ZLOT: The Z Texas Implementation Component of the Library of Texas
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The Library of Texas (LOT)

- Overarching goal
  - Provide services and resources that extend the reach and range of Texans to information
- A statewide initiative building on
  - The evolving telecommunications infrastructure
  - Computing and networking technologies
  - The treasures and resources of Texas libraries

Characterizing the LOT

- A virtual library comprising
  - Services
  - Resources
  - An “interface” to services and resources
- Not a digital library
  - Not all resources available are in digital/electronic form
- An evolving product that responds to
  - Users’ needs
  - Available resources
  - Current and emerging technologies
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Virtual library architecture

- Services defined by needs of User Groups
- Services offer & use resources
- Resources are collected, organized, managed using technology
- Technology

ZLOT project

- Z Implementation Component of the Library of Texas
  - Developing a standards-based approach for the virtual library
- Project Focus
  - Identifying requirements for resource discovery services
  - Demonstrating feasibility and utility of resource discovery tools
- ZLOT Project website: http://www.unt.edu/zlot

ZLOT primary activities

- Library of Texas Resource Discovery Services
  - Identify requirements
  - Develop specifications for resource discovery tools
  - Coordinate proof of concept implementations
  - Evaluate prototype implementations
- Describe existing technology landscape
  - Survey all public and academic libraries
- Develop framework for document delivery
  - Building upon current resource sharing through ILL
  - Identifying supplemental approaches
Resource discovery services

- Resource discovery services
  - Extends the reach and range of a user across
    - Organizational, collections, and format boundaries
  - A variety of tools and approaches for
    - Discovering the existence of appropriate resources
    - Identifying and selecting useful resources
- Search and retrieval services are core
  - A common interface for
    - Searching one database at a time
    - Searching multiple but similar databases (e.g. library catalogs)
    - Searching multiple but diverse databases (e.g., TexShare databases)

Resource discovery across multiple online catalogs

Resource Discovery Services

- Diversity of libraries = diversity of requirements
- Public and smaller academic libraries:
  - Importance of a common interface (simple and advanced) for searching across resources
  - Common LOT interface with customizable local library presence
  - Tools to help users select resources to search
  - Multilingual interfaces
  - Well-organized results (by topic, by type of resource)
  - Indications of availability and “how to get”
Technology inventory survey

- Critical information needed to plan the evolution of LOT
- Survey requests information on current technology in libraries
- To be sent out within the next two weeks
- Online submission of data available

Moving forward

- Describing library technology landscape
  – You can help: Complete the survey you will receive in the next two weeks
- Identifying libraries ready to participate in some of the prototype implementations
  – You can help: Contact us if you would like your library to be considered
- Building interest among vendors and developers to produce prototypes
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