

Seamless access

- While there is abundance of electronic resources in many Indian libraries, the access mechanism is a bunch of disjoint systems, from users' point of view. Seamless access to such resources, in a bottom-up approach, need access to (i) content at citation level, (ii) resource level, (iii) single session covering multiple databases, and (iv) facilitating those access in ubiquitous manner.

Link resolver – access to content at citation level

- When a library subscribes to multiple databases and full-text resources, it can be a challenge to determine if the full-text of an article cited in one database is available in another resource. Link resolving software makes this task easier by acting as a bridge between databases; patrons easily go from a journal citation in one database to the full-text of the journal in another database. Some of such commercially available link resolvers are WebBridge, SFX, LinkFinder Plus, Article Finder, LinkSource, LinkResolver

Index to persistent URLs - access at resource level

- Automatic index to persistent URLs is a challenging task for the librarians. Index such as A-to—Z service enables users to access individual journals/magazines covered by aggregated products by keeping track of persistent URLs. Even for bundled packages from publishers, this capability frees librarians from a daunting task of making index of all journals available and at the same time, connects users to resource-wise contents.

Federated search

Federated search technology enables users to search multiple information resources simultaneously through one search query. Users can then view search results in a single integrated list. In other words, users do not need to consult each information resource individually. Federated search technology is an integral component of an Information Portal, which provides the interface to diverse information resources. Once the user enters his or her search query in the search box of the Information Portal, the system uses federated search technology to send the search string to each resource that is incorporated into the Portal. The individual information resource then sends the Information Portal a list of results from the search query. Users can view the number of documents retrieved in each resource and link directly to each search result. This enormously empowers users to search a variety of sources such as multiple library catalogs (OPACs), Web sites (e.g. Amazon.com, Google etc.), subscription and citation databases all at once.

Facts about federated search

- **Federated search engines leave no stone unturned;**
- **De-dupe really works;**
- **Relevancy rankings are totally relevant**
- **Federated searching is software;**
- **It is not another search engine. It makes the existing search engine better;**

Remote authentication and 24x7 library service

- Finally, it remains a challenge for the libraries to enable the users to access expensive digital resources, at their convenience, in a time-space independent manner. Electronic resources, under signed license agreement, are generally available from within the campus of the library. This access can be enhanced through remote authentication software;
- Remote authentication software authenticates a valid user and also acts as a gateway to other servers on the Internet, allowing the valid user to be identified as coming from the domain of the subscribing library, regardless of where the user is physically connecting from;