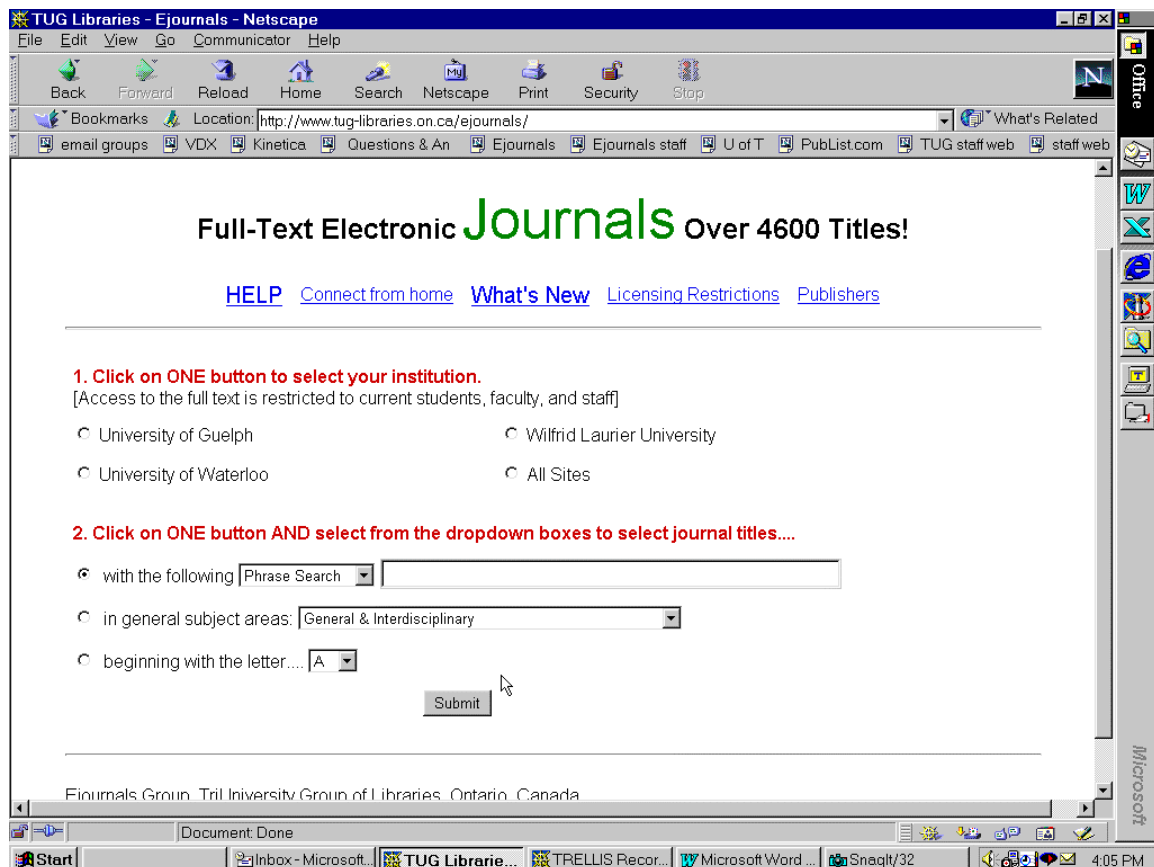


OLA 2001

Co-operative Ejournal Web Page Development: A Consortium's Experience

Dynamically generated, interactive Ejournal Web pages developed and maintained consortially by the University of Guelph, University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University



URLs:

TriUniversity Group of Libraries

<http://www.tug-libraries.on.ca/>

University of Guelph

<http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/>

University of Waterloo

<http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/>

Wilfrid Laurier University

<http://www.wlu.ca/academic/library.shtml/>

BACKGROUND: TUG AND THE MOVE TO ONE EJOURNALS WEB PAGE

The TriUniversity Group of Libraries (TUG) comprises the libraries at the University of Guelph, University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada.

Although TUG had co-operated on a number of consortial purchases of electronic resources, until 1999 each institution maintained separate Web pages listing ejournals. With the rapid growth of ejournals, it was clear that separate "hand coded" Web pages were becoming problematic. Instead of duplicating effort at each institution, it was apparent that TUG should work together towards one common shared solution. In 1999, a small group of interested staff formed the TUG Ejournals Group.

The TUG Ejournals Group is comprised of 1-2 librarians from each institution, a systems librarian for technical support and a library assistant for updating the common Excel spreadsheet and Web interface.

Each librarian in the group works on behalf of their own institution, identifying new ejournals, contacting publishers, working with their acquisitions departments to purchase access, and providing required information to the assistant to update the pages.

Working as a group we benefit from sharing information such as publisher offerings and new titles and divide up some tasks (eg. updating which full text journals are available through indexes such as ABI). We use student help to handle some of the "fill in the gap" projects such as checking the NewJour listserv and providing information to the appropriate librarians, checking for URL and holdings changes, etc.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- High statistics: if you build it, they will come!
- Fluidity of the process: we'll never get it perfect, just get it close for today!
- Cooperation keeps it running
- It's not simple: Registration woes with publishers, licences, aggregators,

FROM EXCEL TO WEB: THE PROCESS

1. An Excel file, with very specific formatting guidelines for each cell, is the primary tool for maintaining the "raw data". Librarians provide this information to the assistant who updates the Excel file and runs the indexing process. She also sends information to other departments to update the OPAC and proxy servers.

The information (cells) that we require about each title:
Alphabetical letter / URL / title / publisher(s) & aggregator (eg. Catchword)/ holdings of full text / Access restrictions / subjects

The subjects currently used are:

| | |
|--|---|
| Agriculture & Life Sciences | Health Sciences, Optometry & Veterinary Science |
| Earth Sciences, Environmental Studies, & Geography | Humanities, Fine Arts & Architecture |
| Business, Economics & Accounting | Mathematics |
| Engineering & Computer Science | Physical Sciences |
| General & Interdisciplinary | Social Sciences & Psychology |
| Government, Law & Political Science | |

We are in the process of developing a more detailed subject list.

2. The Excel file is saved as a tab delimited file, which is uploaded to Unix. A perl program generates an XML formatted file and runs the indexing process. The XML file is indexed using Opentext software which allows searching on any field or combination of fields in the XML records. What users see is the TUG Ejournal Web page (cover sheet).

NEXT STEPS: ENHANCEMENTS NEEDED AFTER ONE YEAR

1. Developing more detailed subject headings
2. Clarifying licensing issues for Interlibrary loan: developing a list of publishers and copies of licenses with restrictions about using e-journals to fill ILL requests
3. Linking in specific URLs for the full text journals in ABI
4. Surveying our users: possible Web page redesign?
5. Evaluating alternatives to Open Text software (Zope, JAKE, Cold Fusion)
6. Evaluating the way we store our data- do we need to move to a relational database to incorporate information stored on other files (publisher lists, ILL licensing, cost information, usage statistics)?

CONTACT US! THE TUG EJOURNALS GROUP IS:

Send an email to the entire group at Tug-EJ@library.uwaterloo.ca

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