

*Easy access to medical literature:
Are user habits changing?
Is this a threat to the quality of
Science?*

University of Liège - Life Sciences Library



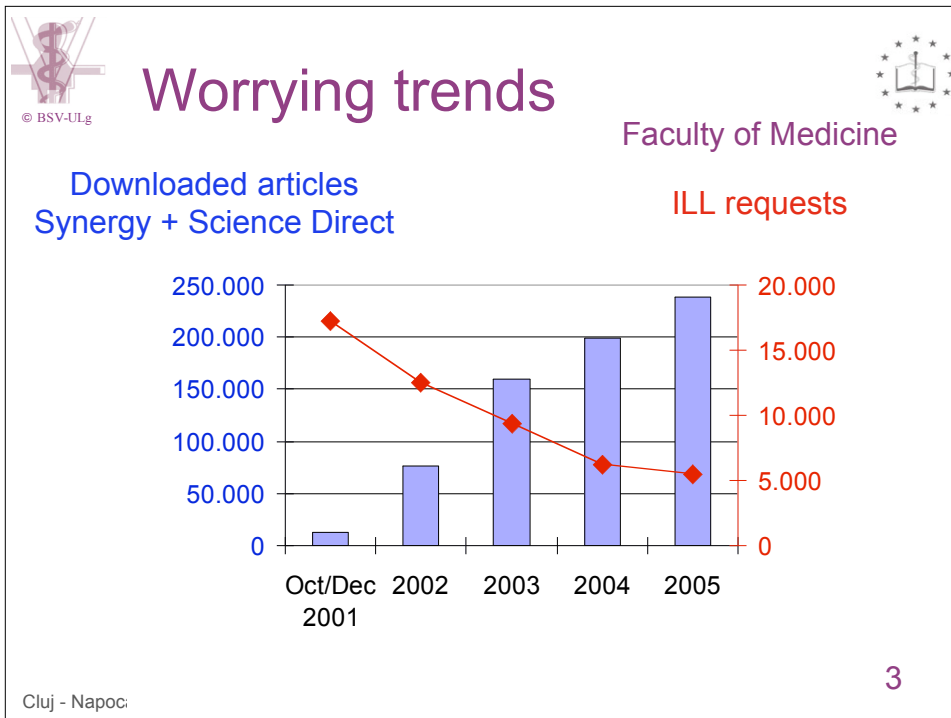
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Starting point



Observations, trends and facts

- ✓ Enlarged access to e-journals
- ✓ Exploding *Science Direct* (Elsevier) & *Synergy* (Blackwell) usage reports
- ✓ Collapsing Inter-Library loans (ILL)



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Working hypothesis

A disaster scenario (?)

Do users turn to full text aggregator portals ?

↓

- ✓ To avoid the difficulties of searching bibliographic DB ?
- ✓ To gain instant access to full text articles ?

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EUROPE AS AN OPEN BOOK

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Our objectives



*To conduct an analysis in order to
gain new or updated insights into*

- ✓ Library management
- ✓ Users education

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Our strategy



- ✓ Retrospective statistical analyses of ILL data
- ✓ Gathering bibliometric data
- ✓ Comparing e-journals & bibliographic DB usage reports
- ✓ Survey: Medicine & veterinary Medicine
 - Habits
 - Preferences
 - Needs
 - Encountered problems

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Specific aims

Collect data in order to

- ✓ Support decision making to
 - Define an ideal collection of periodicals
 - Renew rigid contract licenses with full text editors
- ✓ Adapt teaching activities and user education
 - Demystify the difficulties of DB searching
 - Emphasize the importance of conducting comprehensive investigations
 - Trigger critical reading & thinking

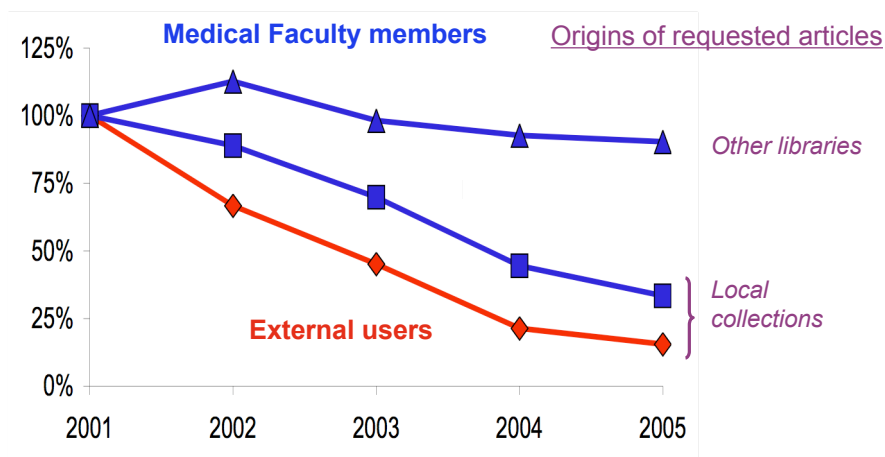


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In depth analysis of ILL data



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Conclusion 1 (partial)



*Beside an intensive usage of e- journals,
ILL requests for articles, which are
not directly available
either online (electronic) or in the library (print),
has remained stable over the last 5 years*

2001-2005

~ 3500 ILL articles / year



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Bibliometric analysis



Web of Science
2001-2005

Searched by : Author (n = 1150) AND Address

Where do they publish?

2 608 articles

Publication
Database

What do they read (cite)?

57 978 citations

Citation
Database

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Journal analysis



2001-2005

A. Publication Database
2 608 articles in 829 journals

- ✓ 46 titles contains 34% of articles
- ✓ 88% of titles are not indicative

B. Citation Database
59 277 citations in 2 437 journals

- ✓ 12 titles contains 16% of citations
- ✓ 66% of titles are not indicative

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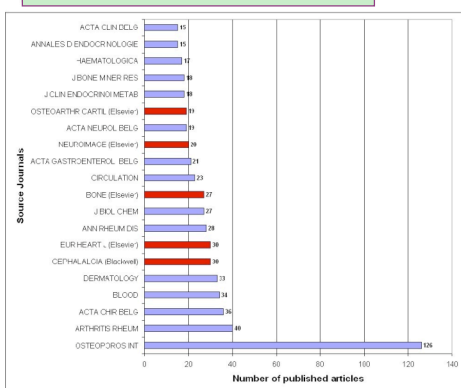


Favorite titles

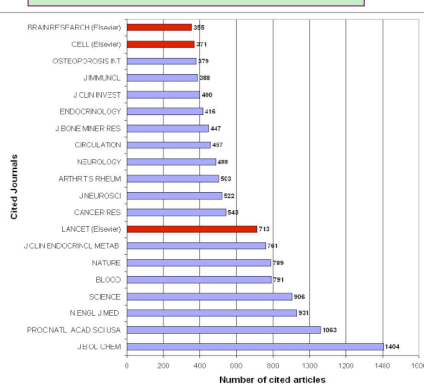


2001-2005

A. Publication database



B. Citation database



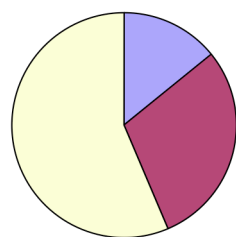
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Published articles



2005

Blackwell
Elsevier
Other

2001: 31%
2002: 24%
2003: 31%
2004: 39%
2005: 44%

2001-2005:
2 608 articles published in 829 journals

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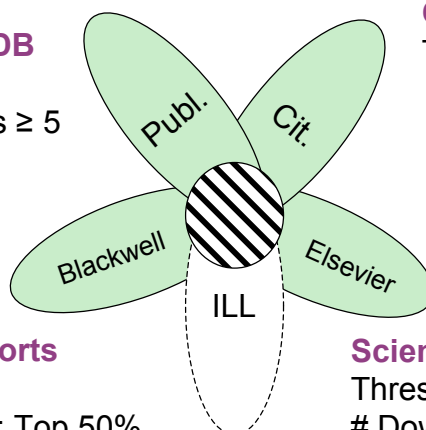


Core collection (CC)



Publication DB
Threshold:
Publications ≥ 5

Citation DB
Threshold:
Citations ≥ 100



Synergy Reports
Threshold:
Downloads: Top 50%

Science Direct reports
Threshold:
Downloads: Top 50%

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Conclusion 2 (partial)



- ✓ CC is built according to independent criteria which reflect user preferences
- ✓ Most journals in the CC have high IF & ranking in their respective disciplines
- ✓ Amongst the 250 titles in the CC, 50% are published by Elsevier / Blackwell
- ✓ It's important to save enough of the budget to purchase interesting titles not included in the consortiums.



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User survey



- ✓ Protocol adapted from Wessel *et al.*
- ✓ Print version sent to 1150 participants
 - 900 Medical Faculty & UHC
 - 200 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Wessel CB, Tannery NH, Epstein BA
Information-seeking behavior and use of information resources
by clinical research coordinators.
J Med Libr Assoc. 2006;94(1):48-54



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Surveyed population



- ✓ Participation rate of 48% (n=548)
 - 419 : Faculty of Medicine / UHC
 - 129 : Veterinarians
- ✓ Highest educational degree
 - Medical degree (39%)
 - PhD (27%)
 - Master's degree (20%)
 - Higher education teaching (13%)
- ✓ Most of the participants (86%) search the literature several times a month



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What are they looking for ?




- ✓ Research and review articles (86%)
- ✓ Clinically relevant articles, exclusively (19%)
- ✓ Guidelines (30%)
- ✓ Educational materials (20%)
- ✓ Drug information (16%)
- ✓ Patient education materials (6%)
- ✓ Browsing contents (16%)




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Their favorite tools




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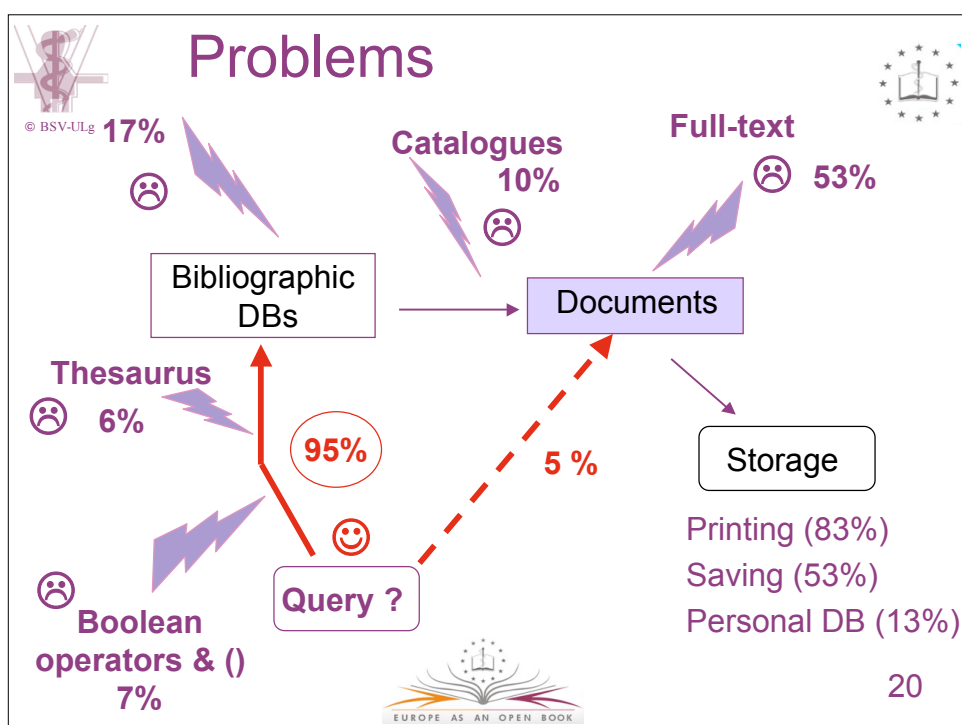
- ✓ **Medline/PubMed = first choice (67%)**
 - Medicine: 89% (5% Medline/Ovid)
 - Veterinary Medicine: 95%
- ✓ **Science Direct / Synergy = second choice for**
 - Clinicians: 41%
 - Veterinarian: 56%
- ✓

	EBM Reviews (Fac. Medicine)	CAB Abstracts (Fac. Veterinary Med.)
• Never use:	28%	42%
• Never heard of:	41%	39%

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Conclusions 1 (final)



- ✓ Hasty conclusions must always be called into question
- ✓ Stress the importance of collecting data for statistical analysis and making surveys in order to:
 - ✓ Understand user needs
 - ✓ Adapt purchasing policies
 - ✓ Update our teaching
- ✓ User habits are changing

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Conclusions 2 (final)



- ✓ Users consider bibliographic databases as the major entry point to medical literature
- ✓ The disaster scenario can be disregarded
- ✓ We validated the strategy we use to point out to inevitable titles to be kept in the core collection

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Conclusions 3 (final)



- ✓ Clarify our position regarding electronic editing and monopolistic attitudes (OAI)
- ✓ Customer usage reports provided by editors (just like IFs) should be used with full knowledge of their limitations



Conclusions 4 (final)



- ✓ Adapt our teaching to the different publics
 - Students
 - Scientists & clinicians who did not answer the survey
 - Users wishing to improve their searching methodology and skills



I thank you for your attention



10th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries
Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 11th-16th of September 2006