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Dean of Libraries

## One Search Box... Discover FAU Libraries



*Articles, books and more in a single search*

Searching a library’s collections has traditionally been a daunting task, requiring people to use not only the catalog to search for books, but a variety of indexes to search for journal articles. Even then, many materials, including maps, music scores, items a library has digitized and electronic resources can be missed.

As a result, the FAU Libraries are continually looking for ways to provide comprehensive access to our collections, leverage unique content and ensure the FAU community takes full advantage of our investment in resources.

We have recently installed a “one search box” product we are calling **SearchWiSE**. We expect SearchWiSE to be a boon to undergraduates and faculty. To quote Cyndy Pawlek, deputy librarian at Dartmouth, “This new discovery platform has Google-like convenience and speed as a goal, and employs Google-like practices to achieve it: all the data and metadata that it searches are gathered onto a central server where the resulting mass is deduplicated, regularized, indexed and delivered back to the user.”



The ability to do a “Google”-like search of everything the library has can result in an overwhelming number of citations— not unlike a Google search. A million hits can be a problem! But, unlike Google, the SearchWiSE interface includes research-oriented facets that allow users to refine their results within a scholarly context. For example, users can target only peer-reviewed items, show only full text articles available online or include/exclude items such as newspaper articles, books or journals.

We also understand that research necessitates different strategies. SearchWiSE is the latest access point provided by FAU Libraries. Those who are looking for a known item can continue to click on the catalog, or on the various subject databases, as well as the alphabetical list of our electronic journals. But those just starting can type a topic into the SearchWiSE box and **simultaneously search all of the FAU Libraries’** book holdings, journal article holdings, maps, videos, music scores, items digitized by our staff—in short, everything that we have cataloged and much that we own but have not individually cataloged. For more information, consult the **SearchWiSE Users Guide** <http://libguides.fau.edu/SearchWiSE>.

Although the FAU Libraries are among the first Florida libraries to subscribe to the SearchWiSE-type product known as a web-scale discovery service, many other well-known American and international libraries are subscribers. We anticipate that in the future, a web-scale discovery service will be the rule rather than the exception at university libraries.

As with any new product, there are some issues that are being addressed, as well as many enhancements on the horizon that promise to make for a more intuitive user experience. Choosing to be early adopters of this product ultimately fulfills the FAU Libraries’ mission of being innovative and proactive in providing the most current means of access to our collections and services. Because of SearchWiSE, discovering what the FAU Libraries offer has been greatly simplified and amplified.



We urge you to try SearchWiSE and email your comments and questions to [libsummon-l@wise.fau.edu](mailto:libsummon-l@wise.fau.edu), or learn more about SearchWiSE at [www.fau.edu/library/ecollect/searchwise.php](http://www.fau.edu/library/ecollect/searchwise.php)