Discovering Library Resources using WebFeat Express: Selection, Implementation, and Lessons Learned

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Background

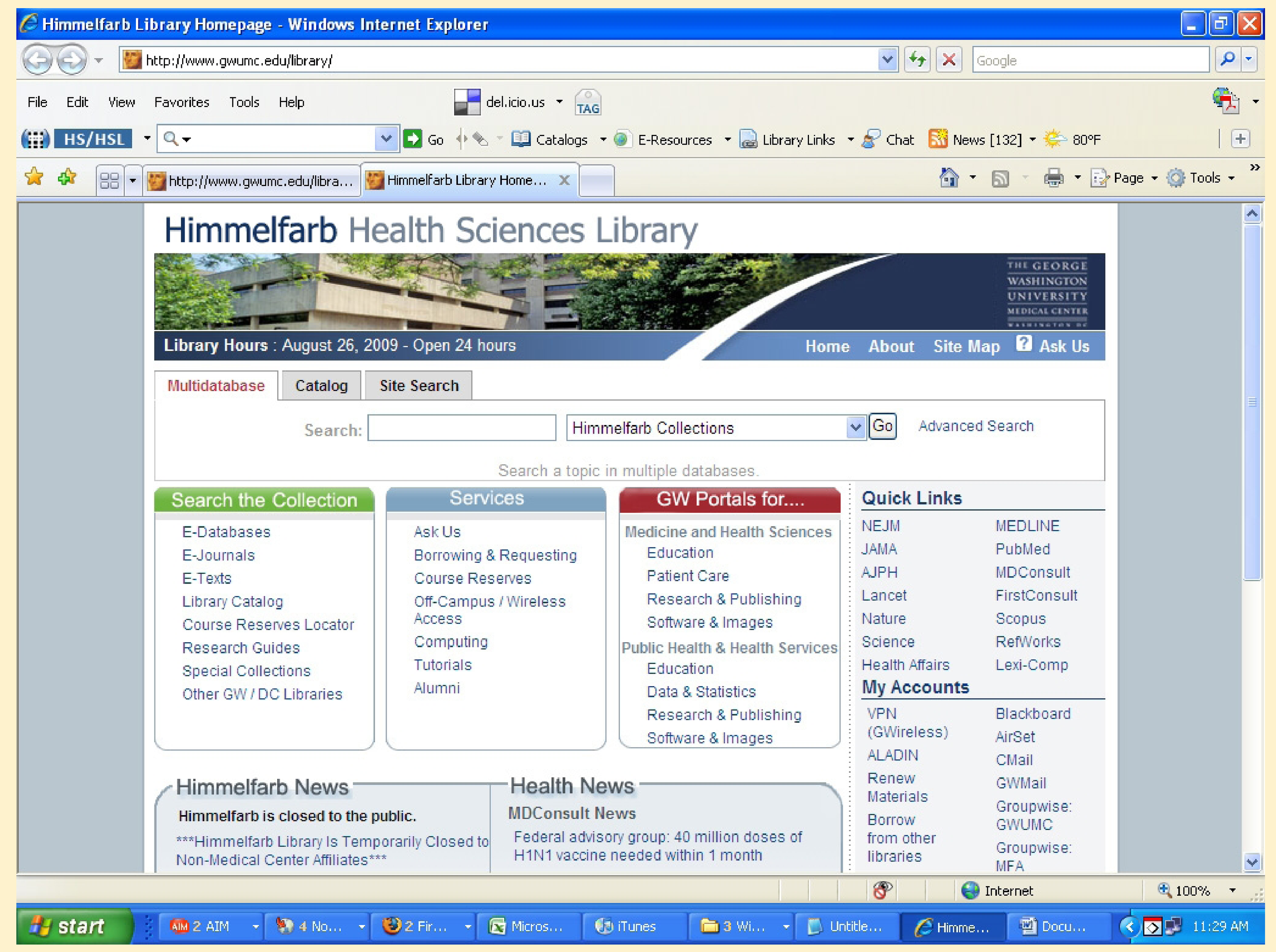
- A task force was formed in 2006 to investigate implementing a federated searching system at Himmelfarb Library.
- The team's task was to identify the most appropriate search tool, balancing cost and usability.
- Externally, the software for federated searching was increasing in availability and many libraries were choosing it as a discovery aid for library users.

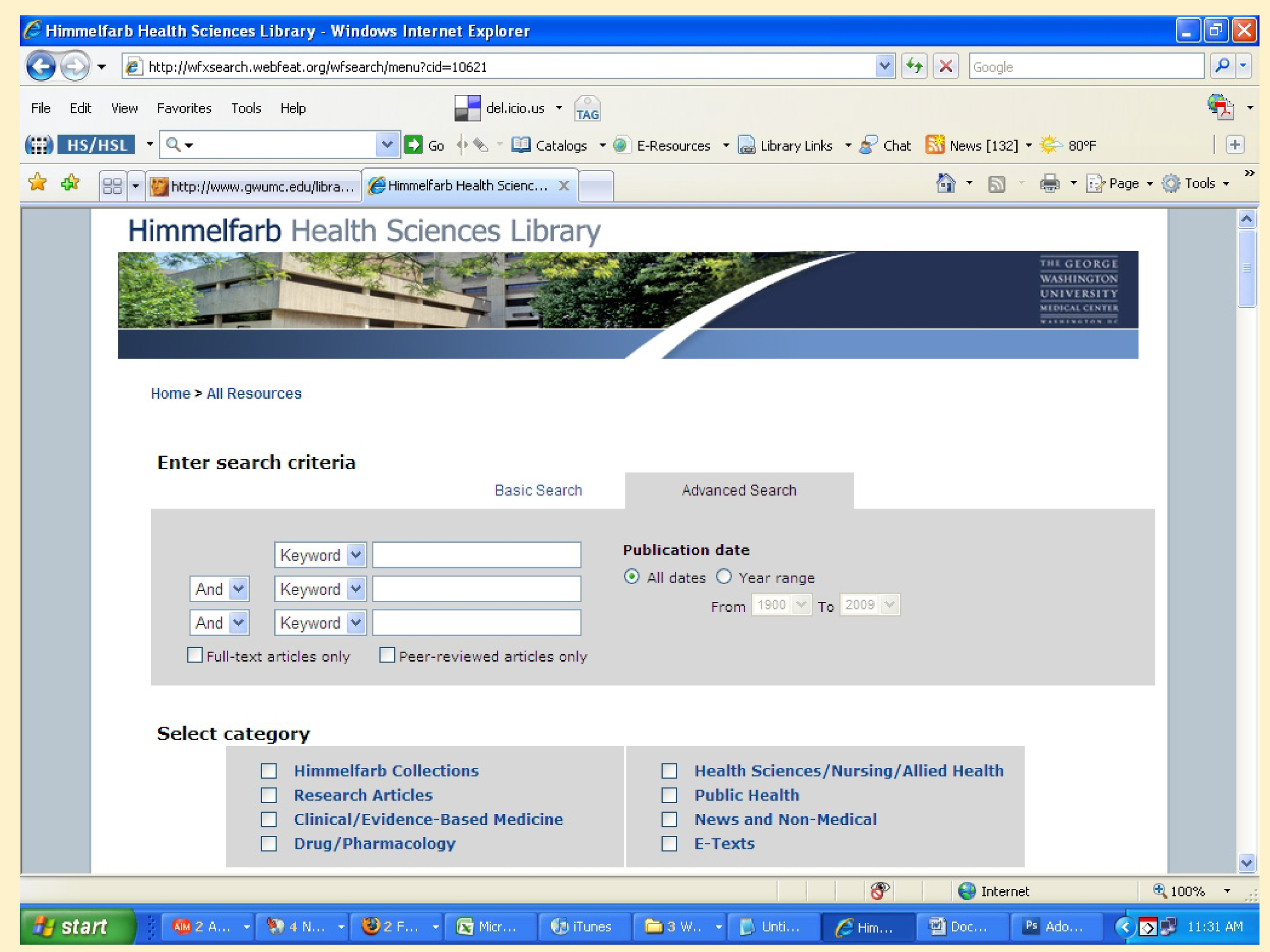
Selection of Federated Search Technology

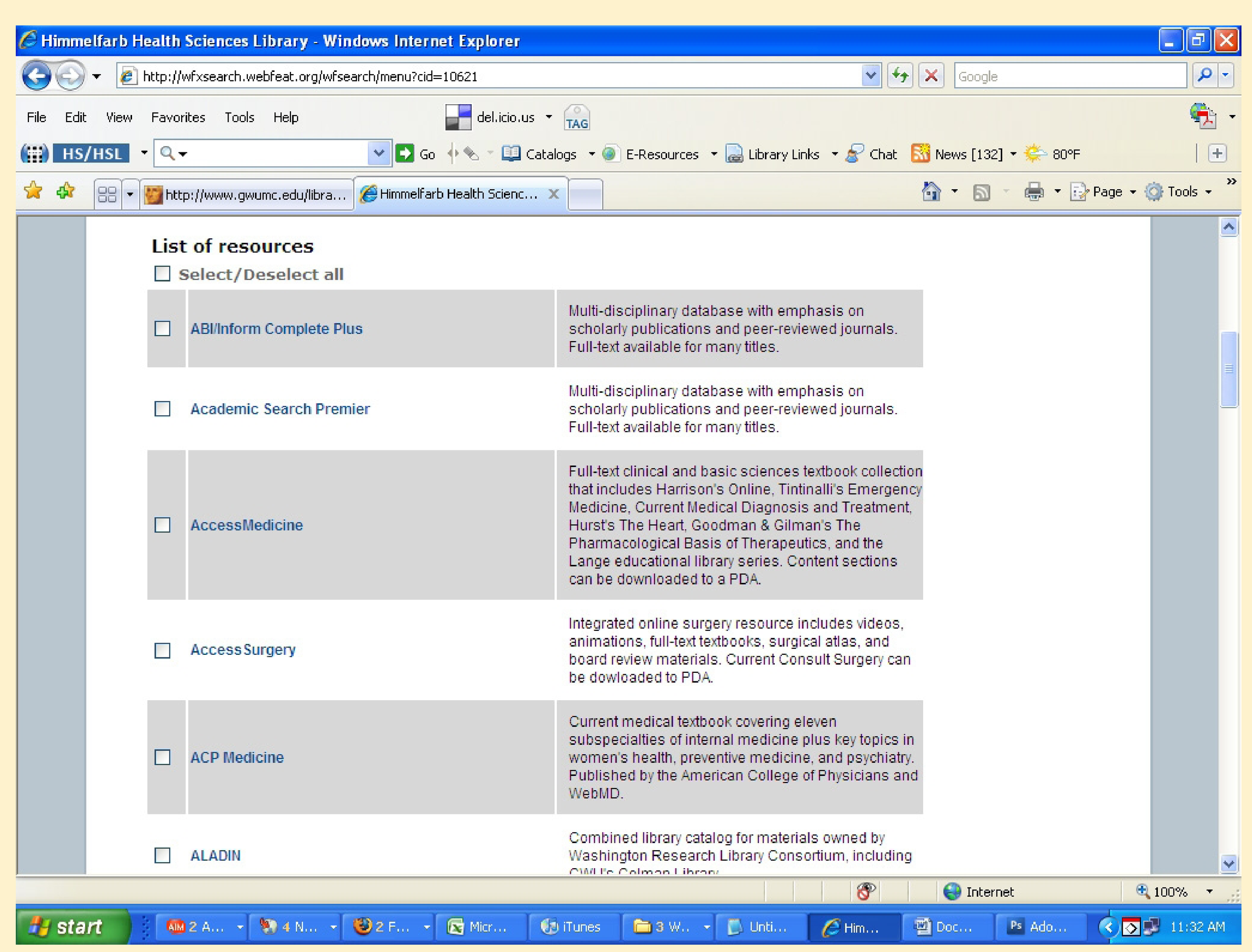
- After initial examination of possible systems, the committee focused on four systems: Metalib, Serials Solutions 360 Search, Swetswise Searcher and WebFeat Express.
- Desirable / required features included: an administrative website to customize the search interface, the ability to search an unlimited number of databases simultaneously, compatibility with the SFX link resolver, inclusion of catalog search results, a built-in thesaurus, and a large knowledgebase of translators.
- A worksheet of questions was answered for each system and demonstrations of each of the four systems were arranged so the committee could preview the software.
- Products were eliminated from consideration due to poor evaluations from libraries who had used the software, no U.S. installations, lack of an administrative control panel, and a low number of existing translators for resources in the Himmelfarb collection.
- In the end, the top two contenders were WebFeat Express and Serials Solutions. The committee weighed the advantages of selecting Serials Solutions (known vendor, good experience with other products) and WebFeat (administrative control panel, broader list of federated databases) and selected WebFeat.

Steps for Implementation

- The WebFeat implementation phase included customizing the search and results web pages to match the look and feel of the overall Himmelfarb website.
- WebFeat search boxes were incorporated into the development version of the Himmelfarb Library's homepage, E-databases, and E-texts pages.
- Forty databases/ full-text resources were selected for inclusion.
- A live demonstration of the customized software was given to library staff who were then asked to test the software and provide feedback regarding their search experience.
- Usability testing with GWUMC faculty and students was performed.
- Translators were integrated into the search profile when available and created when none existed. The process of obtaining translators for all databases took approximately two to three months.
- Numerous bugs were submitted to WebFeat support staff over the two to three month test period and all issues were subsequently resolved.

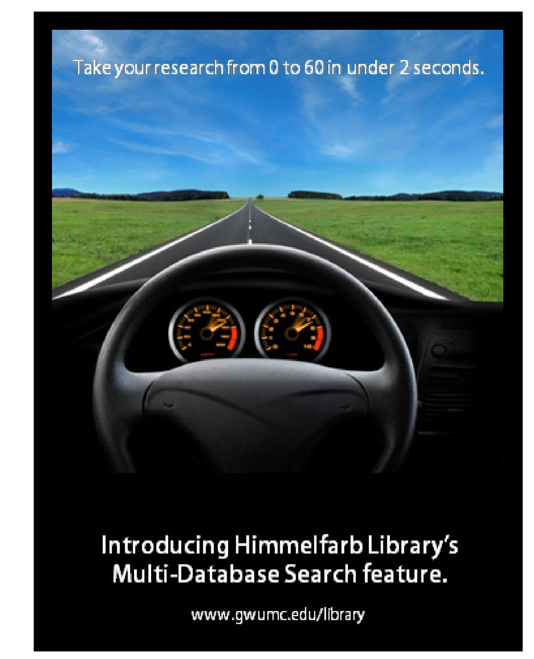

Himmelfarb Library Homepage - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.gwumc.edu/library/
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
Library Hours : August 26, 2009 - Open 24 hours
Home About Site Map Ask Us
Multidatabase Catalog Site Search
Search: Himmelfarb Collections Go Advanced Search
Search a topic in multiple databases.
Search the Collection
E-Databases
E-Journals
E-Texts
Library Catalog
Course Reserves Locator
Research Guides
Special Collections
Other GW / DC Libraries
Services
Ask Us
Borrowing & Requesting
Course Reserves
Off-Campus / Wireless Access
Computing
Tutorials
Alumni
GW Portals for....
Medicine and Health Sciences
Education
Patient Care
Research & Publishing
Software & Images
Public Health & Health Services
Education
Data & Statistics
Research & Publishing
Software & Images
Quick Links
NEJM MEDLINE
JAMA PubMed
AJPH MDConsult
Lancet FirstConsult
Nature Scopus
Science RefWorks
Health Affairs Lexi-Comp
My Accounts
VPN (GWireless) Blackboard
ALADIN AirSet
Renew Materials CMail
Borrow from other libraries GWMail
Groupwise: GWUMC
Groupwise: MFA
Himmelfarb News
Himmelfarb is closed to the public.
Himmelfarb Library Is Temporarily Closed to Non-Medical Center Affiliates
Health News
MDConsult News
Federal advisory group: 40 million doses of H1N1 vaccine needed within 1 month


Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library - Windows Internet Explorer
http://wfxsearch.webfeat.org/wfsearch/menu?cid=10621
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
Home > All Resources
Enter search criteria
Basic Search
Advanced Search
Keyword
And Keyword
And Keyword
Full-text articles only
Peer-reviewed articles only
Publication date
All dates Year range
From 1900 To 2009
Select category
Himmelfarb Collections
Research Articles
Clinical/Evidence-Based Medicine
Drug/Pharmacology
Health Sciences/Nursing/Allied Health
Public Health
News and Non-Medical
E-Texts


Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library - Windows Internet Explorer
http://wfxsearch.webfeat.org/wfsearch/menu?cid=10621
List of resources
Select/Deselect all
ABI/Inform Complete Plus
Multi-disciplinary database with emphasis on scholarly publications and peer-reviewed journals. Full-text available for many titles.
Academic Search Premier
Multi-disciplinary database with emphasis on scholarly publications and peer-reviewed journals. Full-text available for many titles.
AccessMedicine
Full-text clinical and basic sciences textbook collection that includes Harrison's Online, Tintinalli's Emergency Medicine, Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment, Hurst's The Heart, Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, and the Lange educational library series. Content sections can be downloaded to a PDA.
AccessSurgery
Integrated online surgery resource includes videos, animations, full-text textbooks, surgical atlas, and board review materials. Current Consult Surgery can be dowloaded to PDA.
ACP Medicine
Current medical textbook covering eleven subspecialties of internal medicine plus key topics in women's health, preventive medicine, and psychiatry. Published by the American College of Physicians and WebMD.
ALADIN
Combined library catalog for materials owned by Washington Research Library Consortium, including

Marketing WebFeat to Users

- Posters were hung throughout the Himmelfarb Library and Ross Hall, as well as in the George Washington University Hospital.
- Live demonstrations of the tool were given in January to all MSI PCL classes and half page flyers were placed in MS II mailboxes.
- Emails promoting the multidatabase tool were sent out through student, faculty, and resident listservs as well as via the library liaison emails.
- Classes/ demos of searching WebFeat were conducted with faculty and students.
- Himmelfarb Library news blog and newsletter entries were also used to promote the tool.


Take your research from 0 to 60 in under 2 seconds.
Introducing Himmelfarb Library's Multi-Database Search feature.
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We've merged your favorite research databases into one search location.
Himmelfarb Library introduces Multi-Database searching.
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Evaluation and Lessons Learned

- Following rollout, both verbal and emailed feedback was low. Anecdotal feedback that was received suggested that the discovery of e-texts was among WebFeat's greatest strengths.
- The strength of the tool in facilitating the discovery of e-texts was further supported by student feedback in PCL sessions and in statistical reports.
- The top five databases with the highest total search numbers from January - May 2009 were Ebrary, MDConsult, Scopus, Books@Ovid, and AccessMedicine.
- Other statistical reports over the same time period show an average of 92.5 searches per day, with a minimum of 18 searches occurring on 1/20/09, (Inauguration Day), and a maximum of 249 searches occurring on 04/13/09.

Going Forward

- We will continue to monitor vendor news updates regarding the next version of the Serial Solutions 360 Search product which is reported to combine the best features from WebFeat and the Serials Solutions 360 Search product.
- In addition, we will be monitoring the new Summon product from Serials Solutions and comparing it to the federated search software.
- We will continue to incorporate WebFeat into other library resources such as LibGuides where appropriate and provide instruction about the tool as new students and faculty arrive at GWUMC.