

FEDERATED SEARCHES OVER INDIAN REPOSITORIES: A STUDY

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Abstract

Provides an overview of some Indian federated open searches, describing the main content of the database, having multiple applications to databases that can be searched include local and remote library catalogs, abstracting and indexing databases, full-text aggregated databases, and digital repositories. From a technical standpoint, software is used for a distributed search method across heterogeneous databases using multiple search protocols. This paper will provide an overview of federated searching, summarize recent publications on the topic, and discuss potential future research.

Introduction

With the advent of online open databases, there have been concerns about the different interfaces and software provided by publishers and suppliers. In recent years, the growth in the number of open databases and full-text electronic journal services has made this aspect of electronic resource provision even more challenging, particularly for Higher Education institutions. Just as for the foreseeable future databases are likely to continue to be delivered through a variety of interfaces, it is equally likely that there will be increasing demands from users for simplified access. If we do not find ways to deliver this, our users will continue to avoid using these kinds of databases, especially if there are easier routes for finding information.

The library community is not unaware of this problem and research has been taking place into how it might be overcome. One of the aims has been to find a way to use a single interface for accessing a range of databases, despite the differences in their proprietary interfaces.

“Meta-search engines” that cumulate results from multiple search engines have been on the Web since the mid- to late-nineties. However, early systems only searched publicly accessible Web sites and used relatively simple technologies to retrieve information. The new generation of federated search engines possesses qualities that allow sophisticated in-house implementation for library purposes. Most importantly, the software provides the ability to search across multiple information resources from one user interface .

Federated Search Engine

Desktop search (sometimes called *integrated search*) is the ability to simultaneously search multiple data sources — typically including the Internet and corporate intranets and databases as well as hard drives and removable storage on the user's computer — from a search term entered into a text box on the desktop. Desktop search programs create an index of files.

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