

Database Information System DBIS: A Possible Source for Database Selection in Evidence Synthesis

Brigitte Doss*

Felix Riedl**

Luis Moßburger***

Helge Knüttel****

Abstract

Introduction

The Database Information System (DBIS) serves scholars and students currently at 343 German-speaking research and higher education institutions in discovering and selecting databases required for their bibliographical and literature research. Hosted and developed (2002) by the University Library of Regensburg as software-as-a-service, DBIS provides each participating institution with a catalog of licensed databases. In addition, each institution benefits from a large data pool of freely accessible databases cooperatively selected and maintained by its members. Currently, DBIS contains 5,832 freely accessible database records. Of these, 277 are in the field of health. A 3-year-development project with funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG) aims to expand and sustainably operate DBIS closely to current needs of scholars and students (<https://dbis.ur.de/projekt>). The main tasks are internationalization including an English-language interface, the provision of interfaces for data exchange, and data delivery services. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of new user groups and to the fact that the system must be easily adaptable to future requirements. Librarians and researchers engaged in evidence synthesis are one of these potential new user groups.

Methods

As part of this project, requirements workshops were held with existing known stakeholders of the library community. Interviews were conducted with end users from various target groups and the information gathered was processed into personas that would represent the end user perspective as the project progressed.

* University Library of Regensburg, brigitte.doss@ur.de

** University Library of Regensburg, felix.riedl@ur.de

*** University Library of Regensburg, luis.mossburger@ur.de

**** University Library of Regensburg, helge.knuettel@ur.de

In addition, an attempt was made to identify potential new user groups. Individual preliminary discussions have already been held with representatives of these groups to find out what requirements each group has for DBIS. This poster is an invitation for input by medical libraries and the evidence synthesis community.

Results

Preliminary discussions with representatives of the identified new user groups indicated that DBIS could serve as an open, community-based tool for database selection in evidence synthesis. Evidence synthesis requires information about databases beyond the information previously provided by DBIS. Because the data model for the new DBIS pro

vides very flexible field mapping, it will facilitate the provision of new fields that are specifically needed for this user group.

Discussion

As a comprehensive compilation that goes beyond the standard databases often used, DBIS can help identify appropriate databases on a wide range of topics. To determine the need and interest as well as the requirements in the field of evidence synthesis, further contacts will be established and discussed together with the community. Linking to and cooperation with other information resources in the area of databases will be strengthened.

Keywords: Evidence-Based Medicine, Systematic Searching, Selection of Databases, Database Information System, DBIS

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