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What's in the Web Scale Discovery Fruit Basket: Abstract

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What's in the Web Scale Discovery Basket?

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Abstract

Web Scale Discovery is taking the library world by storm. While all the systems offer a Google-like search across catalogs and subscription content, WSD vendors each have their own philosophies, technologies, content agreements, and related services. In order to evaluate the WSD offerings, librarians need to understand a slew of new concepts and jargon. This presentation explains WSD concepts and terminology, shares findings from investigating and interviewing major WSD vendors, and provides a template checklist which librarians can use during their own exploration of WSD systems.

Take-away points:

- The Discovery Layer and Central Index can be selected and licensed separately
 - Every library's Central Index is likely to be different. Exactly what your library searches depends on the
 - Full text and A/I content the WDS vendors harvest
 - Mutually licensed content
 - Selections your library makes when setting up the implementation.
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[Web Scale Discovery Glossary](#)

Key Decision Criteria

Below is an abbreviated list of the considerations I think will help libraries as they evaluate WSD offerings. These considerations are given in more detail in the [WSD Criteria Template](#) spreadsheet and in the [UCF WSD coverage Template](#).

Discovery Layer

- Search/Discovery Tools (*basic/advanced options, facets (number and type), limitors*)
- End-User Features and Controls (*folders/lists, tagging, exporting citations*)
- Interface customizations (*branding, layout, widgets, APIs*)

- Results Enrichment (*book jackets, recommendors*)

Central Index

- Detail and breadth of A/I content (*Is content from specialized indexing searchable*)
- Depth and breadth of full text indexing (*back files for journals, number and type of FT sources*)
- Relevance to library's collection and needs (*coverage of your A/I and FT, appropriate level/type*)

Back-end and Business relationship

- Admin Module and Controls
- Harvesting Protocols and Frequency
- Hosted or Local
- Set-up process and typical time to production
- Usage statistics
- Customer base and notable implementations
- Price/Pricing Model
- Use of vendor's related products

Bibliography and Resources
