4-2015

OAIster on EBSCO Discovery Service, FirstSearch, and OAIster.worldcat.org

David J. Gaines
James Madison University, gainesdj@jmu.edu

Jody C. Fagan
James Madison University, faganjc@jmu.edu

OAIster on EBSCO Discovery Service, FirstSearch, and OAIster.worldcat.org

Date of Review: February 15, 2015

OAIster on EBSCO Discovery Service Composite Score: ★★ 3/4
OAIster on FirstSearch Composite Score: ★★ 3/4
OAIster on WorldCat Composite Score: ★★★★

Reviewed by:　David J. Gaines　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　<gainesdj@jmu.edu>
　　　　　　　　Jody Condit Fagan　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　<faganjc@jmu.edu>
　　　　　　　　James Madison University
　　　　　　　　Harrisonburg, VA　22807

Abstract

This review of OAIster investigated the utility of OAIster as a tool for library users to discover and access relevant information. Because the vision for OAIster is so large, one goal of this review was to describe OAIster based on reviewing search results. FirstSearch, OAIster.worldcat.org, and EBSCO Discovery Service interfaces were reviewed. Five searches were performed in each interface, and the material types and counts were recorded. Because OAIster is intended to link only to publicly accessible resources, links to resources were also tested. The review found large differences across interfaces in the number of results, classification of records into material types, and access to resources. Discovery tools do not always map OAIster metadata effectively, and public search engines do not seem to thoroughly index OAIster. Some OAIster records link to non-full–text or not publicly accessible resources. OAIster is a valuable tool for discovering resources in archives, special collections, and institutional repositories, but its place among Open Access search tools is still somewhat unclear.

Pricing Options

OAIster is an Open Access database and its native interface is open to the public. Institutions and consortia can also access OAIster through discovery services such as EBSCO Discovery Service, and OAIster is available to OCLC FirstSearch Base Package subscribers. OCLC intends to replace FirstSearch by the end of the calendar year; FirstSearch libraries and content will all be transitioning to WorldCat Discovery.[1] WorldCat Discovery was not available to us at the time of testing or writing this article, so we were unable to compare within that interface.

Product Description

Describing OAIster is challenging. The official product description is somewhat vague:

> OAIster is a union catalog of millions of records representing Open Access resources that was built by harvesting from Open Access collections worldwide using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Today, OAIster includes more than 30 million records representing digital resources from more than 1,500 contributors.[2]

An OCLC representative noted that OAIster records "should only describe materials that are Open Access and therefore accessible online," but that OCLC does not currently have an automated process to proactively "ensure that OAIster records that have URLs always link

"At a Glance" Comparative Review Scores

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

OAIster on …

	EBSCO Discovery Service	FirstSearch	WorldCat.org
Composite:	★★ 3/4	★★ 3/4	★★★★
Content:	★★★ 1/2	★★★ 1/2	★★★ 1/2
User Interface/ Searchability:	★★	★★	★★★★ 1/2
Pricing:	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contract Options:	N/A	N/A	N/A

to Open Access downloadable content."[3] Thus, one of the goals of this review will be to attempt to determine a more pragmatic description of OAIster concerning its contents and the proportion of Open Access downloadable content that it contains. OCLC does periodically review the data for some cleanup projects; for example, they are "currently working on a project to delete records that [have] no active links to any online content."[4]

OAIster was originally a project at the University of Michigan (with collaboration from University of Illinois),[5] funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2001 and launched on June 28, 2002 with about 275,000 records from 56 repositories.[6] OAIster's creators wanted to raise the visibility of digital library resources as well as descriptive metadata records.[7] The initial conception of OAIster included non-openly–accessible resources.[8] OAIster was enthusiastically received by the library community, who found its interface easy to use and its use of the OAI-PMH protocol for metadata harvesting a simple way to expose their collections.[9]

Throughout its history, OAIster's content has been determined by the contributing institutions. Although OAIster has guidelines for submission, there is no formal, centralized quality control or collection review to determine if all the records submitted to OAIster are following the intent of the creators. A 2005 review in Choice described OAIster as containing items ranging "from Web sites targeting elementary students to scholarly monographs."[10] By 2007, OAIster had 10 million records, and the scholarly excitement about OAIster as a scholarly equivalent of Google was high.[11] OAIster transitioned to OCLC in 2009 to "ensure continued public access to open archive collections and to expand the visibility of these collections through OCLC services."[12] OCLC did not make any money, nor was money exchanged, and the records were added to FirstSearch at no charge to subscribers and to the public search engine WorldCat.org.[13]

Today, OAIster is accessible though the OAIster Web site at <http://oaister.worldcat.org>. OAIster contents are also accessible via WorldCat.org as well as FirstSearch's Base Package and discovery tools like EBSCO Discovery Service. Examples of repositories harvested by OAIster that give some indication of the diversity of content include the National Library of Medicine (i.e., PubMed Central), Caltech Computer Science Technical Reports, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and the Université de Montreal.[14]

Like other electronic databases reviewed in *The Charleston Advisor,* OAIster is intended for use by the general public and library patrons to discover and access information. OAIster is also important to libraries, archives, and museums for showcasing unique local materials and digital repository contents, as demonstrated by articles, conference presentations, and Webinars describing technical details of how to raise the visibility or utility of items they wish to showcase.[15]

However, OAIster is used by several other communities. OAIster is of interest to technical personnel of all disciplines who need a large database of Open Access metadata to use in developing programmatic solutions or as a testbed for metadata standards and/or harvesting protocols.[16] There have also been projects to use subsets of OAIster for topic-specific databases.[17] OAIster is also highly significant as an opportunity for fulfilling Open Access mandates[18] and for libraries, archives, and similar organizations to have a shared repository at the scale of public search engines like Google.[19] Some journals cite OAIster among other indexes and databases where their content can be discovered (e.g., *Journal of Information and Organizational Sciences*).[20]

OAIster is also the target of a number of studies related to the discoverability of Open Access journal articles, both within specific fields[21] and in general. However, OAIster has not historically been a good source for finding journal articles. Norris and his colleagues found only 2.38% of their sample of 628 articles appeared in OAIster, while 68% were found in Google Scholar, 11.17% were found in Open DOAR, and 8.79% in Google.[22] They concluded, "What is clear is that while OAIster and OpenDOAR are reliant on institutional repositories for the majority of their content, it appears that the majority of authors in this sample at least are not self archiving their work to them, or if they do, it is to non compliant or unregistered repositories or to locations not accessible to these search tools."

In terms of non-journal documents, Bhat found that OAIster retrieved 73% of documents from the ten OAI-PMH compliant repositories in their study; however, OAIster ranked eighth behind general-purpose search engines including Google, suggesting that OAIster is succeeding but that harvestable repositories still have more work to do with respect to improving their visibility in OAIster and other discovery tools.[23]

While these "alternative uses" of OAIster are significant, the remainder of this review will evaluate OAIster as a tool for library end users to discover and access relevant information. Three interfaces will be reviewed: the public interface to OAIster, WorldCat.org; the First-Search interfaces, and EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS).

Critical Evaluation

INTERFACE DESCRIPTION

The OAIster interface at <http://oaister.worldcat.org> produces a similar experience to most single-line database search interfaces. After entering a term or phrase, results are returned with ways to refine your search included in the left column. Also available is a more advanced starting page with three separate search lines, with a drop-down menu for each to select which record field(s) to search out of the fourteen available, and limits by Year, Audience, Content, Format, and Language.

Searching in FirstSearch provides a few different options: Basic, Advanced, and Expert. The Basic search offers five rows that can't be limited (Keyword, Author, Title, ISBN, and Year). The Advanced search offers three rows that can be limited to over 25 different fields, plus limits by Year, Document Type, Language Phrase, Language, or Number of Libraries. The expert search requires knowledge of First-Search syntax. For this review, terms were entered on the first row of Advanced search but without changing any other options, to most closely match WorldCat.org

The EDS interface varies depending on how a library configures it. At the authors' institution, the default search is Advanced, which offers three rows with field limiters. As with FirstSearch, terms were entered into EDS without including any limiters. When using First-Search and <http://oaister.worldcat.org>, the interface begins with OAIster selected, while in EDS, one must perform a search before limiting results to a database, in this case, OAIster.

When our search methods required limiting by material type, we used the facets in the left-hand column of WorldCat.org and EDS, but with FirstSearch, one must click a Limit Search button, then use checkboxes to limit by Document Type.

TABLE 1   Number of Results and Proportion of Publicly Accessible Resources

Search Terms	Number of Results			Number of top Five Results Public Access		
	WorldCat	FirstSearch	EDS	WorldCat	FirstSearch	EDS
conservatives without conscience	11	3	3	4 of 5	3 of 3	3 of 3
feminism and religion	384	285	289	3 of 5	5 of 5	4 of 5
voter suppression	34	15	9	5 of 5	4 of 5	4 of 5
war bonds	3,892	2,110	1,971	4 of 5	3 of 5	4 of 5
libertarianism	1,097	338	341	3 of 5	3 of 5	4 of 5

TABLE 2   Top Three Material Formats by Interface

Search Terms	Number of Results by Material Format					
	WorldCat		FirstSearch		EDS	
conservatives without conscience	Archival Material	5	Internet Resources	3	Electronic Resource	3
	Computer File	3		N/A		N/A
	Down. Article	2		N/A		N/A
feminism and religion	Archival Material	264	Internet Resources	148	Electronic Resource	288
	Computer File	47	Archival Material	85		N/A
	Down. Article	20	Books	43		N/A
voter suppression	Archival Material	21	Internet Resources	11	Electronic Resource	9
	Thesis/dissertation	3	Archival Material	2		N/A
	Down. Article	1	N/A			N/A
war bonds	Archival Material	1,552	Internet Resources	1,188	Electronic Resource	1,960
	Down. visual mat.	1,107	Archival Material	386	Non-Print Resources	9
	Image	542	Visual Materials	369		N/A
libertarianism	Archival Material	695	Internet Resources	228	Electronic Resource	341
	Book	116	Archival Material	75		N/A
	Computer file	112	Articles	9		N/A

METHODOLOGY FOR TESTING IN EACH INTERFACE

Because OAIster's content was organically developed, choosing appropriate search terms was challenging. Our goal was to use concepts for which we thought OAIster *should* return results. The emphasis OAIster contributors have placed on archives materials suggested a focus on historical concepts, so we attempted to use historical terms. We chose terms based on personal interest, then entered them into the OAIster interface to see what interesting terms its autocomplete function would list, and selected from among those. This revealed the autocomplete function is not based on the content in the database. Rather, OCLC harvests these terms from the WorldCat.org query logs for "all of the search terms previously done in WorldCat.org or WorldCat Local."[24] The autocomplete database is periodically updated to reflect only the last 90 days of searching. In EDS, autocomplete terms are "based on popular search terms across all customer accounts globally."[25]

We were also interested to see if the three interfaces tested returned consistent results for the same searches, so we recorded the total number of results returned in each. Because the scope of OAIster is defined by contributors, we noted the number of results in each material type to help us gain a sense of what the current content scope of OAIster is as well as to compare the ways in which the different interfaces present material types. In summary, the chosen search terms were entered into each database, and the total number of results and the three most numerous material types available for those results were recorded.

To compare both the presentation of records and to evaluate how OAIster metadata was included in each of the three interfaces, we clicked on the first five results' titles to see the full record. This was done for each of the five searches performed, producing 25 possible results for each interface.

Because a major goal of OAIster is to showcase Open Access resources, for each of the first five results returned in response to each search, we checked to see if the general public could reach the resource described by each of the results returned. We clicked on each to see the full record and attempted to reach the full text of the material for each. The basis of OAIster is Open Access, so we anticipated that almost all records would link to publicly accessible resources. For video links, only a few seconds of video was played to be sure the content was accessible.

EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS

The number of results in each interface for the search terms is shown in Table 1, and the three most common material types for each search and interface are shown in Table 2. As can be seen, the results varied

across interfaces. For all searches, the OAIster interface found more potential results for the search terms; the search algorithm seems to cast a wider net for word variations (e.g., "conservatives" found also "conservation" and "conserve"). FirstSearch and EDS, while being closer in the number of results, have their own way of calculating relevance, which resulted in a greater difference of what appeared on the first page of results. This was especially noticeable with large result sets. The search on "War Bonds," for instance, which returned between about 1,900 to 4,000 results across interfaces, returned mostly images in the first results page in both FirstSearch and WorldCat.org, whereas EDS had mostly articles on the first page.

Concerning language, OAIster harvests material from all over the world; for this reason, the expectation is that one will come across a variety of results that are not in the native language of the patron doing the searching, in this case English. FirstSearch was the most likely to contain non-English items in the results; 9 of the 25 results examined as part of this study were non-English. EDS ranked English results more highly, with only 2 of 25 results being non-English. This was surprising, as the metadata provided for ingesting OAIster into EDS seems to be missing the language field necessary to produce a language limiter in EDS. If a language was mentioned for OAIster results in EDS, it was only in the full record in a field marked Note. Of the items in the OAIster interface that could have been non-English, we were unable to determine language because we were unable to reach the full text.

Another notable difference in results was the reduction in the number of material formats across interfaces. For example, for the test search "war bonds," OAIster has 10 formats (7 top-level + 3 second-level), FirstSearch only ends up with 6, and EDS 2. The reason for the severe drop in number of formats for EDS is discussed more thoroughly below.

WorldCat.org (<http://oaister.worldcat.org/>)

Out of the 25 items we attempted to view in the OAIster interface, (i.e., the first five results from the five different searches), we were able to access the full resource for 19 of them, for a 76% success rate. For the items where the full resource could not be reached, the reasons why not were not always clear. In two of the cases, travelling physically to the holding institutions to view the items would be necessary; wheras the other four all had links marked "Item Resolution URL" (the notation under links that are supposed to lead to the full text), which usually led to the item's metadata page at the contributing institution. Sometimes these were marked as being "For [institution] Staff and Students only" or "Repository Staff only." In one result for the search "feminism and religion," we were led to an e-journal homepage for a publication that ceased in 2010. From that home page, we managed to find the article from the result list, but clicking on the article title or the full text link would take us back to the home page with no explanation. The full text was indeed available in OAIster for several other items in the same journal and issue, however. Thus, the article in our research sample, "Secularism, Feminism and Race in Representations of Australianness," seems to have been an outlier.

Other than these exceptions, all other materials were reached easily, including video files.

FirstSearch (accessible with university subscription)

The first test search performed in OAIster through the FirstSearch interface was concerning, because the number of results (3) was much fewer than in <http://oaister.worldcat.org> (11). In fact, four out of the five searches returned fewer results. Accessing the full resource

for the first five results had a 72% success rate (18 of 25). Of the items where the full resource was not reached, two were charging for access and three had metadata only. Due to the differences in result sets and relevancy, there tended to be no crossover between items that did not lead to full text.

Of the result set for "libertarianism," two results from the University of Helsinki were problematic in terms of not being able to reach the full text. Both offered the paper copy for reading room use at the Library of Social Sciences, and microfiche copies were available for Interlibrary Loan.

EBSCO Discovery Service (discovery service accessible with university subscription)

EDS was similar to FirstSearch in that four out of the five searches returned fewer results that the native interface. Access to full text was similar to <http://oaister.worldcat.org>, with a 76% success rate. There were only two items that led to non-English results. The biggest downside to OAIster in EDS is that, due to the way in which EBSCO harvests the metadata from OAIster and the Source Type facet options in EDS, there were only four material types (Electronic Resources, Non-Print Resources, Audio, Video) to categorize OAIster results into; of those four, one type (Electronic Resources) comprises 99.57% of the results from OAIster. Most objects in OAIster are demarcated in such a way that they "roll-up" into the EBSCO/EDS facet of Electronic Resources. Also, the Author metadata seems to have migrated to an Additional Details field.

The most notable issue reaching full resources in our instance of EDS was an item for which we had to open the full record to reach a link; most OAIster items are set for our institution to display a link to full text on the results page. The item in question, "Entangled Subjects: Feminism, Religion, and the Obligation to Alterity," is a book chapter that appears to require a login from University of London to access.

Discussion

As shown in both Table 1 and Table 2, the interface used to search OAIster makes a big difference in the user's experience. The <http://oaister.worldcat.org> interface consistently returned the most results and had the most useful variety of material formats. In addition to returning fewer results, the FirstSearch and EDS interfaces obfuscated the contents of OAIster because the material types were obfuscated by the way the metadata was mapped to FirstSearch and EDS material types (e.g., mapping Archival Material to Internet Resources or Electronic Resource).

Because our five test searches fell in a limited disciplinary area, we also conducted three very generic searches in the <http://oaister.worldcat.org> interface to attempt to determine the current composition of OAIster at large (Table 3). Although results varied by search term, Archival Material was by far the dominant format. According to OCLC, the "Archival Material type is the default for self-harvested metadata. As such, almost all self-harvested items have that material type, whether it is right or wrong."[26] It would help OAIster if contributors would change that configuration to something more representative of their materials. The confusing material format Computer File, which ranked second through fourth in dominance, may contain additional Archival Materials as well as some of the other formats listed (e.g., Book). The formats Article, Book, and Visual Material rounded out the top five material formats in OAIster, followed by a long tail of the other material types.

TABLE 3   **Proportion of Material Format for Generic Searches, OAIster via WorldCat.org**

Search Term	Test	Percentage	Science	Percentage	History	Percentage	Example Item
Archival Material	802,609	74%	1,122,378	71%	755,126	64%	History and Hermeneutics by Yoder, John Howard
Article	119,303	11%	143,942	9%	56,628	5%	L'Etang, Jacquie (2008) Writing PR history: issues, methods and politics. Journal of Communication Management, 12 (4). p. 319-335.
Book	87,440	8%	88,351	6%	55,953	5%	Great generals in history by United States Air Force Academy.
Computer File	70,984	7%	209,367	13%	118,097	10%	A History of Chemistry by Pagel, Walter
Image	9,470	1%	14,085	1%	86,080	7%	Caribou by Donald Campbell Kemp
Visual Material	4,621	0%	9,383	1%	110,735	9%	Lake Zurich, the lake
Journal, magazine	1,670	0%	2,456	0%	911	0%	Australian veterinary history record
Video	317	0%	1,476	0%	897	0%	Long ago in Montana by Sally Thompson
Audiobook	97	0%	258	0%	1,126	0%	Everyday artistry : a conversation with Diana Bell-Kite
Map	16	0%	124	0%	1,926	0%	Combination atlas map of Butler county, Ohio
eNewspaper	9	0%	30	0%	47	0%	NEWS@UTEP: The Weekly E-Newsletter of the University of Texas at El Paso by University Communications
eMusic	6	0%	4	0%	145	0%	Mean Old Bedbug Blues by Hall, Vera
Website	4	0%	123	0%	84	0%	100th anniversary of State Highway Commission by Wisconsin. Department of Transportation
Object	1	0%	7	0%	175	0%	Weapons from throughout Chinese history by Krannert Art Museum
Music					147	0%	Piano music in 19th century America by Maurice Hinson
Musical Score					14	0%	Border ballad : song by Scott, Walter
Kit					6	0%	Zuni pottery : a touch kit
Total	1,091,168		1,591,981		1,187,950		

Based on the test searches we performed, it seems pragmatic to describe OAIster to patrons as a discovery tool for archival materials where most, but not all, of the materials are accessible online. Our conclusions were reached using a small number of searches in the context of a database of over 30 million records that will change over time, and should therefore continue to be re-evaluated. However it seems fair to say the unique resources available in OAIster support its inclusion on any library subject guide for patrons seeking primary sources. While subjects like history, English, and political science come immediately to mind, with some search tips OAIster's contents could be useful to numerous fields, including art, music, public relations, and education.

OAIster is an undeniable achievement in showcasing how OAI-PMH can be used to support the creation of a database from multiple contributors. However, it is still struggling to become a presence on the Web, as evidenced by the studies cited earlier in this review. Also, of the 17 items listed in Table 3, only four could be found on the first page of a Google search, even with the title entered in quotes. With some items, the first page of Google results contained *all* the results, suggesting the OAIster record was not indexed in Google at all. OCLC commented that "OAIster is primarily provided for searching through the search services described in the article and through the WorldCat API."[27]

OAIster and discovery tools also still have work to do as well: in this study, neither EDS nor FirstSearch made a particularly good discovery tool for OAIster. An example illustrates how the material types quickly become obfuscated outside of <http://oaister.worldcat.org>. The same video in was classified as Archival Material in WorldCat.org, as Electronic Resource in EDS, and as Computer File in First Search. In the case of EDS, the author field is currently mapped to

an Added Details field, confounding interpretation of the record and meaning exporting OAIster records from EDS into a tool like Ref-Works results in great loss of metadata. For this review, all of the results found in EDS from OAIster and exported to RefWorks needed to be re-searched in Google or Google Scholar for easy retrieval.

Many of today's libraries feature a single-search box on their home pages as an entry point into their discovery tools. Should OAIster be included in this type of search? The answer depends on the libraries' stated mission or purpose for their discovery tool. If a libraries' intent is to include as much content as possible, OAIster should be included. For the five searches in this study, OAIster fared well in competition with the 60 other databases included in JMU's EDS instance. For "war bonds," OAIster ranked second after Business Source Complete; for "libertarianism," OAIster ranked third after MasterFILE and Business Source Complete, and for "feminism and religion," OAIster ranked fourth after ATLA, Women's Studies International, and Mas-terFILE. This suggests leaving OAIster out of searches will reduce results returned in discovery tools. Libraries will need to survey the experiences of reference staff and subject librarians to evaluate the tradeoff between OAIster's beneifts and limitations in the discovery tool.

In summary, while OAIster was built to accommodate a wide variety of resources beyond special collections and archival materials, in practice the database could be described as a discovery tool for archives, special collections, and institutional repositories. The variety of contributors to OAIster are not limited to these entities, but unfortunately it is difficult to determine the extent of non-archival material since so many contributors do not seem to pay adequate attention to material type.[28] Continuing to describe OAIster with a broader focus (e.g., a database of scholarly information) may be misleading to users, and continuing to include materials such as journal articles in OAIster may reduce the coherence of the database. While in library circles it may be right to speak of OAIster in terms of its wide-reaching potential, a typical library patron is interested in what the database contains today.

Other projects with similar missions may bring additional confusion for institutions and patrons wondering where to search. One example is the launch of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) in April, 2013. The stated mission of the DPLA is "to become the national digital library for the United States,"[29] thus having a narrower geographic scope than OAIster. The DPLA's strategic plan is ambitious,[30] but not enough time has passed to determine the nature and extent of DPLA's effect. The OpenDOAR project's aim is primarily to list Open Access repositories,[31] but offers a Google Custom Search across those repositories. While DPLA, OpenDOAR, and other Open Access search tools may be sufficiently distinct in mission for librarians, library patrons will understandably struggle to determine which one might best fit their information needs.

CONTRACT PROVISIONS

While there isn't a contract for searching OAIster, OCLC does specify the terms for contributions to OAIster. Currently, institutions can contribute records via the OCLC Digital Collection Gateway.[32] Contributors are notified that metadata added to WorldCat may be "used and transferred by OCLC and others" and that metadata "will be freely available to any user of WorldCat.org for discovery purposes."[33] Institutions can remove their metadata at any time, and OCLC reserves the right to remove metadata without prior notification (e.g., in the case of pointing to unauthorized content). OCLC also disclaims liability in connection with harvested metadata and provides http://oais-

ter.worldcat.org "as-is." More information is on the WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway FAQ.[34]

Authentication

Neither <http://oaister.worldcat.org> nor EDS requires authenticating to search OAIster. Users may have to authenticate to access license-protected full text. EDS offers ten authentication methods, including IP recognition, Shibboleth, and institutional password.[35] Authentication options currently available for FirstSearch include IP recognition, Shibboleth, and institutional password. These options are only available until the upcoming transition from FirstSearch to WorldCat Discovery is enacted. Once that is done, the intent is that the need to authenticate (which should be rare with OAIster) will be delayed until as late as possible in a user's workflow, meaning that "many bibliographic databases can be searched in WordCat Discovery without needing to authenticate first."[36]

Endnotes

1. Claire Cocco, e-mail message to the author, February 3, 2015.
2. "The OAIster database," OCLC, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://www.oclc.org/oaister.en.html>.
3. Claire Cocco, e-mail message to the author, February 11, 2015.
4. Claire Cocco, e-mail message to the author, February 8, 2015.
5. Adriene Garrison, "OAISTER: The Roots and the Resource," *PNLA Quarterly* 74, 2 (2010): 46-51.
6. Kat Hagedorn. "OAIster: a "No Dead Ends" OAI Service Provider," *Library Hi Tech*, 21, 2, (2003): 170-181, <http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/58772>.
7. Garrison, "OAISTER," p. 47-48.
8. Jonathan Rochkind, 2008, OAISter - Points to Plenty of Non Open Access Stuff, accessed February 15, 2015, <https://bibwild.wordpress.com/2008/01/25/oaister-not-open-access/>.
9. Garrison, "OAISTER,"p. 48.
10. A. R. Hutchinson, "OAIster," *Choice*, February 2006, doi:10.5860/CHOICE.43-3116.
11. Kat Hagedorn, "OAIster Reaches 10 Million Records," listerv post to OAI-general, January 25, 2007, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://www.openarchives.org/pipermail/oai-general/2007-January/000469.html>.
12. "OCLC Makes Oaister Records Available Via Worldcat.Org," *Advanced Technology Lib*raries 38, 12 (2009): 1-12.
13. Roy Tennant, "The Straight Dope on OAIster," September 21, 2009, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://hangingtogether.org/?p=738>.
14. "OAIster Contributors," OCLC, 2015, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://www.oclc.org/oaister/contributors.en.html>.

Contact Information

OCLC
6565 Kilgour Place
Dublin, Ohio 43017
Phone: (800) 848-5878
Fax: (614) 764-6096
E-mail: <oclc@oclc.org>
URL: <http://www.oclc.org/oaister.en.html?urlm=168646>

EDS Review Scores Composite: ★★ 3/4

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★★ 1/2

See Content comments for WorldCat.org

User Interface/Searchability: ★★

Significant reduction in material formats and "lost" metadata reduce the searchability of this interface, but relevance algo-rithm seems to work well.

Pricing: N/A

Free to EDS subscribers

Contract Options: N/A

FirstSearch Review Scores Composite: ★★ 3/4

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★★ 1/2

See Content comments for WorldCat.org

User Interface/Searchability: ★★

Reduction in material formats and the need to visit Limit Search to apply that facet reduce the searchability of this interface; fewer results found using First Search than WorldCat.org.

Pricing: N/A

Free to Base Package subscribers.

Contract Options: N/A

WorldCat.org Review Scores Composite: ★★★★

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★★ 1/2

Content is unique and metadata records support important OA initiatives. Metadata is currently inconsistent in quality, how-ever, and 25% of resources are not openly accessible.

User Interface/Searchability: ★★★★ 1/2

The WorldCat.org interface is intuitive and has the best material format facet for OAIster.

Pricing: N/A

OAIster via WorldCat.org is free.

Contract Options: N/A

15. Ishimitsu, Daniel, "Adding Thumbnails to OAIster using +the Digital Collection Gateway - Improving Discovery and Use of Your Digital Repository Materials – OCLC Digital Collection Gateway Webinar," 2012, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://hdl.handle.net/10125/22512>.

16. Beisler, Amalia, and Willis Glee, "Beyond Theory: Preparing Dublin Core Metadata for OAI-PMH Harvesting," *Journal of Library Metadata* 9, 1-2 (2009): 65-97; Peake, Michael, "Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting, Dublin Core and Accessibility in the OAIster Repository," *Library Philosophy and Practice* (2012): <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/892>; P. Tangtulyangkul, "Intelligent Information Mining from Veterinary Clinical Records and Open Source Repository," TENCON 2009, January 23-26, Singapore, IEEE Region 10 Conference, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TENCON.2009.5396065>.

17. Longva, Leif, (2009), Northern Areas Open Scholarly Documents (NAROS): Building a Service on the shoulders of OAIster, DSpace User Group Meeting 2009, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://hdl.handle.net/2077/21338>.

18. Heather Morrison and Andrew Waller, "Open Access for the Medical Librarian," *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association* 27, 3(2006): 69-73.

19. Hagedorn, "OAIster."

20. Neven Vrcek, "From the Editor," *Journal of Information and Organizational Sciences* 33, 1 (2009): <http://jios.foi.hr/index.php/jios/article/view/119>.

21. Matsubayashi, Mamiko, et al., "Status Of Open Access In The Biomedical Field In 2005," *Journal of The Medical Library Association* 97, 1 (2009): 3-10; Norris, Michael, "The Citation Advantage Of Open Access Articles," (2008), <https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/dspace-jspui/handle/2134/4089>; Norris, Michael, Charles Oppenheim, and Fytton Rowland, "Finding Open Access Articles Using Google, Google Scholar, OAIster And OpenDOAR," *Online Information Review* 32, 6 (2008): 709-715.

22. Norris et al., "Finding Open Access Articles," p. 714.

23. Mohammad Hanief Bhat, "Interoperability of Open Access Repositories in Computer Science and IT – an Evaluation," *Library Hi Tech* 28, 1 (2010): 107 – 118.

24. Claire Cocco, e-mail message to the author, February 3, 2015.

25. "How Does EBSCO's Autocomplete Feature Work?" *EBSCO Support*. EBSCO, last updated January 1 2015, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?topic=996&id=7497&page=1>.

26. Claire Cocco, e-mail message to the author, February 26, 2015.

27. Bob Murphy, e-mail message to the author, March 10, 2015.

28. "OAIster Contributors," OCLC, 2015, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://www.oclc.org/oaister/contributors.en.html>.

29. SChutte, A. "A plan for libraries to aggregate metadata into one central portal," KnightBlog, accessed March 4, 2015, <http://www.knightfoundation.org/blogs/knightblog/2013/3/22/plan-libraries-aggregate-metadata-one-central-portal/>.

30. DPLA, "Strategic Plan," accessed March 4, 2015, <http://dp.la/info/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DPLA-StrategicPlan_2015-2017-Jan7.pdf>.

31. "About OpenDOAR," accessed March 10, 2015, <http://www.opendoar.org/about.html>.

32. "WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway," OCLC, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://www.oclc.org/digital-gateway/getting-started.en.html>.

33. "Information for Metadata Contributors," accessed February 15, 2015, <http://www.oclc.org/content/dam/oclc/worldcat-dgc/InformationForContributors.pdf>.

34. "WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway FAQ," accessed March 10, 2015, <http://www.oclc.org/support/services/gateway/faq.en.html>.

35. "What authentication methods are available for accessing EBSCO interfaces?," *EBSCO Support*. EBSCO, last updated July, 2014, accessed February 15, 2015, <http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?topic=996&id=3572&page=1>.

36. Claire Cocco, e-mail message to the author, February 3, 2015.

About the Authors

David J. Gaines is a systems and applications specialist at James Madison University's Libraries & Educational Technologies. Among other responsibilities, he reviews metadata to determine whether to include it in the library's discovery tool, administrates the library's institutional repository, and supports the integrated library system.

Jody Condit Fagan is director of scholarly content systems at James Madison University's Libraries & Educational Technologies. She holds a PhD in strategic leadership from James Madison University, a Master's in history from Southern Illinois University, and a Master's of library science from the University of Maryland. Information about her research can be found on her Selected Works page and Google Scholar profile. ∎