

1268

Exploring Discovery: The Front Door to Your Library's Licensed and Digitized Content

Edited by Kenneth J. Varnum

London

Facet

2016

292 p.

£64.95

Soft cover

ISBN 978-1-78330-096-9

Review DOI [10.1108/EL-07-2017-0157](https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-07-2017-0157)

The concept of “discovery” is far from new; it has been around since acquisitions lists and library catalogues first appeared. The difference today is the sheer amount of published material and the number of services available to help librarians manage, access and disseminate selected information to patrons. And today, more than ever, the patrons themselves have access to a bewildering range of resources. To be comfortable in this fast-changing environment is challenging and a book such as this is a useful resource to enable librarians to choose at what level they want or need to engage with the new technology. Each chapter of the book is by a different author which immediately introduces a variety of styles and approaches. The short biographies provided are interesting to read before starting their respective chapters.

The book's chapters are usefully divided into sections with a common theme. The section on purchased systems provides a variety of aspects from librarians' experiences with different commercial vendors; selection and migration processes; and integration into existing library systems. Most of the libraries are academic, but there is an example of a consortium of public library, history centre and museum collection. For libraries that wish to take more control of the end results, often with cost savings in mind, there is a section on customisation in which the librarians have described their development of base-line products into tailor-made solutions for their particular needs. The third section on interfaces considers the topic from the user's perspective. It considers the concepts of library discovery and web discovery with the integration of these into a single search point. Each of these chapters provides a different approach but the focus is clearly on customer service. I found these chapters the most readable and would have preferred this section to be first in the book. Finally, content aggregation, open-access and metadata are covered in the fourth section. This gives a more systems-focussed approach to the development and implementation of online discovery services.

Acronyms abound but are reliably spelt out the first time they occur, making the book a good source of information to learn just what all of these terms mean: WSD, OPAC, ILS, ERM, LSP, MARC, OCLC, RFP, SOA, CSS, etc. And that is just the first chapter. In fact, I found most of the acronyms reasonably familiar as terms, and this was an opportunity to learn what some actually stand for. Overall this is a comprehensive source of information for any librarian working with discovery services. It will seem very technical for less system-oriented readers



but does not need to be read from cover to cover. For those actively engaged in the field, it is a valuable resource.

Book reviews

Raewyn Adams

Clinical School Library, Bay of Plenty District Health Board, Tauranga, New Zealand

1269

Deep Text: Using Text Analytics to Conquer Information Overload, Get Real Value from Social Media, and Add Big(ger) Text to Big Data

by Tom Reamy

Medford, NJ

Information Today

2016

424 p.

US\$59.50

Soft cover

ISBN: 978-1-57387-529-5

Review DOI [10.1108/EL-09-2017-0188](https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-09-2017-0188)

Deep text is an approach to text analytics that involves using computerized techniques for gaining insights into large volumes of unstructured text. This book looks in depth at what text analytics is and how it can be practiced in a way that goes beyond text mining. It describes the nature of text analytics generally and the vital role that a deep text approach can play in making text analytics successful. The book gives an understanding of text analytics and how it can be carried out, and also the kinds of applications text analytics can support. The context is usually the corporate sector.

The book is divided into five parts each including three chapters. The first part, “Text Analytics Basics”, lays the foundations for text analytics by providing a general picture of the concept. Chapter 1 presents a broad definition of text analytics, what it involves and what it can provide. This chapter also discusses the importance of content models and metadata in adding structure to unstructured texts and briefly describes the technology behind text analytics. Chapter 2 looks at the major core capability areas within text analytics including text mining, extraction, summarization, sentiment analysis and auto-categorization, all of which require the design of difficult and often expensive software. Chapter 3 considers the important issue of the return on investment of text analytics and analyzes the basic business logic of text analytics, which is to add structure to an enormous amount of unstructured text and to get value from it. The chapter also describes three major areas in which text analytics appears significantly beneficial to an organization including enterprise, search, social media and multiple text analytics.

The second part of the book, “Getting Started in Text Analytics”, suggests that getting familiar with the available text analytics software in the market and researching the information environment and company needs are necessary first steps to be taken. To this end, this part includes chapters on the current state of text analytics software, a smart start to text analytics and the evaluation of text analytics software.

The third part describes the process to go through to implement text analytics applications. Therefore, Chapter 7 looks at the issue of developing auto-categorization as the most