

Medical E-books : description and rating of discovery and access tools

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Introduction

The University medical library in Lausanne (Switzerland) began subscribing e-books on the Ovid platform in 2002. In the following years perpetual e-book license agreements were signed with Cambridge University Press, then Elsevier Scienencedirect, and many others. Now the biomedical e-book collection consists of 1'200 purchased or subscribed e-books completed by thousands of other e-books in all disciplines. This vast digital content is hosted on dozens of search platforms.

Background

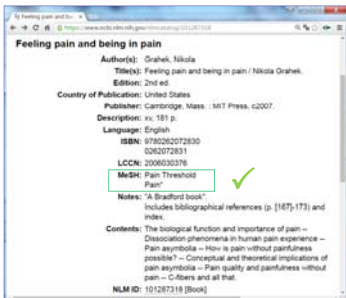
Examination of access statistics reveals that e-books usage in our institution lags behind that of e-journals. The lack of a unified, central access tool for e-books represents a major problem in the biomedical field. For e-journals content, Pubmed plays a pivotal role and can be used as a gateway and main access point leading to electronic articles. For e-books such an internationally and largely used discipline-specific search engine is missing.

Method

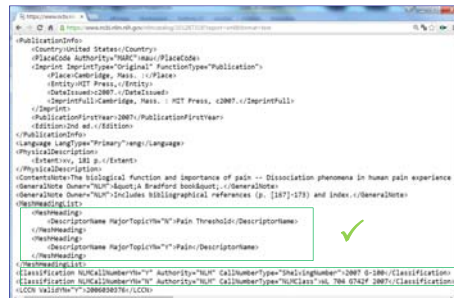
To maximize e-books discoverability and access a multiple access-point approach is chosen. A local database for e-books and a resource discovery system (Ex-Libris Primo) are implemented. Both applications rely on vendor-supplied records which generally lack key features such as Mesh indexing or NLM class numbers. Different APIs are being tested in order to automatically pull valuable metadata from library catalogs into both the local and discovery e-book search tools.

Sources and techniques to assist metadata enrichment in e-book discovery or search tools	NLM Catalog	WorldCat	swissbib
Producer	US National Library of Medicine	OCLC	Mandated by Swissuniversities
Size	> 1.4 million bibliographic records for journals books, audiovisuals, etc. in the medical field [1]	> 300 million harvested bibliographic records in all languages and academic fields [5]	> 21 million harvested bibliographic records in all languages and academic fields [6] [7]
Subject headings	MESH Subject Headings, NLM class numbers	Subject Headings and classification numbers from multiple sources and locations	Subject Headings and classification numbers from multiple sources and locations
Application Program Interfaces (APIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Entrez utilities; eSearch; Efetch [2][3][4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free after registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free

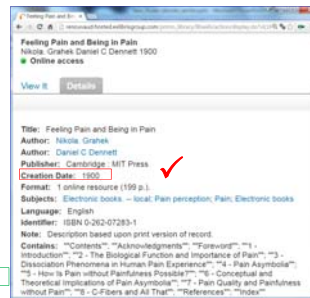
Same document - different metadata : NLM catalog, Primo discovery service and Library local search tool



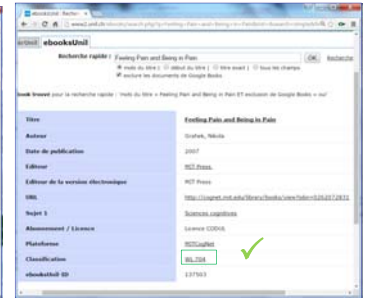
NLM Catalog: Record display in NCBI Entrez system
Standardized information for a print edition: authority indexes for Authors, Mesh Headings



NLM Catalog record in XML format (partial view)
Additional information coded in the XML format : i.e. NLM call numbers



Primo discovery service
Example of inaccurate metadata in discovery tool, in this case a wrong publication date



Local search tool for ebooks
NLM class number as hyperlink to access subject related books

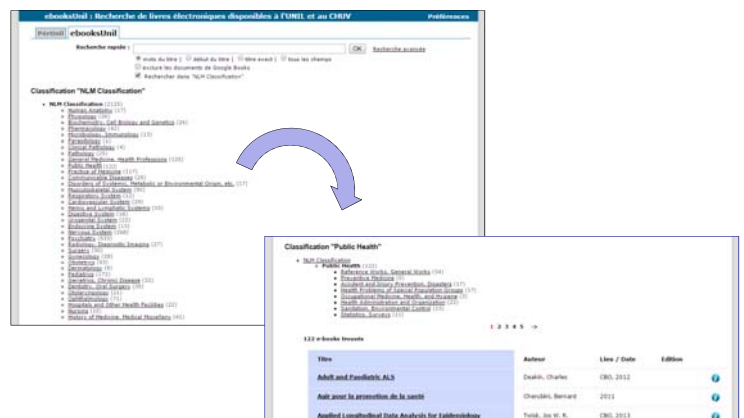
Results

Not all records could be matched and automatically enriched due to inaccurate ISBNs or lack of the desired relevant metadata. But using 3 main catalogs we could add metadata to 70% of our e-books. Some manual trimming was then necessary.

We now provide access to online books filed by their NLM call numbers. We also have a subject browsing mechanism for our e-book search tool. Beyond offering alternative access points to e-books, these data help in identifying strengths and weaknesses in the collection by topic area and speciality.

Conclusion

Using APIs offered by international catalogs, records provided by vendors, either publishers or knowledge base providers, can be automatically enriched. Valuable metadata taken from bibliographic records created for print editions : MESH indexing, NLM class numbers and even table of contents, can be extracted and imported in order to customize search tools for users in the biomedical field.



Links

- [1] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3800/>
- [2] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK25499/>
- [3] <http://eutils.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/eutils/efetch.fcgi?db=nmcatalog&term=9780262072830> [ISBN]
- [4] <http://eutils.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/eutils/efetch.fcgi?db=nmcatalog&id=101287318&retmode=xml>
- [5] <http://www.oclc.org/developer/develop/web-services/worldcat-search-api.en.html>
- [6] <http://www.swissbib.org/wiki/index.php?title=SRU> [7] <http://sru.swissbib.ch/sru/form>

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