What is Web Scale Discovery and How Does it Work?

What is web-scale discovery and how does it work?

ABCD-library meeting:
Monday, November 18, 2013
3:30p.m.-5:00p.m. Lamont Forum Room

Synopsis: The Harvard Library is currently evaluating options for a new web-scale discovery system. In support of this effort, this meeting focused on the technical aspects of WSD systems. Laura Morse, Paul Deschner, Corinna Baksik, and Emily Singley presented.

Topics:
- What is Web Scale Discovery (Emily Singley)
- How does Discovery work at Harvard (Corinna Baksik)
- Current and emerging WSD standards: The NISO Open Discovery Initiative (Laura Morse)
- Stack Life, a discovery tool built by the Harvard Library Innovation Lab (Paul Deschner)

Slides and Recording

Slides
WebEx recording

Notes

Definition of web scale discovery: a large, pre-harvested aggregate index of mostly journal article content that is searchable by a "next-gen" interface

Implementation of web scale discovery services: either as a single search box with single results list, or in a "bento box": splitting results by format (local library "print" collection/aggregate index journal articles)

Discovery at Harvard: demonstration and technical explanation of different search and discovery systems at Harvard, including Find it at Harvard (SFX), E-Research (Metalib), Metalib+ (Primo Central Index), HOLLIS, HOLLIS Classic, and more

Some interoperability challenges with siloed systems: open URL

Demonstration of Harvard trials of both EDS and Summon

Discussion of the NISO working group's Open Discovery Initiative: In order for libraries to be able to effectively compare and evaluate vendor discovery systems, more openness is needed between vendors.

Demonstration and technical background of StackLife, a application built by the Harvard Library Innovation Lab that allows users to browse all HOLLIS records in shelf order

How StackLife calculates a "StackScore" number data to indicate relevance to the community: data includes how often a work has been checked out and by whom (faculty, graduate student, etc)