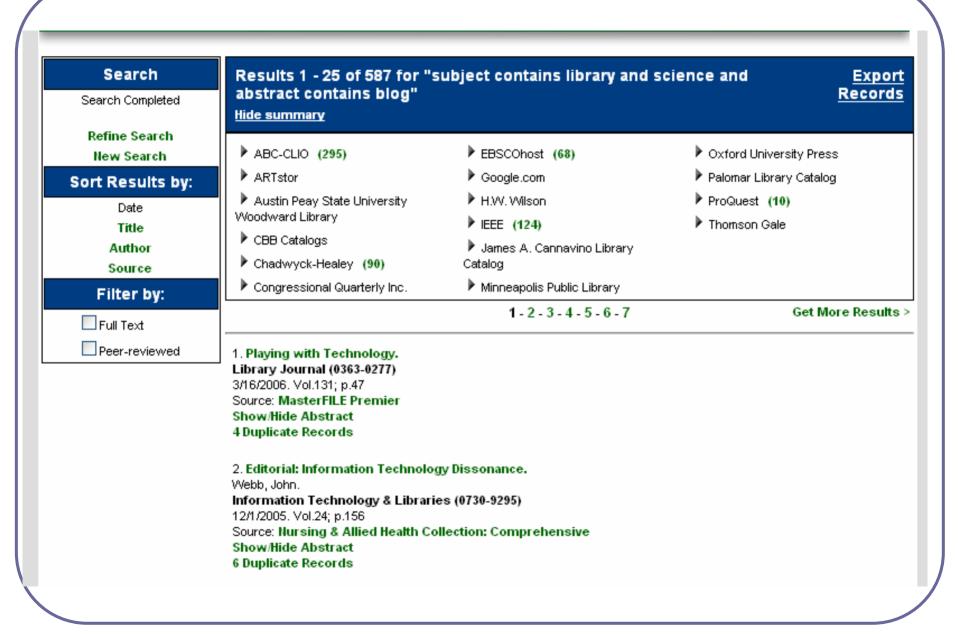
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Advanced Search

Search by subject	Search by database
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- ABI/INFORM Dateline Business, finance, economics
- Academic Search Elite General subjects, humanities, social sciences, sciences, education, etc.
- GRICOLA Index to agriculturally-related-science publications
- Alt-HealthWatch Alternative health
- America: History and Life Historical coverage of the United States and Canada
- American Drama American dramatic writing from 1714-1915
- Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature Monographs, periodical articles, critical editions of literary works, book reviews and collections of essays published anywhere in the world from 1920 onwards
- Applied Science & Technology Full Text Provides full text of articles from journals as far back as 1997 in the science and technology fields.
- Art Full Text Fine, decorative, and commercial art
- ARTstor ARTstor content includes approximately 300,000 images covering art, architecture and archeology
- Biography Resource Center Biographical referrence resource
- Biological & Agricultural Index Plus Core literature of biology and agriculture-much of it



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As of December 5, 2005, Central Library materials will no longer be available for request due to preparations for opening the New Central Library in 2006. Any requested materials that have a pick-up location of "Central" will be sent to **Pierre Bottineau library** for pick-up after December 3, 2005. If you would like to change the pick-up location of your current requests for Central, please contact a staff person at 612-630-6040, otherwise your holds will be sent to Pierre Bottineau. Pierre Bottineau Library is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

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Find Federated Search Vendors

- Library of Congress Portals Applications Issues Group – Federated Search Products and Vendors
 - http://www.loc.gov/catdir/lcpaig/portalproducts .html

That's all....

Questions?