On-the-fly Metalib Search Forms -- Anywhere, Anytime!

by

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University of Northern Iowa

- Founded in 1876
- 1 of 3 state universities
- Located in Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Current Enrollment 12,824
  - 11,220 undergrad
  - 1604 grad
- More than 120 undergrad majors
Rod Library

- Rod Library – (1964)
- 20 lib, 36 sup, 71 stud
- 1 million volumes
- $5,994,015 annual budget
- ILS – Innovative Interfaces since 1989
- Link Resolver – Ex Libris SFX
- Federated Search – Ex Libris Metalib
- 165 significant research databases
Pathway to Metalib

*Not a silver bullet,*
*just another tool.*
Pathway to Metalib

Integration and ease of use are essential.

Complexity is the enemy.
Integration with Library Gateway

- Purple Searchbar
- Journal and Magazine Articles
- Fields of Study
- Databases A-Z
- Find Database
Additional Integration

- Campus Portal - MyUNIverse
- Library Instruction
- WebCT
WebCT Issues

- Not under library control
- Needs vary from class to class
- Needs vary from semester to semester
- Demand: just in time
- Internal or external to WebCT?
Our Solution

- Self-service Form Generator
- Can be generated anytime
- Can be placed anywhere
Form Generator

- Demonstrate creating a form and all of the output and preview options.
Form Generator

- Demonstrate form already loaded into WebCT.
How it works

Database of Metasearchable Databases

Input Form

OUTPUT

```html
<html>
<head>
<title>Panther Prowler Search (Customized)</title>
<script language=JavaScript1.2>
function encode_searchterm(stringin)
{ encoded_term = ";
for (i=0; i<stringin.length; i++)
{ if (stringin.charCodeAt(i) == 32) {encoded_term += "%20";}
else if (stringin.charCodeAt(i) == 47) {encoded_term += "%2F";}
else if (stringin.charCodeAt(i) ==
```
How it works a different view

Generate.php

Begin

display input form {
    get_database_list;
    build_form
    display
}

on_submit

Build output form{
    capture input;
    build html output code;
    display output options [print | preview | save | edit]
}

End
# The Database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Name</th>
<th>Metalib Resource ID</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABI/Inform Global</td>
<td>NIA00724</td>
<td><a href="http://0-www.umi.com.uni.edu/pqdauto?COPT=REJTPIM@">http://0-www.umi.com.uni.edu/pqdauto?COPT=REJTPIM@</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Input Form

<input TYPE="checkbox" NAME="checkNIA00724" SIZE="1">


>ABI/Inform Global</a>
The Output Form

- function encode_searchterm ()
  – Properly encodes search terms for use in a url
- function sendForm ()
  – Builds a url that is submitted directly to the metalib server

Java script does the work at the clients browser
The Building Blocks

- Apache (web server)
- Php (server side-scripting language)
- Javascript (client side-scripting language)
- Html (markup language)
- Css (style sheets)
- Programmer (genius)
Getting the Data From Metalib

- Export KB as a Spreadsheet
  OR
- Lookup up individual Databases
Export KB as a Spreadsheet 2

Note: Last update of vir00 : 4/06/2007 2:31:51

Reports
- KnowledgeBase Report
- MetaLib Search Queries

Statistics
- KnowledgeBase Resources
- MetaLib Search Statistics
- QuickSet Search Statistics
- Resource Categories/Resource Locator Usage
- Number of Daily Sessions
- User Records Statistics
- Links to Native Interface

MAIN MENU
Export KB as a Spreadsheet 3
Parting Thoughts

- Metalib LinkGenerator by Stephen Elfstrand from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
  http://lib3.uwec.edu/systems/MetalibLinkGenerator/index.html
Thank You

http://www.library.uni.edu/lms_formgen/generate.php
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