



OpenURL

What all library staff should know



Overview

- The problem: too much stuff!
- The solution: openURL
- Basic terms
- How does this work?
- Link resolvers
- SFX
- Article Linker
- More Information

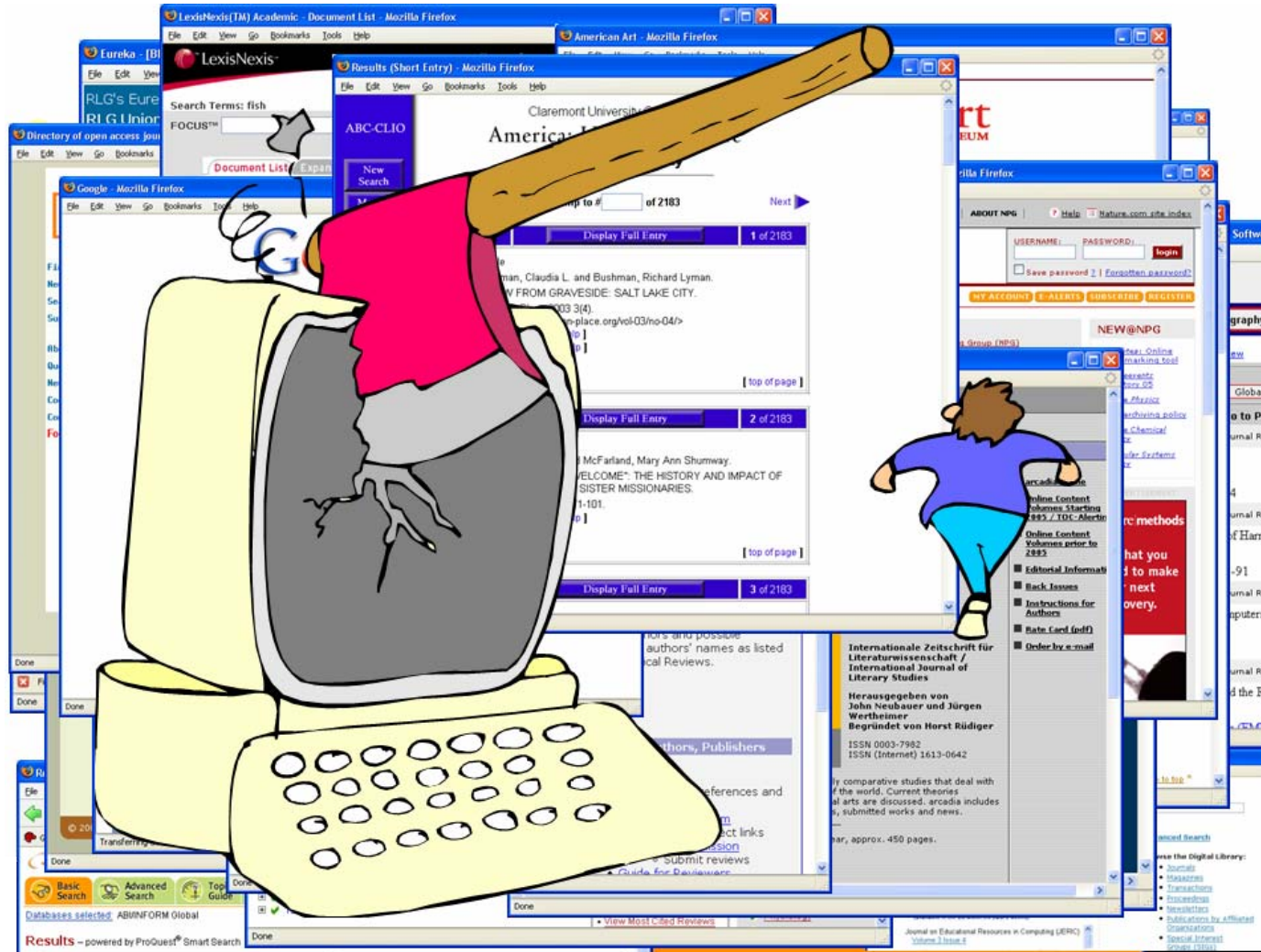


The Problem

- Libraries often have dozens of A&I databases
- A&I databases, even library catalog not always aware of ejournal subscriptions
- Finding an item is not always straightforward
- Patrons want as few clicks as possible between citation and item

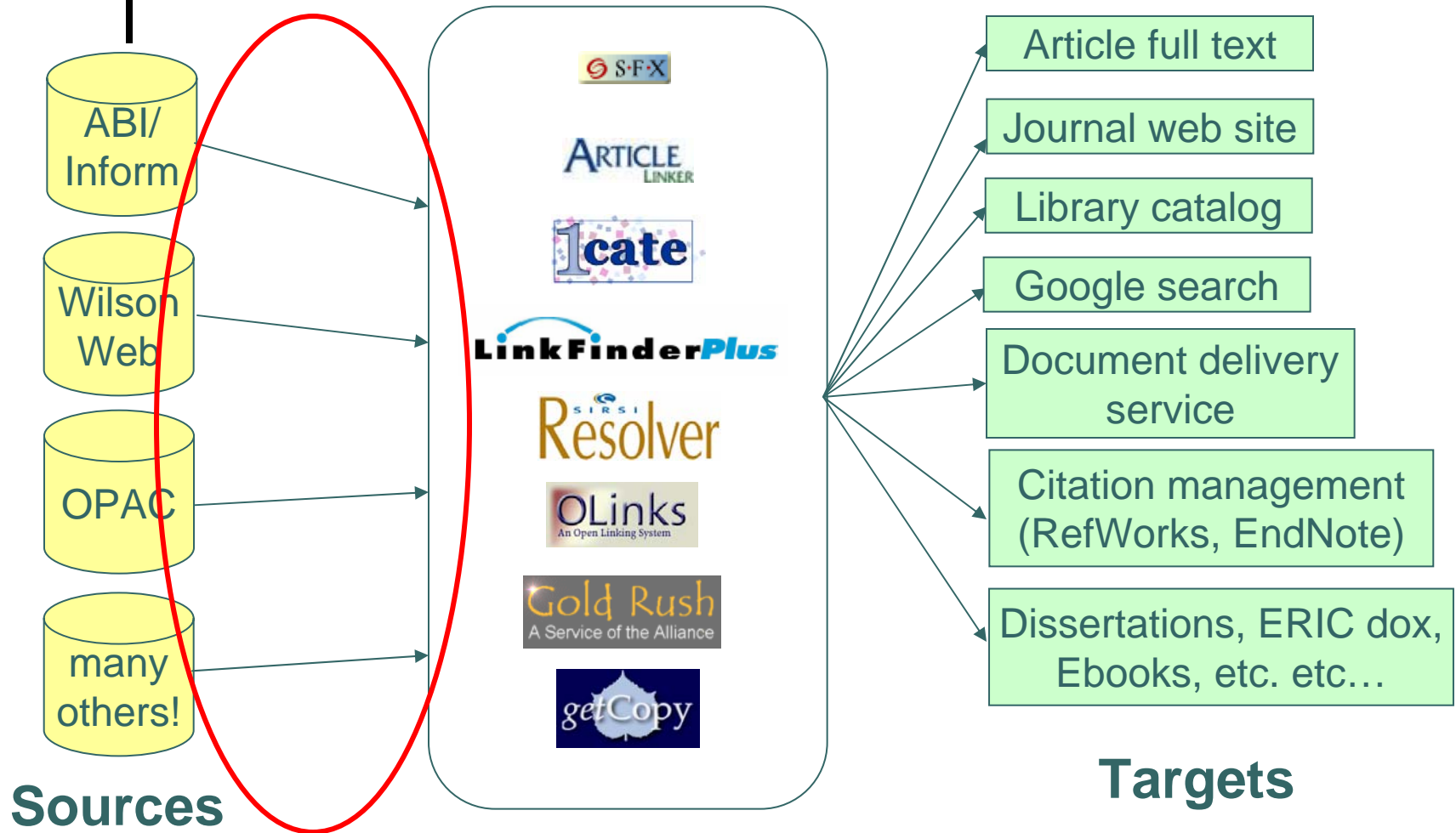


Too much stuff...





The Solution: OpenURL





Basic Terms

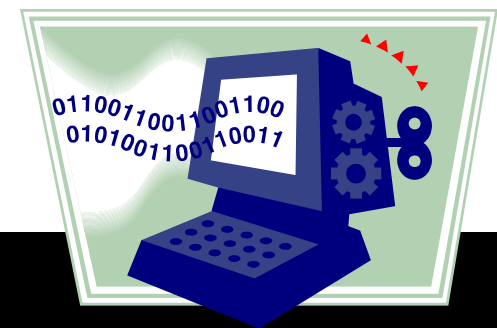
- *OpenURL* – A NISO standard (Z39.88), by which web links (URLs) are created containing metadata, allowing the linking directly to articles, journals, books and more.
- *Source* – a citation database where an image or link appears; this link is an openURL that points to a link resolver. There are many fewer sources than targets.
- *Targets* – the items listed in the results window: the full text dbs, Catalog, Ask-a-Librarian, Google.
- *Link Resolver* – software that interprets an OpenURL and creates links to targets.
- *Base URL* – the URL of a link resolver server.
- *Knowledgebase* – the database containing all the library's holdings, initially established by the library but usually maintained by the vendor of the link resolver.



How does this work?

- **Step One:** the openURL is interpreted by link resolver:

http://ry6af4uu9w.search.serialssolutions.com/?SS_Source=3&genre=article&sid=ProQ:&atitle=Technology%20Trends%20for%20Intranet%20Librarians&title=Online&issn=01465422&date=11%2F01%2F2004&volume=28&issue=6&spage=45&SS_docid=000000735316291&author=Darlene%20Fichter





Breaking down an OpenURL

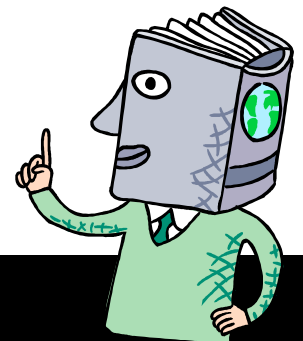
- http://ry6af4uu9w.search.serialssolutions.com/?SS_Source=3&genre=article&sid=ProQ:&atitle=Technology Trends for Intranet Librarians&title=Online&issn=01465422&date=11/01/2004&volume=28&issue=6&spage=45&SS_docid=00000735316291&author=Darlene Fichter
- BaseURL:
http://ry6af4uu9w.search.serialssolutions.com
- Article Title:
Technology Trends for Intranet Librarians
- (Journal) Title: Online
- ISSN: 0146-5422
- Date: 11-01-2004
- Vol. 28, Issue 6
- Starting page 45
- Author: Darlene Fichter





How Does this Work?

- **Step two:** Link resolver checks the library's knowledgebase.





The Knowledgebase

- Created (entered) by the library, sometimes updated by the link server vendor (SFX, Article Linker)
- Contains holdings of individual electronic journal titles, collections of journals (e.g., JSTOR), and aggregated database content (e.g., InfoTrac, WilsonWeb, LexisNexis Academic)





How does this work?

- Step **three**: the link resolver determines if the data in the OpenURL meets the target's minimum requirements for creating an item-level link.



Targets' Minimum Requirements

Journal: E-doc (Global ed.)
 ISSN: 1544-3647
 Article: Let's Get together
 Volume: 17 Issue: 2 Page: 32
 Date: 2003

Article Linker Results Page

Article is available here:

Coverage dates
 05/01/2003 - present

2003 - 2004
 09/01/2003 - present

Links to content
 1 [Article](#) [Journal](#)
 2
 3 [Article](#)

Database:
[Business Source Premier](#)

[ABI/INFORM \(Selected Full Text\)](#)
[Wilson Select Plus](#)

Data Needed to Create Article Link for Business Source Premier

- ✓ Journal Title
- ✓ ISSN
- ✓ Article Title
- ✓ Volume
- ✓ Issue



Minimum Requirements Met
 CREATE ARTICLE LINK

Data Needed to Create Article Link for Wilson Select Plus

- ✓ Journal Title
- ✓ ISSN
- ✓ Article Title
- ✓ Date -YYYY



Minimum Requirements Met
 CREATE ARTICLE LINK

Data Needed to Create Article Link for ABI/INFORM

- ✓ Journal Title
- ✓ ISSN
- ✓ Article Title
- ✓ Issue
- ✓ Volume
- ✗ Author
- ✗ Date - YYYY-MM-DD

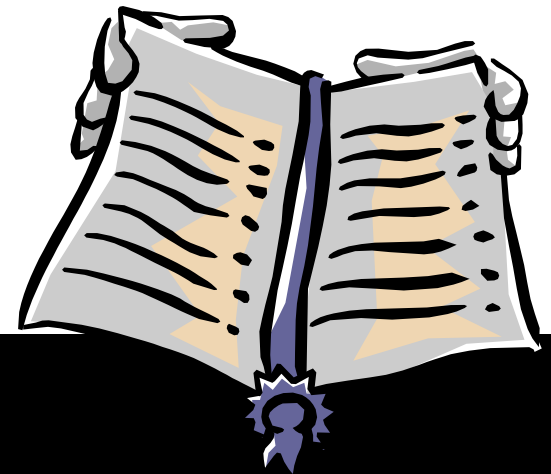


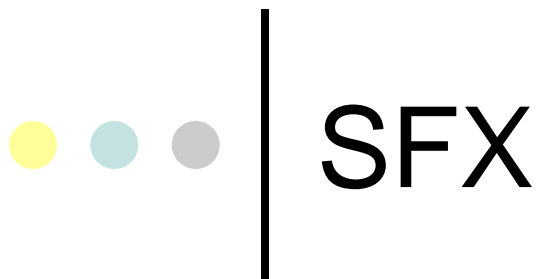
Minimum Requirements NOT Met
 DO NOT CREATE ARTICLE LINK



How Does this Work?

- **Step four:** Link resolver creates links to targets and presents them to the user in menu form.





- Sample menu
- Basic services
- Advanced services

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://sfx.calstate.edu:3210>. The page title is "SFX Services for this record". The main content area displays the following information:

Title: Welcome to Kurdistan
Source: Newsweek [0028-9604] yr:2002 vol:139 iss:12 pg:22

Basic

Full Text

Full text available via **EBSCO Business Source Premier**
Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page:

Full text available via **Factiva**
Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page:

Full text available via **LexisNexis Academic**

No Direct Link to full text articles

Full text available via **Proquest ABI/INFORM Global**
Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page:

Advanced

© 2004 SFX by Ex Libris (USA) Inc.

Demo: http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/sfx_it.htm



Article linker

- Sample results screen
- Full text links
- Custom links

Links to get your item - The Libraries of The Claremont Colleges - Microsoft Internet Explorer

The Libraries of The Claremont Colleges
DENISON ♦ HONNOLD/MUDD ♦ SEELEY G. MUDD ♦ SPRAGUE

Home > Get this item

Your Citation [Edit citation](#)

Journal or Book title: **Online (Weston, Conn.)**
ISSN: 0146-5422
Article: Technology Trends for Intranet Librarians
Author: Fichter, Darlene
Volume: 28 Issue: 6 Page: 45
Date: 2004-11-01

Full text is available via the following links

Dates Available	Links to content	Content Licensed From
01/01/1988 - present	Article Journal	ABI/INFORM Research
01/01/1995 - present	Article Journal	Wilson OmniFile: Full Text Mega Edition
01/01/1988 - present	Article Journal	Business & Company Resource Center

Other places to look for this item

Search Blais (Library Catalog)	by journal or book title	by author's name	by ISN
Search LINK+	by journal or book title	by author's name	by ISN
Search Other Library Catalogs	Melvyl	Others	

Demo: <http://www.serialssolutions.com/alsamples.asp>



Link Resolvers

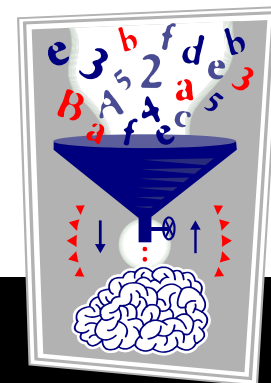
- Many choices
- SFX was first
- Many major ILS vendors sell a link resolver (Sirsi, Ill, Endeavor)
- See <http://library.ucf.edu/Presentations/2004/OpenURLChoices/> for a good comparison





More Information

- The standard:
<http://library.caltech.edu/openurl/>
- These slides:
<http://athena.libraries.claremont.edu/~cindi/>
- Random bits about openURL:
<http://openurl.blogspot.com>



● ● ● | Thank you!

- Slides:

<http://athena.libraries.claremont.edu/~cindi>

Cindi Trainor

Director, Library / Information Technology

The Libraries of The Claremont (CA) Colleges

AIM or Yahoo: cinditrainor