UKOLN

Assessing requirements for searches

Aims Of This Exercise

This exercise is intended for use in a hands-on exercise and in discussion groups.

1.1 Looking at search facilties available

For first 15 minutes, go to several web sites (at least 3), some that you know and others that you don't (include a large corporation such as a drug or industrial company and a government site), and try their search facility (and see if you can find out what it is). Ensure you look at at least one HE site in the UK and try one of

http://www.umich.edu/

http://www.harvard.edu/ (compare both searches)

http://www.unc.edu/ or

http://www.stanford.edu/)

For the following 15 minutes, get together in your group and discuss the following:

• What are the 3 main requirements for a search facility for **your** site?

• Identify some problems you saw in the site searches you looked at. How could you attempt to avoid them? Are there any other problems with searches that you have come across?

• Search Engine Saturation Check (http://www.marketleap.com/siteindex/). Enter your URL and learn how many pages are listed with various search engines.