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## Comparisons of the strengths and weakness of the available commercial discovery tools

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# Comparisons of the strengths and weakness of the available commercial discovery services

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# Basic requirements for discovery tools



- Easiest place to start the research process
- Simultaneous search through multiple data sources (library catalogues, databases, ebooks, libguides...)
- Global search index instead of federated searches
- Hosted instead of local installation ( human resources for IT are often limited)



# Main criteria analysis for a discovery tool



1. First, it should enable our users to explore the full extent of the library resources, and offer relevant content within these resources (*content and relevance*)
2. Second it should offer simple and powerful search capabilities – faceted navigation (*search functions*)
3. Third, search results should be attractive and allow the user to interact efficiently with them (*interface*)
4. Simple system administration (*administration*)



# Four commercial discovery tools will be compared

1. EBSCO Discovery Service (EBSCO)
2. Summon : (Serial solutions – Proquest)
3. Primo Central (Exlibris)
4. WorldCat local (OCLC)

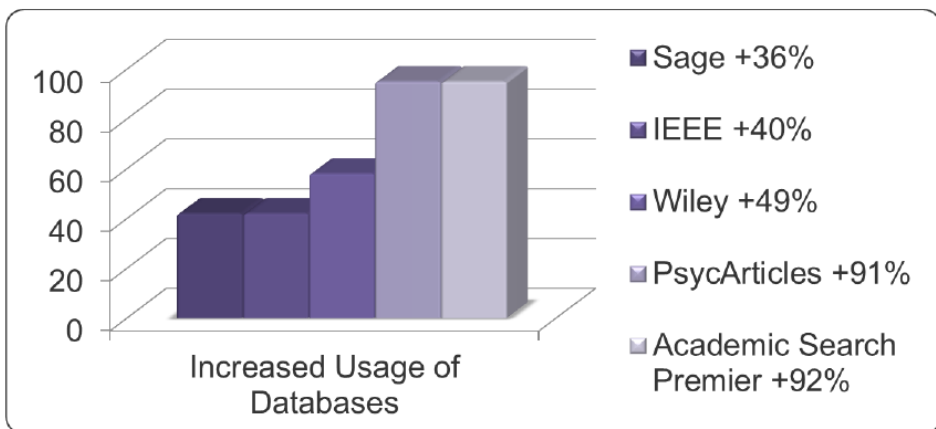


	<i>Content and relevance</i>	<i>Search functions</i>	<i>Interface</i>	<i>administration</i>
<b>EDS</b> <i>(EBSCO)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☹ EBSCO Databases content (Global Search index), Connectors for other databases ( federated research)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☹ Weakness of EDS's faceted navigation (impossible to keep selected facets when performing a new search)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Friendly interface (widgets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☹ Problematic upload of the catalog data</li> </ul>
<b>Summon</b> <i>(Serial Solutions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ One Global index : Rich up to date content for articles , no federated research</li> <li>☺ Relevance ranking satisfactory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Fast search</li> <li>☺ « Database recommender » and « did you mean » are appreciated</li> <li>☺ Faceted navigation appreciated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☹ Advanced research less friendly and intuitive than EDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Usage statistics available</li> <li>☹ Not directly compatible with the existing link solver</li> <li>☹ No Web 2.0 functionalities</li> </ul>



	<i>Content and relevance</i>	<i>Search functions</i>	<i>Interface</i>	<i>administration</i>
<b>Primo Central</b> <i>(Exlibris)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ☹️ No central index ( catalog on one side and Primo central index)</li> <li>▪ ☹️ Relevance ranking is unsatisfactory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ☹️ Primo Central don't de – duplicate the results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ☹️ No export BibTex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ☹️ Poor customization</li> </ul>
<b>Worldcat Local</b> <i>(OCLC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 😊 Excellent database for books</li> <li>▪ ☹️ Central index limited, often federated research</li> <li>▪ Less journals articles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 😊 More sort options than the other one</li> <li>▪ ☹️ Slow search</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 😊 Well designed facets</li> <li>▪ 😊 Pleasant display of results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 😊 Web 2.0 fonctionnalités</li> </ul>

# The most popular in USA: Summon



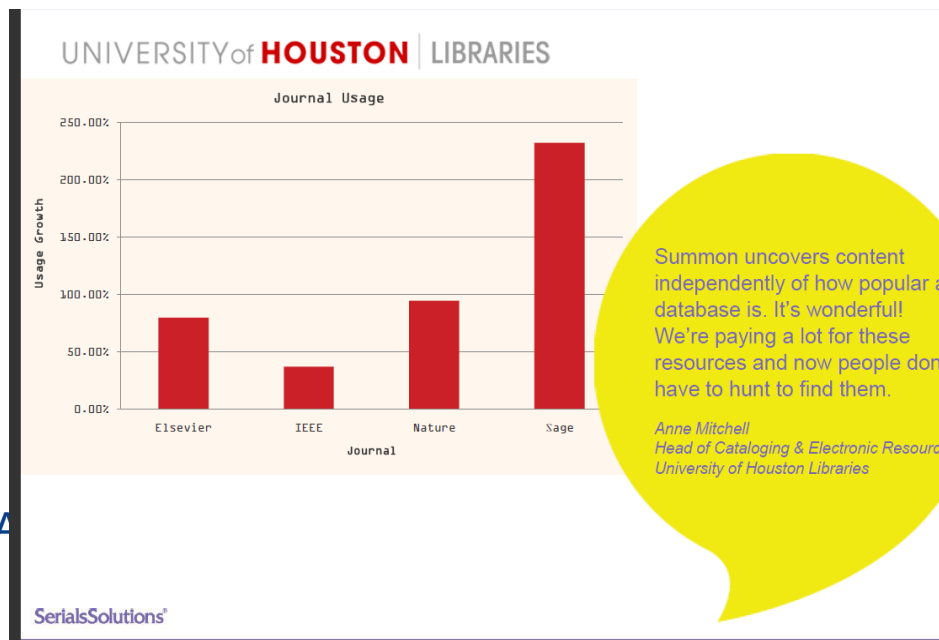
LexisNexus up 642%

JSTOR up 146%



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Summon uncovers content independently of how popular a database is. It's wonderful! We're paying a lot for these resources and now people don't have to hunt to find them.

Anne Mitchell  
Head of Cataloging & Electronic Resources  
University of Houston Libraries



# In conclusion, for discussion

No suitable candidats : severe shortcomings found in all products (*Mancton university Canada, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Swizerland*)

- With this study , we realized that we're not players in the discovery game – We're pawns !  
Web can't foresee a time when the major database vendors will find it profitable to combine their metadata for our benefit
- It's an end-user tool, not a replacement for any databases or OPAC.

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## Diapositive 8

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Terminer par une ouverture sur le futur : les hubs de metadonnées au niveau national ( ABES en France... ) ?

colette.cadiou; 20/07/2012