Discovery Analysis Task Force
Minutes 12/5/14

Action items in yellow.

Present: Gibeault, Gilbertson, Juhl, Lehman, Parker, Parker-Gibson, Robinson

Minutes from 12/3 meeting – approved.

General topics of discussion

- Balancing needs of target audience (lower level undergraduates aka the students we do not necessarily see face-to-face) vs. improving the “discoverability” of all collections and assisting all levels of researcher
- [related] comprehensiveness of coverage (all types of publications / all databases) vs. what is core to the undergraduate experience
- Are there “make or break” resources that MUST be in a discovery tool? Ask the subject specialists to define?
- Building systems that can instruct the online user on the fly (hit a dead end? here are options)
- Recommending more than one tool to foster competition
- Keeping in mind the needs / gaps that a discovery tool would address vs. other improvements that could be made (example: Article Finder is a known-item search tool while most discovery tools are for broad exploration of collections by subject or keyword)
- How to keep on task and meet goals for next week

Specific tool review

The group then reviewed the worksheets in our Google Docs folder covering specific search tools or resources. This was a very revealing discussion as it unearthed some assumptions and experiences that were not common to the whole group. Some of the most extensive discussion revolved around:

- The challenge of fitting everything on the web page vs. a clean and usable design
- The differences between all the services related to WebBridge and how usability of the Find it! panel as well as the visibility of the Article Finder tool could be improved.
- The lack of refined and comprehensive tools for locating manuscript collections
- The differences between E-Resources as listed on the main web site vs. LibGuides; lack of consistency in LibGuides vs. freedom to tailor the content for specific assignments and classes

Edits were made on the pages as discussion progressed. The pages for WorldCat, LibGuides, and Digital Collections were not covered but Juhl encouraged the group to review these and add comments over the next week.

Next meeting: Wednesday December 10th at 10:15 am (note earlier time due to candidate visit)

Assignments
Entire group: reviewing the tools worksheets compiled thus far, make a list of what you feel are the top 10 gaps / problems / needs in search / discovery that are not addressed by our current system(s).
Juhl: Start a grid of coverage / gaps based on publication type, rather than by tool.
Goal for next meeting: begin a unified list of needs to be met by local tweaks or projects and / or by a discovery product.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Juhl