Access to Your Search Engine

Aims Of This Exercise

This exercise is intended for hands-on / discussion group use. The aims of the exercise are to identify the different ways in which institutional search engines can be accessed and to consider the issues involved in widening the access.

1.1   The OMNI Interface to Search Engines

Go to the URL <`http://www.omni.ac.uk/other-search/`>. Experiment with the search engines which are accessible from this page.

What are the advantages in providing this type of interface to subject-specific search engines?

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1.2   LSE's Interface to Global Search Engines

Go to the URL <`http://www.lse.ac.uk/INTERNET/`>. Scroll down to the heading labelled **Why not search the Net straight away?** Use the search engines available from beneath this heading.

What are the advantages in providing this type of interface to global search engines?

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1.3   Unis4ne Interface to Institutional Search Engines in the North East

Go to the URL <`http://www.unis4ne.ac.uk/webadmin/search.htm`>. Use this interface to search a single University. Then use the interface to search the Durham and Sunderland University web sites.

What are the advantages in providing this type of interface to institutional search engines?

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Group Discussion

In either a group or with a neighbour discuss the following issues.

Users may visit your web site and use the search engine to find resources on your web site. However there may be advantages in distributing the interface to your search engine. What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing this?   Would you encourage this type of access?

What recommendations do you have?