

Chapter 58

Research on the Utilization and Evaluation of Library Resource Discovery Systems in China

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ABSTRACT

According to the investigation of library resources discovery system construction in 20 universities in China, the aggregation discovery service provided by the multi-source aggregation function, the discovery function is based on aggregation and the comprehensive revealing function. This article evaluates user usage and acceptance based on refinements of the functions mentioned above. The investigation shows that compared with the diversity of function, users are more concerned about the practicability, the intuition and the academy. Thus, systems should choose the best sources and pay attention to the metadata normalization, and enhance the correlation to standard datasets.

INTRODUCTION

The Library Resource Discovery System (RDS), based on information organization and aggregation theory, is a system which provides users with integrated service of information resources through pre-indexing and pre-aggregation procedures such as harvesting, mapping, and transferring the information metadata from heterogeneous platforms and databases.

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A resource discovery system is the integration of multiple service modes. Compared with the traditional single full-text service, the resource discovery system not only integrates the traditional service methods of library information retrieval, reader authentication, appointment renewal, etc., but also provides new service functions such as comment labels, full-text acquisition, academic recommendation, citation display, and collection revelation. These functions enable users to retrieve, display, sort, and acquire all the library resources in an interface, thus helping users to realize the integration of multiple service modes and offer various options to access resources, in line with the internet users' demand.

The RDS has innovated the way of resource organization, integrated the information services of libraries, and improved the intellectualization, somatization, correlation and visualization of library information resources. The application of new technology will be embodied by a variety of new functions. The user's utilization and evaluation of the existing library resources discovery system will provide important guidance and reference for the improvement and perfection of the resource discovery system.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the Chinese library and information science field, the research on the resource discovery systems, a new thing in library information management systems, began in 2011. There are more than 80 related research papers, whose topics are mainly as follows:

TOPIC 1: Comparative Studies on existing resource discovery systems.

These studies aim to introduce and propagate the existing system, helping more libraries and users; in addition, to provide reference for libraries to select and construct the resource discovery system.

The respondent systems are Primo, EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), Find+, Summon, WorldCat Local, Chaoxing Discovery, etc. The contents consist of history, UI designs, resource ranges, the discovery function, the acquisition function and personalized services.

This topic has the largest number of papers comparing with others, Yu (2017), Ge (2017), Zhu (2015), and Sun (2013), who introduced the development status of each system and their localization in every university library. Both the aims mentioned above have been achieved.

Jason Vaughan (2008), who performs an internal and external research into library web-scale discovery services from the librarians who are participants in the discovery conversation in academic library and the library vendors which have developed these services. They made a recommendation for UNLV Libraries to select a suitable library web-scale discovery system.

Richard Guajardo (2017) introduced the University of Houston Libraries' various discovery options. These include an open-source tool, a federated search product, and two index-based discovery systems. He summarizes important criteria for evaluating discovery systems and recounts valuable lessons that may be applied during future system-evaluation processes and implementations.

Aaron F. Nichols (2017) surveyed heads of reference and instruction departments in research and land-grant university libraries. The survey results revealed common practices with discovery tools among academic libraries. This study also draws connections between operational, instructional, and assessment practices and perceptions that participants have of the success of their discovery tool. Participants who indicated successful implementation of their discovery tool hailed from institutions that made significant commitments to the operations, maintenance, and acceptance of their discovery tool.

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