METALIB REVIEW – 2 YEARS ON: THE LIBRARIAN’S PERSPECTIVE

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Why Metalib?

- Federated searching facility
- Modern look and approach, unlike this ...

Welcome to Electronic Resources

From September 2007 all access to E-Resources will be via MetLib.

- Electronic Journals (including A-Z list)
- Electronic Databases
- Electronic Newspapers
- Electronic Books
- Maps and Spatial Data
- Online Reading Lists
- Electronic Resources Trials
- Voyager
- Useful Links: other libraries in the region, online catalogues, and directories and timetables.
- Exam Papers
Why Metalib?

- Greater functionality
- Better promotion
- Good portal to our data
- Branded name:-

![MetaLib](https://example.com/metalib.png)
From design to implementation

- Project team
- Design and functionality – differences of opinion
- Pre-launch pilot and evaluation
- What did our customers want?
The answer to all our prayers?

- Not quite!
- Managing expectations
- One size does not fit all
- The Metalib ‘brand’
The Metalib experience

- Fear of change and the unknown
- Too many choices?
The Metalib experience

- Librarians versus everyone else!
- Limitations:-
  - Poor metadata from publishers/suppliers
  - No standardisation of search strategy across the databases
  - See more but get less

IGeLU Conference 2009, Helsinki, Finland, 6-9th September
Marketing and promotion

- ONE search, MANY resources, ALL the results
Marketing and promotion

- Roll up, roll up – have we got a show for you!
Marketing and promotion

- Named and shamed in the University magazine!
Metalib survey

- Method or mayhem?
- Core issues:-
  - Too many logins
  - Time out period too short
  - Difficult to use – general misunderstanding
  - Full-text is king
  - Metalib results – how it returns and ranks
  - Broken links
  - Training
Two years on ..... 

 What has worked well?:-
  • The Metalib brand
  • Good platform for e-resource promotion
  • Flexibility
  • Federated searching

 What hasn’t?:-
  • Too many choices – too much confusion
  • Customisation
  • Federated searching
So what of the future?

- ‘Dumbing down’ in a ‘good enough’ culture
- One interface, one search – the new ‘URM’?
- No more ‘wading through treacle’
- Quality metadata
- Getting the right balance
- Testing, testing ...1,2,3
Thank you!

Any questions?