DATABASE VS DISCOVERY TOOL

A SEARCH METHOD SHOWDOWN

ONE SEARCH: EXAMINING THE USE AND PERCEPTIONS OF A DISCOVERY TOOL

OBJECTIVES

This study seeks to measure students’ opinions of a discovery tool, Summon (One Search), when compared to the subject specific database CINAHL.

METHODS

Undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Allied Health Sciences attended library instruction sessions on CINAHL and Summon.

Students were given a clinical scenario and then asked to locate relevant information using both Summon and CINAHL.

Following this exercise, students provided their perceptions of the two resources with a five question survey.

RESULTS

1. Which resource did you prefer?
   - Response: Summon 50%, CINAHL 50%
   - Count: 60

2. What did you find the most helpful about Summon? CINAHL?
   - “Summon is a great starting point and is good for specific searches”
   - “CINAHL is easier to find, easy to get started, CINAHL once we were shown how to use it, very easy to search for specific topics”

3. What did you like the least about Summon? CINAHL?
   - “Yes, that Summon gives a very broad range of results, CINAHL takes longer to complete”
   - “CINAHL has narrow searches as opposed to Summon and doesn’t have as many subheadings or links to sources”

4. What research tool would you be most likely to use CINAHL or Summon?
   - Response: One Search 93.7%, CINAHL 6.3%

5. Would you use Summon in the future?
   - Response: Yes 85.2%, No 14.8%

CONCLUSIONS

- Students preferred the subject specific database, CINAHL.
- CINAHL’s facets and ease of navigation were ideal.
- Although students preferred CINAHL, they would also be willing to use Summon again.