Evaluating Your Discovery Layer

Greg R. Notess
greg@notess.com
Montana State University Library
@notess
Evaluate What?

• Coverage
• Link Success
• Known Item Searches
Coverage

- Coverage
  - Catalog Content
  - Periodical Subscriptions
  - Databases
    - Citations Only
    - Abstracts & Subject Headings
    - Full Text
Techniques

• Get Unique Content from Each
  • Unusual Words
  • Phrases

• Search Discovery Layer
  • Found or Not?
Complexities

• If Found, From Where?
  • Publisher Site? (No A&I Info)
  • Aggregator
  • Unknown?

• Best Tests May Be
  • Older Records
  • Newest Records
  • Unique Content
Unique Content

• Be Sure to Look for
  • Unusual Content Types
  • SWOT Analyses
  • Company/Industry Profiles
  • Streaming Video/Audio
  • Images
  • Standards
  • Chemical Substances
Non-Owned Content

• Keep Eye Out for
  • Wrong Databases Selected
  • Wrong Years for Coverage
  • Items You Just Don’t Have
Results Evaluation

- Based on Randomized Searches (from Log)
  - Known Database Names
  - Known Items
  - Subject Searches
Known Database Names

• Database Recommender
• Only 4 of 21 work
• Work:
  • CINAHL, Compendex, IEEE, web of science
• What doesn’t?
  • ERIC, GeoRef, JSTOR, Sage, CQ, web of sciences, isi web of knowledge
Known Catalog Items

• On One Test of Known Catalog Items
• 2008: 4 worked, 1 not found
• 1998: 2 worked, 1 not found, 2 partial
• 1988: 1 worked, 2 not found
• Some not found were docs
Subject Searches

• 62 results from 3 searches
  • 52 labeled FT Available
  • 15 not found (29% failure rate)
  • 3 more print copy only
Rinse & Repeat

- 2-4 times/year?
- Coverage Changes
- Accuracy Changes
- Items Disappear and Appear
Questions?