



USIU-Africa Web-Scale Discovery Platform

Offering Users Limitless Search Capabilities

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Objectives

Areas of Discussion

- Introduction
- Discovery platform @USIU-Africa
- Challenges
- Best Practices & Conclusion





- ✓ Dual accreditation from **USA** and **Kenya**
- ✓ Students from **73 nationalities**
- ✓ **6770** student population

Introduction

- USIU-Africa has over **70 e-databases**, with 25 being subscription databases; Over **100,000 online journals**; **264,378 e-books**; and a huge print collection
- With the vast amounts of information resources, the library search environment becomes **increasingly fragmented** and therefore **overwhelming and frustrating for users**
- Users want a Google-like simple search functionality with access to all Library's collection from a single, easy-to-use search interface – **Discovery platform!**

Discovery platform defined

“A web-scale discovery service is a **large central index** paired with a **richly featured user interface** providing a **single point of access** to the library’s local, open access, and subscription collections.

Web-scale discovery services offer a variety of modern search tool features and functionality including: autocorrect, relevance ranking, faceted browsing which make it easier for users to locate library materials more efficiently and enhanced content such as cover images, ratings, and reviews offering an enriched user experience while providing useful contextual information for evaluating results.”

Joseph Deodato (2015) “Evaluating Web-Scale Discovery: A Step-by-Step Guide, Information Technology and Libraries”

Discovery platform @USIU-Africa

USIU-Africa EBSCO-Enterprise
Discovery platform (**USIULibFind**)



Search
Library
Catalogue

+



e-Resources

**SirsiDynix Enterprise
(OPAC)**

**EBSCO Discovery Service
(EDS)**

What's in place

Informed by research on features of an optimized web-scale discovery system

- **Search suggestion functionality:** list of suggestions in the search from search history terms within Enterprise
- **Correction of input errors:** via a "Did you mean ...?" function.
- **Interfiling results:** Integrated Library System (ILS) and EDS display results on the same screen
- **Limiter:** Limiter by full text available
- **Filter function:** Wide choice of Facets for various search refinement e.g. subject, format, publisher
- **Search results display:** relevance ranking and availability: The "best" hit is displayed first, not necessarily the newest one
- **Search display widget:** 'text & image alignment' and 'item format label'

What's in place cont...

- **Password request:** Off when on-campus or using VPN
- **Exploratory search:** Finds results of interest not specifically requested, related words, and equivalent subjects
- **Publication titles:** publication titles and publishers are listed for e-journal results
- **Placard journal** – e.g. journal of business
- **Languages:** supports five languages for title labels
- **Content providers indexing:** List of an aggregation of different providers
- **Publication finder:** available on [EBSCO platform](#)
- **Digital Repository harvesting**





Everything

All Fields

management

Search

Advanced Search

Library Resources

Only Show Library Results

Only Show Available

Author

Include

Exclude

- ☐ ebrary, Inc. (6743)
- ☐ SpringerLink (Online ... (4442)
- ☐ International Busines... (106)
- ☐ World Bank. (50)
- ☐ Tuominen, Kari. (38)

► More
► View All

Subject

Include

Exclude

- ☐ Electronic books. (7037)
- ☐ Economics. (2186)
- ☐ Economics/Managem... (2113)
- ☐ Computer science. (1150)
- ☐ Management informat... (663)

► More
► View All

Format

Include

Exclude

- ☐ Electronic Resources (11562)
- ☐ Books (7131)

20004422 Results Found

1 2 3 4 5 .. ➤



Select an Action

Sort By:



Research Starter

Management: Research Starters Topic.

Management is work or act of directing and controlling a group of people within an organization for the purpose of accomplishing shared goals or objectives. There are numerous Research Starter articles related to this topic. The list below includes the most relevant Research Starter items.... [More](#)

Were you looking for this journal?

Management

Search this Journal

Search

1.

**Management**

Koreimann, Dieter S.

Publication Date 2015



View Details

View Content

eResources

Only Show Database Results

Expanded by:

☒ Also search within the full t...

Narrowed by:

☒ Available in Library Collection

Clear all

Expand results

Apply equivalent subjects

Apply related words

Limit by

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

References Available

Full Text

Institutional Repository Only

Publication Date

Include

Any

Any

Source Type

Academic Journal

(7015500)

- ▶ More
▶ View All

Material Type

Include **Exclude**

- ☐ Africana
☐ American Studies
☐ Archives material
☐ Audio-cassettes
☐ Audiotxt tape

- ▶ More
▶ View All

Publication Date

Include **Exclude**

- ☐ 1-30
☐ 31-1925
☐ 1926-1956
☐ 1957-1987
☐ 1988-2018

Language

Include **Exclude**

- ☐ English (22321)
☐ French (23)
☐ Italian (15)
☐ Spanish (13)
☐ German (11)

- ▶ More
▶ View All

2.



Books

Management

by Robbins, Stephen P., 1943- author.

Publication Date 2013

Format: Books

Excerpt: Management / Robbins, Stephen P., 1943- author.

Available: 1

Place Hold

3.



eBook

Management : Communications and Achieving Results

BPP Learning Media (Firm)

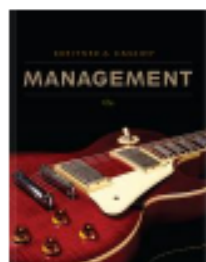
Publication Date 2013



View Details

View Content

4.



Books

Management

by Kreitner, Robert

Publication Date 2011

Format: Books

Excerpt: Management / Kreitner, Robert

Available: 21

Place Hold

Google Preview

e-Books

(325413)

- ▶ More
▶ View All

Subject

united states (582324)
north america (528201)
technology (362048)
nonfiction (337801)
executives (273130)

- ▶ More
▶ View All

Publisher

wiley-blackwell (1222922)
taylor & francis ltd (948197)
springer nature (433476)
crain communications inc. (mi) (369790)
penton media, inc. (317330)

- ▶ More
▶ View All

Publication

plos one (123301)
bond buyer (85832)
american banker (85577)
library journal (84831)
daily mail (84135)

Usage Statistics & Impact

- Statistics on discoverability and access of the library resources have extremely increased with over 100% increase registered during the implementation period even prior to the official launch
- Information Literacy trainers note:

*“Taking users through the different databases and sources of information was not only cumbersome but time consuming. **USIULibFind** is a time saver!”*

‘It has become increasingly easier to refer users to a single search interface where all their research needs are met!’

Report Name	Database Usage Report (Report Database Usage Metrics)								
Institution Na	UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (USIU)								
Report Filters	Site=UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (USIU);Database=All Subscribed Databases;Interface=All Interfaces								
Report Attrib	Analysis Level=Interface;Metric View=Detailed;Aggregate View=Month								
Run Date:	2019-03-04								
Reporting Per	2018-03-01 to 2019-02-28								
Database	Database	Database	Interface Name	Interface	Interface	Year	Month	Database Session	Total Searches
AGRIS	edsagr	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	18	42
AGRIS	edsagr	Regular D	EDS API	wsapi	live	2019	February	8477	8601
AHFS Consum	l0h	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	17	43
AHFS Consum	l0h	Regular D	EBSCOhost Research Datab	ehost	live	2019	February	69	206
AHFS Consum	l0h	Regular D	EDS API	wsapi	live	2019	February	8632	8824
Academic Sea	aph	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	133	43
Academic Sea	aph	Regular D	EBSCOhost Research Datab	ehost	live	2019	February	127	299
Academic Sea	aph	Regular D	EDS API	wsapi	live	2019	February	9049	9291
Air University	edsaul	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	19	42
Air University	edsaul	Regular D	EDS API	wsapi	live	2019	February	8477	8601
Aphasiology A	edsupa	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	17	42
Aphasiology A	edsupa	Regular D	EDS API	wsapi	live	2019	February	8846	9075
Archive of Eur	edsupe	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	17	42
Archive of Eur	edsupe	Regular D	EDS API	wsapi	live	2019	February	8879	9123
BASE	edsbas	Regular D	EBSCO Discovery Service	eds	live	2019	February	90	38

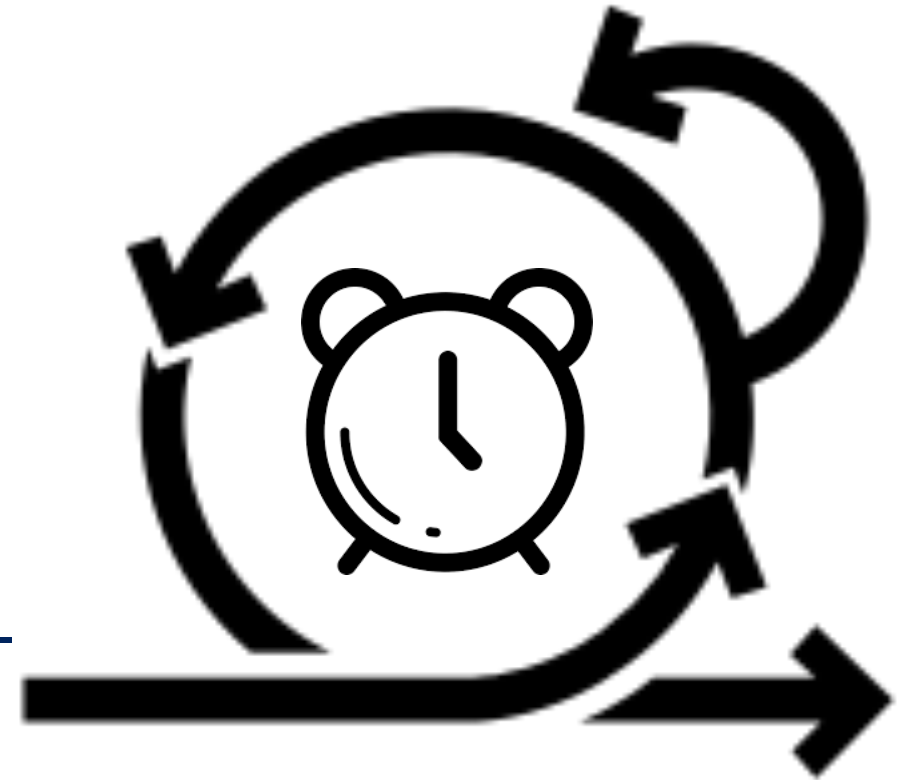
**Increased
discoverability & usage
of Library information
resources**



- ☒ **Value for money**
- ☒ **Empowered researcher**

Project details

- Project kicked off in February 2018
- Several WebEx meetings and email conversations with EBSCO & SirsiDynix teams
- Sharing lists of subscribed as well as open access resources
- **Project completion check list:** *EDS rubric* by Joseph Deodato (2015) and [EBSCO QA checklist](#)
- **Project closure:** continuous **free** consultation with global support team available 24 hrs, part of the subscription package



Challenges

- ✓ **Auto-complete search:** Has “Search suggestion” functionality only which suggests terms that have been looked up at least 3 times in the last 10 days. Auto-complete is available on **EBSCO platform**
- ✓ **Fixed Number of results per page at 12** - has been recorded as an enhancement request
- ✓ Need to randomly confirm added titles (especially **subscribed e-resources and ebooks**) are discoverable
- ✓ Vendors agreement with Publishers matters! There could be **restrictions** on content that can be added
- ✓ Need for **regular update of lists** / indexing – need for dedicated team
- ✓ Content bias? (**ranking!**)



Best practices & Conclusion

- Be sure to use a vendor putting in consideration:
 - ✓ **Potential features** of the discovery platform &
 - ✓ **Publisher partnerships / legal issues**

EBSCO Discovery Service, ProQuest's Summon, Ex Libris' Primo, OCLC's WorldCat

- Put in place a dedicated team – Library & ICT
- Consider budget availability – annual subscription

References

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Saiful Amin (2011) “Discovery Platforms, Technologies, Tools and Issues” 39th Five Laws Lecture

SADEH, Tamar (2013) [*From search to discovery*](#). Paper presented at:
[IFLA WLIC 2013 - Singapore - Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities](#) in Session 98 - Knowledge Management with Academic and Research Libraries

Thank you!

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