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Federated Search Symposium

February 2-3, 2006
MacEwan Conference and Event Centre,
University of Calgary

Federated searching (also known as meta-searching or cross-database searching) is a technology that allows users to search many information resources from one interface. Join our 2 day discussion about the realities and practicalities of providing a seamless search and retrieval experience for your clients.

Roy Tennant

User Services Architect, California Digital Library, University of California

Cathy Gordon

Director, Google Scholar

Panelists will discuss their experiences with implementing and using federated search products in their libraries. Vendors will be on hand to share information about their products. Participants will have opportunities to experiment with and evaluate these products.

Purpose

Delegates will receive an overview of what federated search products are available, participate in developing a process for critically evaluating products, and investigate which products will suit the needs of their library and those of the Alberta library community as a whole. Federated searching will be considered from public, academic, and special library perspectives.

Audience

Intended audience is library staff working in public service or technical areas who seek an introduction/overview of the topic. This symposium will be of interest to managers and public service staff from public, academic, and special libraries.

Program Schedule:

Date: February 2-3, 2006

Location: MacEwan Conference and Event Centre, University of Calgary

Thursday February 2nd, 2006

7:00 - 9:00am: Ballroom Foyer **Registration**

7:00 - 8:15am Ballroom **Hot Breakfast sponsored by Thomson Gale.**

8:30am - 8:45am: Ballroom **Introduction, welcome and overview of agenda**

8:45am - 10:00am: Ballroom **Plenary Session: Roy Tennant, Manager, User Services Architect, California Digital Library, University of California.**

"Only librarians like to search; everyone else likes to find." Roy Tennant, "Five Easy Pieces," Library Journal, 15 November 2004. Roy will provide an introduction to the benefits and challenges of federated searching in our quest to improve our customers searching experiences.

10:00am - 10:30am: **Break**

10:30am - 12:00pm: Ballroom **Panel Discussion: Experiences with Federated Search Products**
Panelists will discuss the issues and experiences their institutions have had with designing, implementing and using federated search products.

Panel:

Regan Balfour, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAS) Libraries: Serials Solutions (Unicom).

Diana Guinn, Port Moody Public Library: AGent (Horizon).

Bennett Ponsford, West Texas A & M University's Comette Library: MetaLib (Voyager).

Michael Silver, Parkland Regional Library: WebFeat (Horizon).

12:00pm - 1:15pm: University Club **Lunch**

Luncheon Speaker: Cathy Gordon, Director of Business Development, Google, Inc.

Cathy will provide insights into Google Scholar and its implications for federated searching.

1:30pm - 2:30pm Ballroom **Reactor Discussion**
Roy Tennant, Manager, eScholarship Web & Services Design, California Digital Library.
Mary Westell, Assistant Director, Technology Information Resources, University of Calgary.

Reactors Roy and Mary will summarize information from the morning and respond to questions, comments, and issues arising from the morning panel.

2:30pm - 4:00pm: Breakout Rooms Group work. Participants have been assigned to a group which will develop criteria for evaluation of federated search products.

4:00pm - 5:00pm: Ballroom Review of criteria for evaluation and overview of process for day 2.

5:00pm- 7:00pm: Common Area, Second Floor **Reception and cash bar**

5:00pm - 8:00pm: **Vendor Hands-on Opportunity.**
BYOS (Bring Your Own Search) and experience the federated search products for yourself. Try out AGent (Bianca), Central Search (Cassio B), dbWiz (Escalus), MetaLib (Guildenstern), and Single-Search (Hamlet) and see what your patron would see!

Friday February 3rd, 2006

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| 7:30am - 8:15am: | Ballroom | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:15am - 8:30am: | Ballroom | Orientation for vendor presentations. |
| 8:30am - 12:30pm: | | Vendor presentations to pre-assigned groups. Each presentation will last for one hour. Rotations to vendors will be assigned. Federated Search products to discussed are: AGen (Bianca), Central Search (Cassio B), dbWiz (Escalus), MetaLib (Guildenstern), and SingleSearch (Hamlet). |
| 12:30pm - 1:30pm : | University Club | Lunch Luncheon Speaker: Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library Update. The LHCADL will provide post-secondary students and faculty with a vast online collection of articles, textbooks, journals and images. Ernie Ingles will describe progress to date on this exciting project. |
| 1:30pm - 2:30pm : | Breakout Rooms | Group Meetings. Each group will meet to discuss their impressions and perceptions of the federated search products they have been presented with. Discussion should be targeted to presenting feedback to the larger group at 2:30. |

Break

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| 2:45pm - 4:30pm : | Ballroom | Group reports and discussion of federated search products. Recommendations for feedback regarding next steps for The Alberta Library. |
| 4:30pm | | Close of Symposium |

Note:

Vendors will be available for individual questions and discussion on Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. Friday from 8:30-12:30 vendors will be engaged in presentations to pre-assigned groups of delegates.

Speakers

Regan Balfour, MLIS, Public Services Librarian at Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST) Libraries' Woodland Campus in Prince Albert (<http://www.siasst.sk.ca/libraries/>). Regan currently holds the Electronic Resources portfolio for SIASST Libraries.

Cathy Gordon, MLS, is the Director of Business Development at Google's headquarters in California. Cathy has worked in the information industry since the mid-1970s. She spent eight years at Lexis, primarily in product development. Subsequently she spent fourteen years at Dialog Information Services culminating in her position as Senior Vice President, Products and Worldwide Marketing.

Diana Guinn, MLS, Chief Librarian at Port Moody Public Library (<http://library.portmoody.ca/>). Prior to her appointment at Port Moody, Diana worked for seven years at Fraser Valley Regional Library as the Manager of Systems and Technical Services. At Port Moody, Diana led the Two Libraries One Search project (Industry Canada) from 2002 until it went live in 2004.

Bennett Ponsford, MLS, Web Services Librarian, West Texas A&M University's Comette Library (<http://www.wtamu.edu/library/>). Bennett began her career at West Texas as the Government Documents Librarian, before becoming the Web Services Librarian. Now she serves as the library's Webmaster, managing the online catalog, web pages, and online databases. Bennett also chairs the library's Web Task Force, LAN, and Liaison Committees.

Michael Silver, MCSE, is the Network Administrator at Parkland Regional Library (<http://www.prl.ab.ca/>) system in Lacombe, Alberta. Michael's experience with federated searching has been with the Horizon library system, using the rebranded WebFeat 2 product and most recently migrating to the WebFeat 3 system. Parkland Regional Library provides ILS services to member school and public libraries.

Roy Tennant, MLIS, User Services Architect for eScholarship Web & Services Design at the California Digital Library (<http://www.cdlib.org/>). Formerly he served as the Digital Library Project Manager for The Library at the University of California at Berkeley. Before he joined the staff at UCB in 1985, Roy held the similar positions in the libraries at Columbia College and Humboldt State University. Roy is a prolific contributor to Library Literature on digital libraries, and digital technology. He is the founder of, and a contributor to Current Cites, a monthly electronic annotated bibliography of selected works on digital technology. He has authored a number of books, including his latest book "Managing the Digital Library." More information about Roy is available from his website <http://roytennant.com/>.

Mary Westell, is the Assistant Director for Technology in Information Resources at the University of Calgary. She recently served as the Chair of the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library Technology/Infrastructure committee.