Electronic Personalised Current Awareness: Are Researchers Going It Alone?

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Increase in User Searches (1)

- User friendly interfaces
- Push technology
- Cheaper communication costs
- Internet / WWW
- Free databases

Increase in User Searches (2)

- Fast pace of change in science

- 627.5 hours a month to evaluate articles

- High interest from researchers in all sectors

Table of Contents

- ## Current Contents Connect
  - http://www.isinet.com/products/cap/
- ## Highwire
  - http://highwire.stanford.edu/
- ## IngentaConnect
  - http://www.ingentaconnect.com/
- ## Swets TOCs
  - http://informationservices.swets.com/web/show/id=40044
- ## Zetoc
  - http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/

Table of Contents - Publishers

- American Chemical Society Alerts
  - http://pubs.acs.org/journals/asap/
- Blackwell Synergy
  - http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/
- Biomed Central
  - http://www.biomedcentral.com/
- SpringerLink
  - http://www.springerlink.com
- Wiley InterScience
  - http://www.wileyinterscience.com

CAS

- PDA
  - Highwire Remote
    http://highwire.stanford.edu/

  - Wiley InterScienceMobile Edition
    http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/mobile_edition/

- Federated Searches
  - MetaLib
    http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/metalib.htm

  - GetRef
    http://edina.ac.uk/getref/

Challenges

- Time
- Money
- Restrictive licence agreements
- Raising unrealistic expectations
- "Fire hose" effect
- Keeping profiles up-to-date

Evaluating CAS (1)

- Subject
- Relevance of results
- Response to 0
- Reputation of supplier
- Ability to submit profile

- Ability to edit profile
- No. of profiles
- Thesaurus?
- Bibliographic software?
- Frequency of results

Evaluating CAS (2)

- Full-text?
- Only search Library journals
- Links to print catalogue
- How are results delivered

- Usage statistics
- Ease of Use
- On-screen help
- Help Desk?
- Cost

Designing Profiles

- User's Research Output

- Look at papers that have cited user

- Find articles user agrees are relevant

- User present during initial search

Library CAS

- Bulletins
  - North Glasgow University Hospitals Division
    http://www.northglashealthinfo.org.uk/cabfiles/cabs/cabindex.asp
- DIY
  - Institute of Neurology, London
    http://www.ion.ucl.ac.uk/library/curraw1.htm
- Librarian as mediator
  - Institute of Neurology, London
- Consortium
    http://www.tin.nhs.uk/welcome/keeping-up-to-date

Researchers Using Library Search Services

- 75% physicians replying to survey at US Mayo Clinic

- 69% primary care staff replying to survey in East London Trust

- MLA Expert Searching Survey
  - 95.3% valuable
  - 50% spent more time searching as opposed to teaching end-users

The Google Effect?

- ## 2001 Ingenta Survey
  - Article ordering NOT via libraries
  - 15% of researchers' article requests held by home library

- ## 2002 Zetoc Survey
  - Majority of users self-taught

Does It Matter? (1)

- Bangor University, Wales

  "the process of literature searches is substantially deskilled by online bibliographic resources"

  (Proposed restructuring of the library provision at UWB: a consultation paper - http://www.bangor.ac.uk/is/iss069/website/strategyfinal.pdf)

Does It Matter? (2)

- Information professional interrogate databases better?
  - McMaster Study
  - John Hopkins Case
- MLA
  - Task Force on Expert Searching
  - http://www.mlanet.org/resources/expert_search/
- Evidence Based Medicine

Does It Matter? (3)

- Do users have time?

- Is it cost-effective for users to undertake?

- More research needed on "size of positive effect" of information retrieval training

Benefits of Library CAS

- Better search results
- Researchers' output increases
- Increased knowledge of user interests
- Monitor journal usage
- Positive publicity for librarians
- Increased use of our services

Conclusion

- "Librarians are specifically trained to research, locate, evaluate, and present information. Because these skills are not technology dependent, they are enduring. In fact, greater access to a larger volume of information in a more technology-dependent environment can only increase the importance of quality researching"

(Bishop, S., MacDonald, K. Metropolis redux: the unique importance of library skills in informatics. Journal of the Medical Library Association;2004;92(2):209-217)