



Where Linked Data Can Impact User Experience

Findings on Discovery Workflows

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Overview

Related Resources

What relationships are useful?

Seeking Context

Why look for basic information?

Future Research

Where to next?

About the study

- 19 participants
 - 5 faculty, 12 graduate, 2 undergraduate
 - 7 humanities, 7 physical or biological sciences, 5 social sciences
- Hour-long semi-structured interviews
 - First half: interview about current or recent project
 - Second half: general practices
- Goal: understand discovery workflows

Finding Related Resources

What relationships do researchers value when finding materials?



“[Dissertations] are definitely the unsung heroes of the process... every dissertation you comb through is another 200 sources.”

– Graduate, Linguistics



“I use Amazon quite a bit because... the algorithm will give you all the things that other people bought or books that are associated.”

– Graduate, Center for Human Development



“I’d look and find this 2013 article on the *phaedo* or something, and then I’d just look at the table of contents if I could... that’s really cool.”

– Graduate, Philosophy



“I also really like the Oxford Bibliographies... it provides sort of a high level—a high level glimpse of the debates that go on within the field.”

– Undergraduate, History



“There's authors who are writing on my topic and I've just learned to keep tabs on them.”

– Graduate, Social Service Administration



“You can just click on the author... that’s kind of useful if you just want to understand more about a particular research group.”

– **Graduate, Astronomy**

Seeking Context

Why would advanced researchers seek basic information on a topic?



“Typical of medieval studies... there’s been the eco-critical turn, and there’s been the material turn...”

– **Faculty, Medieval Studies**



“In my field there’s 3 types of people... the last kind is the instrumentalist, which is what I am, and then these people just build the telescopes.”

– Graduate, Astronomy



“Getting used to language... to where to find those articles, and there's other disciplines that I'm also having to read from that I was not anticipating.”

– **Graduate, Social Services Administration**



“I often refer to mathematical papers—or not even papers because the math tools that I am using, those are not the most cutting edge.”

– Graduate, Economics



“It’s very hard to look up things when you don’t quite know what they’re called.”

– Undergraduate, Chemistry



“I mean Google, you can type in some really incomplete set of terms, and somehow it'll come up with what you're looking for.”

– Faculty, Paleontology

User Research and Linked Data

Where do we go from here?



“[Google Scholar] must be just searching the full text and not realizing that there’s an author field, and this is the bibliography and it’s different.”

– Graduate, Evolutionary Biology



“Obviously ours [library catalog] isn’t exhaustive. It’s a good point of departure. And it’s good because you can keep linking on stuff.”

– **Faculty, Medieval Studies**

Future research

- Testing usability of current links and browses
- Using linked data to improve linking and recommendations
- Open-ended research based on findings from this study
 - Exploring by author



Thank You

Questions?



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