Search and Discovery Initiatives

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Major Accomplishments

• Long history of entrepreneurial initiatives in IR: OPAC+ (IBIS journal databases), DLI-I (full-text online journals), IMLS DCC (Digital Content and Collections), DOI-X, Open Annotation, Easy Search, JAL, Illinois Harvest, ORR+, DLF Aquifer, Digital Emblematica, Mobile.

• Easy Search suite within Gateway, and used in vertical applications.

• Development partnerships with NSDL, IMLS, Elsevier SciVerse, CIC Harvest, Mellon, DLF Aquifer, Hathi, DPLA.
Impact

• Benefits:
  – Enhanced access to full-text (from 4 to 7 to 11 million full-text downloads over 2004 -- 2010).
  – Easy Search + JAL suite usage: 3.2 million searches 2010.
  – Search assistance and navigation techniques – immediate contextual help and info literacy component.
  – Federated search recommender and access.
  – Database technologies.
  – Best practice and standards development.
Opportunities

- Expand on leadership position in search assistance and custom search and discovery.
- Easy Search as an instructional technology.
- Leadership in interoperability and content sharing and integration.
- Development partnerships with webscale discovery systems.
- Modeling of user search behaviors.
- Ability to make evidence based design and deployment decisions.
- Opportunities to be more integrally involved in knowledge creation and linked data.
Initiatives

• Enhanced webscale discovery system with custom search assistance and resource integration.
  – Integration with local link resolver, OPAC, local digital content access systems, licensed content, national digitization efforts.
  – Collaborative effort with vendor(s) and open source systems.
  – Smart system with recommender and assistance functions.
• Knowledge creation and dissemination total solution.
  – Integration of user data with the research literature.
  – Linked data exploitation and LD vocabularies.
  – Links with Medusa repository system and other public faces.
• API-driven Webtone user discovery systems.
• Metrics:
  – Usage data.
  – Transaction log data.
  – User focus groups and surveys.
Resources Needed

• Our search and discovery work is performed by individuals with other primary duties – except for one temporary research programmer.
• Need to decide if these endeavors should be supported by dedicated staff.
• This work has been primarily grant-supported; need to move the work into Library funded positions.
• The webscale discovery system and much of the content is hosted. But need for local servers and storage infrastructure.
Impact

• Greatly enhanced access to licensed, locally generated, and collaborative national content.
• Adoption by other institutions using webscale discovery systems.
• Continue to enhance our leadership position.
• Development of best practices and standards.
• Improve ROI on Library and University investments in electronic resources and local digitization efforts.
Task Force Questions and Discussion