

Drahomira Cupar

Martina Dragija Ivanović

Kristina Berketa

Koraljka Golub

**Title: Evaluation of subject searching in OPACs**

*NKOS CFP Topic: (7) Evaluation of KOS-based systems – methods and practical experience*

**Abstract**

This research deals with evaluation of subject searching in OPACs, a crucial component for the library as a whole. Access and usage of library collection(s) correlates to accessibility of information via library catalogues. Usage of library collection(s) heavily depends on its presentation to users. Provision of a quality and satisfactory access to library collection(s) via subject searching can also be used as a great marketing tool for representing library holdings.

The presentation aims to highlight difficulties users experience during catalogue searching due to subject underrepresentation in networked information systems like OPACs and federated databases. The purpose is to stress the necessity of improving access points to resources because inadequately assigned access points cause a significant portion of library holdings to remain hidden to end-users. Research questions raised are: 1) which methodologies for evaluating networked information systems exist in the literature and practice and 2) how applicable the best one is, tested in a pilot study. First research question will be answered using related literature analysis where existing evaluation methods of networked information systems will be organized and analysed. This research will focus on evaluation of subject searching within networked information systems. Second phase of the research will adopt methodologies provided in the literature to fulfil requirements of evaluation. Literature review will include framework for usability evaluations of online library services such as BibEval (Weinhold, Bekavac & Hamann, 2014) and other relevant authors (such as Lancaster, Vickery etc.). The second research question will be answered after conducting a pilot study with at least one chosen OPACs and/or federated databases.

Expected results include: 1) an overview of existing evaluation methods of networked information systems and especially set of evaluation criteria which could be used for evaluation of subject searching in OPACs and federated databases and 2) application of the

chosen methodology on a sample and some rough results of that pilot study will be shown for further consideration and development.

Key words: evaluation of KOS-based systems, library OPACs, subject access points, discovery tool

## References

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