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Search 1

Library and Information Sciences Abstracts, Cambridge Scientific Information

Summarizing our searches using Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) yielded some similarities and differences. Similarities included starting with a broad search, “the first search for the required criteria [TI= (intermediation or mediation) or AB= (intermediation or mediation)]” by most members of the group producing the same results. Other members searched the words individually. All members regardless of starting point used some form of narrowing in trying to find relevant articles. Some of the features of LISA utilized were the “Quick Search” and “Advanced Search” tabs, Boolean operators, title and abstract fields, English language and date range fields. Differences included the use of additional keywords, such as “library,” scanning the descriptor field, linking to full text articles, and skimming “Help and Support.” Search time is an important factor. The goal is to conduct a search that results in the most relevant articles in a reasonable amount of time to satisfy the query.

The following definition was applied to the results to determine whether they applied to our search. Ranganathan defined intermediation as “establishing personal contact between a reader and his or her documents.” Lankes extended it to: “reference services are mediated interfaces between users and a collection of information.” Therefore, based on the group’s individual searches of LISA, the following compilation was determined to be the “perfect” search relevant to our studies:

- 1) Start with the “Advanced Search” tab.
- 2) Apply limiters to English and last 5 years (2002) and add row.
- 3) Enter: (intermediation or mediation) Title, TI= OR (intermediation or mediation) Abstract, AB= AND (library) Anywhere NOT (conflict or resolution) anywhere
- 4) This results in 34 hits total of which 25 peer-reviewed.
- 5) 18 out of 34 (53%) applied.

Individual users will have different needs and styles when conducting searches through an online database. Therefore, determining the “perfect” search strategy is dependent upon the needs of the user. LISA’s structure is designed to allow users to tailor their searches to satisfy their needs.

