Database Roundup: the View from the Cheap Seats

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Background

- Millennium ILS and OPAC implemented, 2008
  - Replaced DRA Classic
- Millennium ERM implemented, 2009
  - Replaced a variety of html pages, excel files, and manila folders

Some Government Resources

- Traditionally included in the Database A-Z list
  - Usually just the major resources
- The first deeplinks
  - The various subsets of PubMed
  - Driven by an observation from a member of the Nursing faculty

Why do I have to go to UT to use PubMed Nursing?

Underlying ideas for the population of ERM records

Users

- do not know the proper names of resources
- do not know what makes up a resource
- do not know what a resource can do
- do not know “free” from “fee”

So the ERM should

- use as many alternative names as necessary
- use deeplinks when relevant
- provide descriptions
- interfile licensed and open access resources

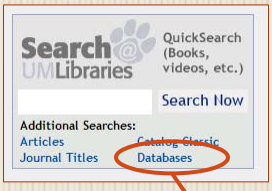
Snippet of the Old Databases A-Z List from the UofM

	Open Access	Description	Guide
American Memory: Collections of the Library of Congress			
American Song (includes African-American Song)	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
American Religions, Encyclopedia of (Part of the Gale Virtual Reference Library)	UM/RODP only	Description	
American Slavery : A Composite Autobiography	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
Ancient Egypt, Oxford Encyclopedia of the (For off-campus access, link through Oxford Reference Online)	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
Animal Behavior Abstracts	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
Applied Science & Technology Full Text (Part of Wilson Omnifile Mega)	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
APS (American Physical Society) Journals and PROLA (Physical Review Online Archive)	UM Only	Description	Guide
Art Index Retrospective See also: Art Full Text (Part of Wilson Omnifile Mega)	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
Art Full Text See also: Art Index Retrospective (Part of Wilson Omnifile Mega)	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
Art Full Text and Art Index Retrospective Search both together	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
ArticleFirst	UM/RODP Only	Description	Guide
Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Part of Web of Science, part of Web of Knowledge (formerly AHSearch)	UM Only	Description	
ArXiv.org e-Prints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and			

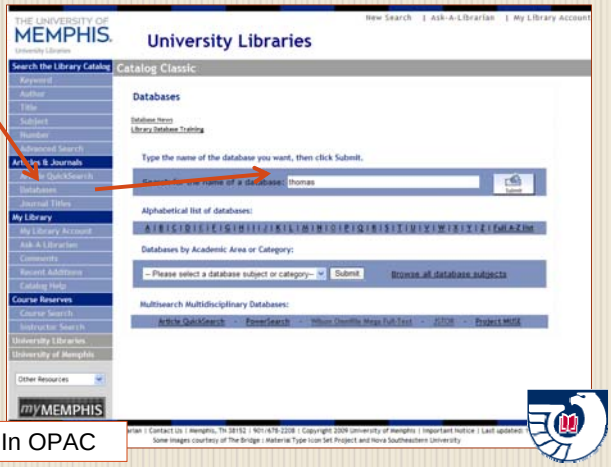
Its characteristics

- In HTML
- Required a clunky and hard-to-use HTML editor
- Required users to know what they wanted before they could find it
- Grew longer and longer

The replacement, or what's available now



On home page

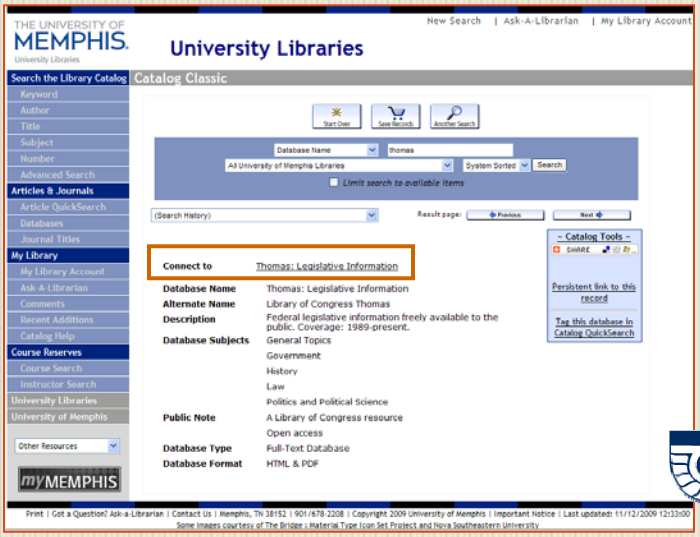


In OPAC

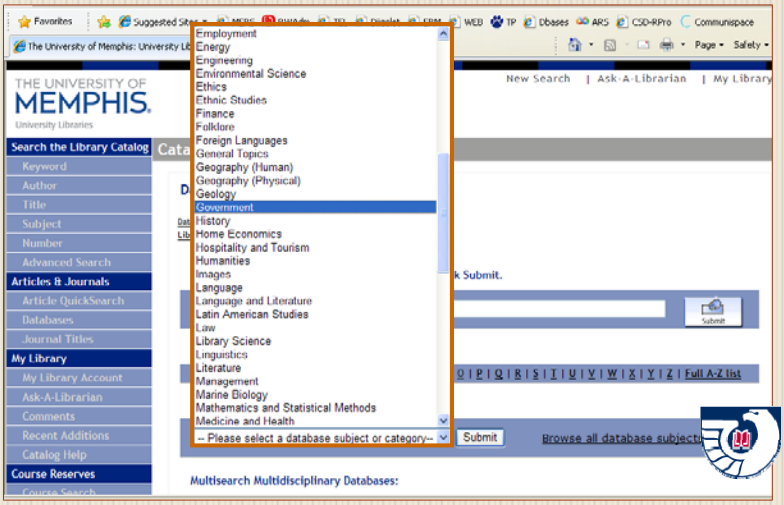
http://www.memphis.edu/libraries/

http://bibliotech.memphis.edu/search~S4/y

Searching on a name takes users to a record with a connecting link



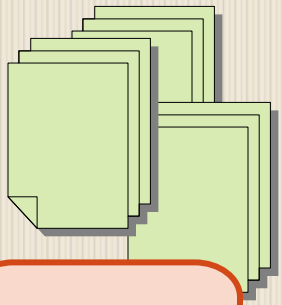
Assigned subject/concept terms allow users to retrieve lists



Lists

indicate the number of resources, with descriptions that let browsing users know the sort of thing they'll be accessing when they connect to resources

Preparations



So, how'd you make this happen?

Creating templates in the ERM

Inputting the government resources we'd already been including in the A-Z

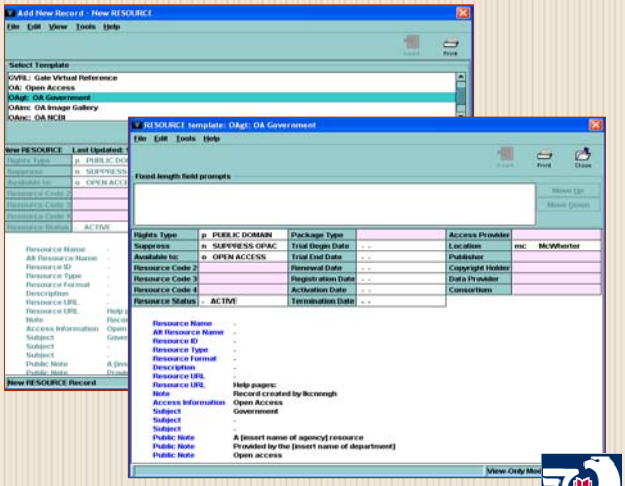
Selecting new resources for inclusion

A Template

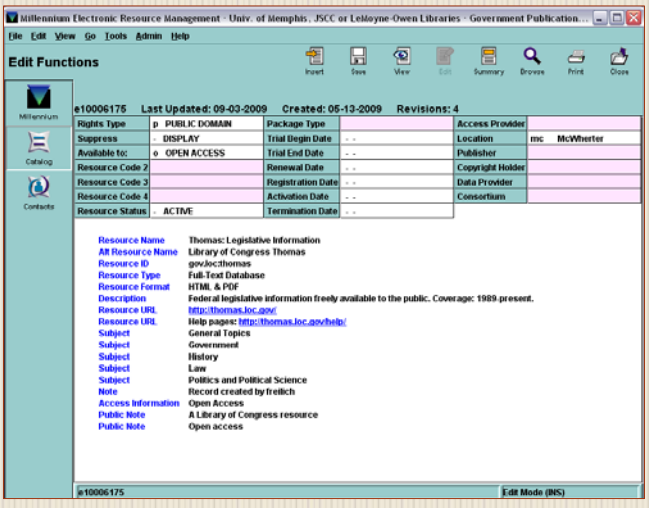
Allows text in both fixed-length and variable-length fields to be repeated across records

Various O/A templates were created:

- OA Government
- OA Image Gallery
- OA NCBI



Completed Resource Record for Thomas



Earthquake Hazard Program About Resource

This database from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center provides basic earthquake data from around the world, both current and historical.

A USGS resource

GeoBase About Resource

Indexes the worldwide literature in geology, geography, and ecology. Includes journals, books, conferences, reports. Coverage: 1980-.

A FirstSearch database

Geology of National Parks: 3D and Photographic Tours About Resource

Browse both 3D and standard photographic images of the United States National Parks. Selected field guides available. Subjects include igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks; weathering; glacier, coastal, and stream valley landforms; features of deserts and caverns; forests and plants; animals; native and prehistoric cultures; and man-made features. See the disclaimer accompanying each image for possible permissions considerations.

The 3D images require red and cyan 3D glasses for viewing.

GeoRefs About Resource

From the American Geological Institute. Indexes the geosciences--geology and earth sciences. Worldwide in scope. Includes articles, books, maps, conference papers, reports. Coverage: North America, 1785-; international, 19

A FirstSearch Database

Landsat Image Gallery

Online archive of space-based moderate-resolution land remote

Coverage: past 40 years.

Provided by the U.S. Geological Survey

Marine Geology and GeoPhysics Images: Visualizing Data

Source of images, including animations and 3D, of the ocean fl regions, the Great Lakes, seafloor topography, and natural and

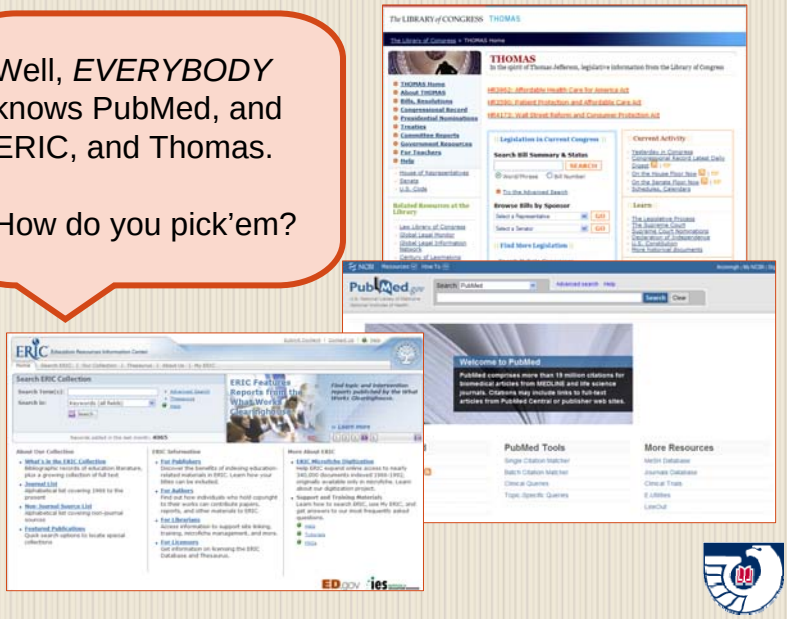
Provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrati Geophysical Data Center

List for resources in Geology—with commercial and government resources interfiled

"WOW, I didn't know we had *LandSat*…"
--UofM Faculty Member

Well, *EVERYBODY* knows PubMed, and ERIC, and Thomas.

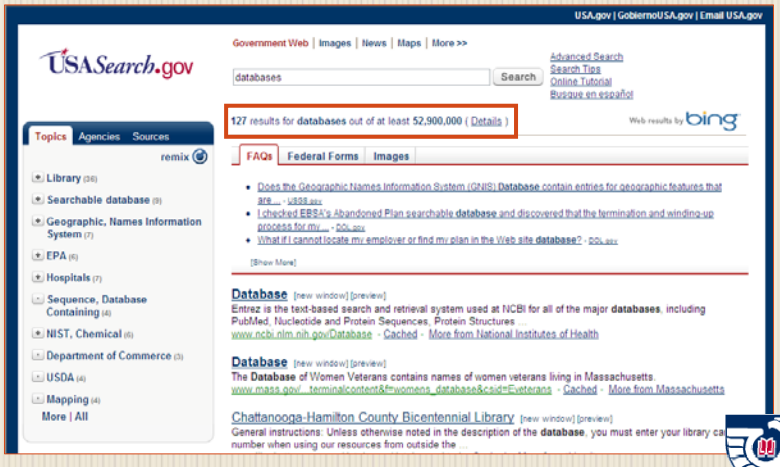
How do you pick'em?



Considerations for Selection

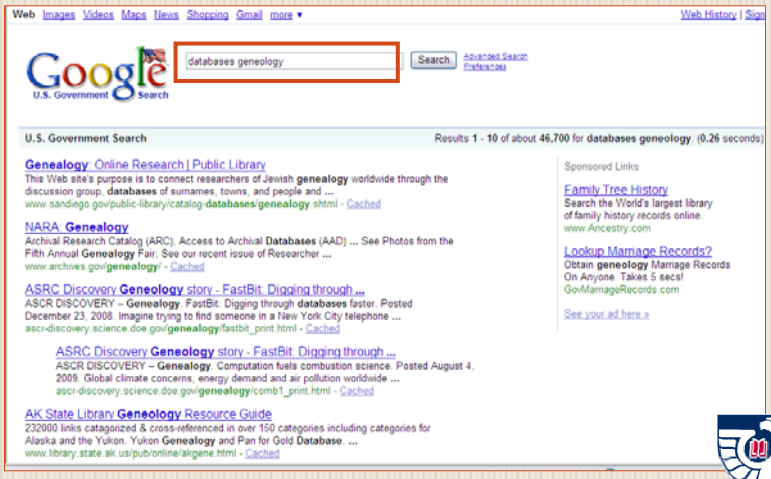
- Databases that support UofM academic programs
- Major agency databases would lead to others (e.g. EPA & Census)
- USA*Search*.gov & Google Unclesam
- Local & state interests
- Listings from other libraries
- Wonderful/interesting/unusual databases to include
- Datasets

Finding Government Databases



http://usasearch.gov/

Finding Gov't Databases, Con't.



http://www.google.com/unclesam

Datasets?

- *A data set (or dataset) is a collection of interrelated data, usually presented in tabular form. It is comprised of separate data elements stored, retrieved, and organized as a unit.*

- Examples:
  - National Map Seamless Server
  - Substance Abuse Treatment Episode Dataset
  - NASA –GISS Surface Temperature Analysis
  - CDC – AIDS Public Information
  - USDA – Web Games for Healthy Kids

Maintenance Issues

- No uniform standards among agencies
- Technology differences among agencies
- Interface/Browser/Software upgrades (Gates Syndrome)
- Vigilance
- Agencies do not always/never report database existence to Government Printing Office

From here, where?

- Maintaining the records
  - Changing URLs, modifying descriptions
- Keeping the lists current
  - Adding and removing resources
- Actively teaching users

For users, the discovery of databases through an online catalog requires more than what is involved with finding the location of a book on the shelf.
There will be "costs" involved in enabling them to "fall over resources," whether those resources are free or not, because any resource will be far more involved and complicated than a book.

Some of Our Favorites

- Agricultural Image Database
- American Memory Photos
- FBI
- Household Products Database
- National Atlas
- Land Patent

For further information:

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  THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS. University Libraries

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