



Users Council Meeting

4/22/05

Project Name and URL: Metasearch Infrastructure Project

<http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/metasearch/>

What's new?

- After testing the MetaLib native user interface, as well as considering the emerging opportunities of the CDL Common Framework, the project team decided to use the MetaLib Application Program Interface (API, which ExLibris calls the "X-Server") to integrate metasearch capabilities with the Common Framework. Although this sets our deployment timeframe back, it will result in a much easier system to deploy with more effective and configurable services for campus libraries.
- We marshaled the MetaLib user community in identifying and prioritizing X-Server enhancements, and have been working with ExLibris staff to test these enhancements as they are being added to the product.
- Other related developments include significant progress in developing Open Archives Initiative harvesting tools and procedures, and a prototype targeted web crawl of selected web sites.
- Some development work on harvesting and crawling can be seen at <http://dali.cdlib.org:8080/>. This work will enable librarians to integrate access to useful content not found in commercial databases.

Who is doing it and how?

- UCLA is developing a search portal for European studies, as a test case for our deployment model and to help us determine what kinds of tools and documentation will be needed to assist campuses in creating tailored search portals. They have tested a number of databases through MetaLib, and have helped us to locate and fix searching anomalies.
- Our project to build a search portal for undergraduates (called "SmartStart") includes librarians from UCSC and UCLA
- Our project to integrate content from the National Science Digital Library with licensed resources is being advised by earth science librarians from several campuses.

Why should you care?

- The goal of this project is to create a full-featured and flexible tool set for campus librarians to easily create metasearch portals for a specific audience (e.g., bioscience students) and/or purpose (e.g., a few good things for an undergraduate paper).
- Besides licensed databases, librarians will be able to integrate searching of selected web sites and digital repositories.

Who should I tell when I get home?