



La Trobe University Library

# Study Tour of Selected Higher Education Libraries in the UK, October 2004

Report at RAIS (VIC)

Wednesday 27 October 2004

*Cross Database Searching*

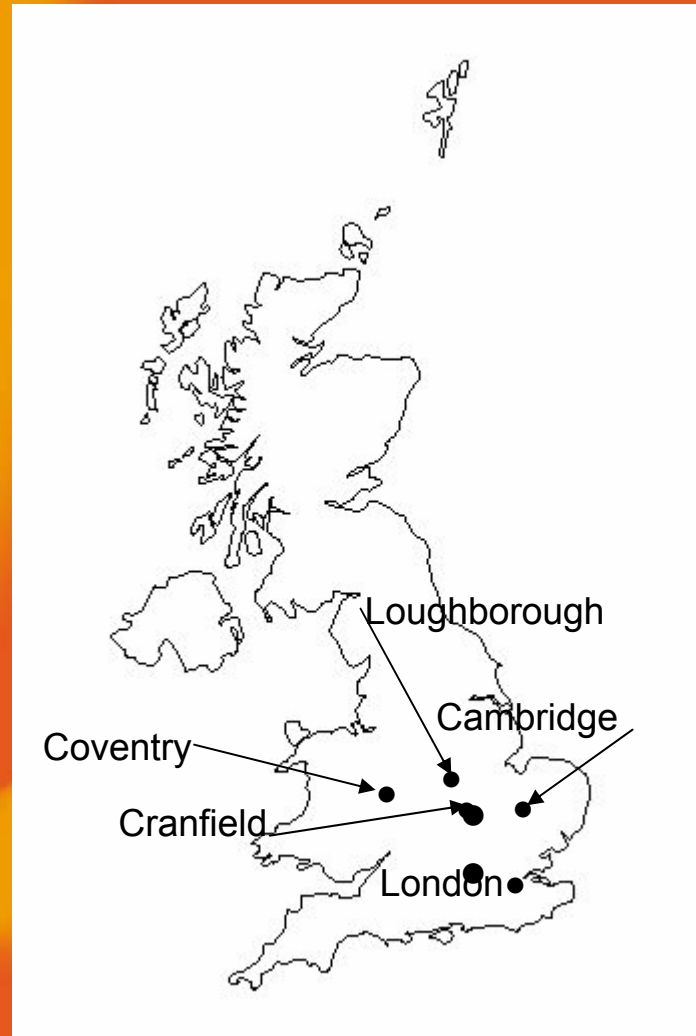
## Europe

ARL	Name	Country	City	State	Consortial Affiliation	Available Products
	<a href="#">Anglia Polytechnic University</a>	UK	Chelmsford			ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	<a href="#">AstraZeneca UK Ltd.</a>	UK	Macclesfield	Cheshire		ALEPH, SFX
	<a href="#">British Council</a>	UK	Manchester			MetaLib, SFX
	<a href="#">British Library</a>	UK	London			ALEPH, MetaLib & SFX, DigiTool
	<a href="#">Canterbury Christchurch University College</a>	UK	Canterbury	Kent		ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	Coventry University	UK				MetaLib, SFX
	Cranfield University	UK				MetaLib, SFX
	<a href="#">Goldsmiths College</a>	UK	London			ALEPH
	<a href="#">Imperial College London Library</a>	UK	London			MetaLib, SFX
	<a href="#">Kings College, London</a>	UK	London			ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	<a href="#">Lancaster University</a>	UK	Lancaster			ALEPH, Metalib, SFX
	<a href="#">Liverpool John Moores University</a>	UK	Liverpool			MetaLib, SFX
	London Business School	UK				SFX
	<a href="#">Loughborough University</a>	UK	Loughborough	Leicestershire		ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	MIMAS	UK				SFX
	<a href="#">Napier University</a>	UK	Edinburgh			ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	Newcastle University	UK				MetaLib, SFX
	Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital	UK	Norwich		UEA	ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	Norwich School of Art & Design	UK	Norwich		UEA	ALEPH, MetaLib, SFX
	Nottingham University	UK				MetaLib, SFX

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# Kings College, University of London



# Kings College cont'd

- The Information Services and Systems Section (ISS) is a convergence of the Library, IT, Archives, and Records
- MetaLib has not yet been fully implemented and launched – waiting on Version 3 November 2004
- After implementation of Version 3, they will remove the A-Z list of web-based resources & access everything via MetaLib
- Some subject librarians see MetaLib as a real boon for information literacy. “You can teach the concepts of searching, rather than focusing on specific features of individual databases”
- MetaLib is also very useful at the Enquiries Desk when staffed by librarians from other sections

# Cranfield University



*Cranfield*  
UNIVERSITY

**SearchHub**

*Your key to resource discovery*

*Cross-Database Searching*  
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# Cranfield cont'd

- The University offers only postgraduate degrees
- MetaLib gives subject librarians the opportunity to encourage use of Cranfield resources, rather than information from the Internet
- It is promoted as a first stage in searching
- Cross database searching allows a postgraduate student to see what databases are returning the most results – they can then search them individually in the native interface

# Royal Holloway, University of London



# Royal Holloway cont'd

- Following implementation of MetaLib, RHUL removed any other access point to electronic resources – databases or subject librarians' web pages
- With postgraduate students, there is an emphasis in information literacy classes on cross searching facilities
- With undergraduate students, there is an emphasis on MetaLib as a discovery tool
- MetaLib is an opportunity “to move away from the Dark Ages of demonstrating a single database or resource as an introduction to information retrieval skills. It allows training in a generic interface”

# Royal Holloway cont'd

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/information-services/library/information sheets/metalib.html>

- Information sheet on MetaLib

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Information-Services/Library/>

- Click on 'Resources via MetaLib' & FAQ
- Logon to MetaLib and look at the Help pages under the ? symbol

# Loughborough University



# Loughborough cont'd

- One of the first UK higher education institutions to implement ExLibris' MetaLib and SFX
- MetaLib has replaced all web subject pages as well as printed guides and pathfinders
- Federated searching has made their databases more visible and therefore raised their profile
- Undergraduates are encouraged to conduct all their searching within MetaLib
- Postgraduates are encouraged to use MetaLib to indicate the best resources to use. Then they would use the native interface

# Loughborough cont'd

- “students will do whatever Google allows them to do – they will not normally use the advanced features of the native interface, so at least linking them to authoritative sources via MetaLib is an advantage”

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/project\\_portal\\_casestudies.html](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/project_portal_casestudies.html)

# Coventry University



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# Coventry cont'd

- They are waiting for Version 3 of MetaLib before rolling out in January 2005
- The University is heavily focussed on undergraduate students (very few postgraduates). MetaLib was purchased in the hope it will make things easier for them
- Once MetaLib is launched, it will replace the current subject web pages

# Internet Librarian Conference, 2004

- *Technology, Tools & Practices* stream
- *Federated Searching* Frank Cervone, Assistant University Librarian for Information Technology, Northwestern University, Illinois
- This technology is extremely important to everything we do in libraries over the next few years
- Federated searching allows people to find things they didn't know existed
- It is of benefit to users because they have a single interface to learn, with a consistent citation format and consistent download and print commands

# Internet Librarian cont'd

- Results of research into common interface and database-specific interface: 10% used both, 5% used database-specific
- Federated searching provides a jumping-off point for those unfamiliar with the databases available
- Expert users will use the native interface; the vast majority of users don't know (or care) about the more detailed, advanced search features available
- Federated searching moves the focus away from teaching the mechanics of individual databases; it allows teaching on a conceptual level
- If you don't have this, you'll lose them to Google

[www.internet-librarian.com](http://www.internet-librarian.com)

Thank-you

Any Questions or Comments?