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Article Discovery Working Group Final Report

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University of Michigan Library
Article Discovery Working Group
Supplemental Report

In response to the Article Discovery Working Group's [ADWG] initial report, dated 31 January 2010,[*] the Library Dean's Group asked the Article Discovery Working group to provide further information about Serials' Solutions Summon in two specific areas:

1) Coverage
2) User interest in the tool

Please see the following pages for our findings in these areas.

Submitted April 23, 2010 by the Article Discovery Working Group:

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Permanent URL: http://www.lib.umich.edu/files/adwg/supplemental-report.pdf

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[*] http://www.lib.umich.edu/files/adwg/final-report.pdf

1. COVERAGE

The Library provided Serials Solutions with a list of all serials titles with online coverage. The list contained 43,833 items. After Serials Solutions used Ulrichs to remove duplicate titles and publications, there were 40,368 unique ISSNs in our holdings; 18,863 of these are considered 'peer reviewed'.

3,310 of the 40,368 journals (8.2%) are not in Summon. 1,376 of the excluded journals are peer-reviewed (3.4% of the total, and 7.3% of the subset that are peer-reviewed). See Table 1.

Table 1

	Number	Not in Summon	% Not In Summon
Peer-Reviewed	18,183	1,376	7.3%
Other Journals	21,505	1,924	9.0%
All Journals	40,368	3,310	8.2%

Notably, a number of leading health sciences journals (including The Lancet) are excluded from Summon results.

2. USER REACTIONS

The Article Discovery Working Group conducted interviews with 24 faculty, researchers, and students (see Table 2) to gain insight into the likelihood that the University would use the Summon product if it were offered.[*] We selected Dartmouth College's Summon implementation as our test platform because, although it is a smaller institution, it offers a broad undergraduate education as well as graduate programs in business, engineering, and medicine. Despite its size, its journal collections are at least roughly analogous to our own.
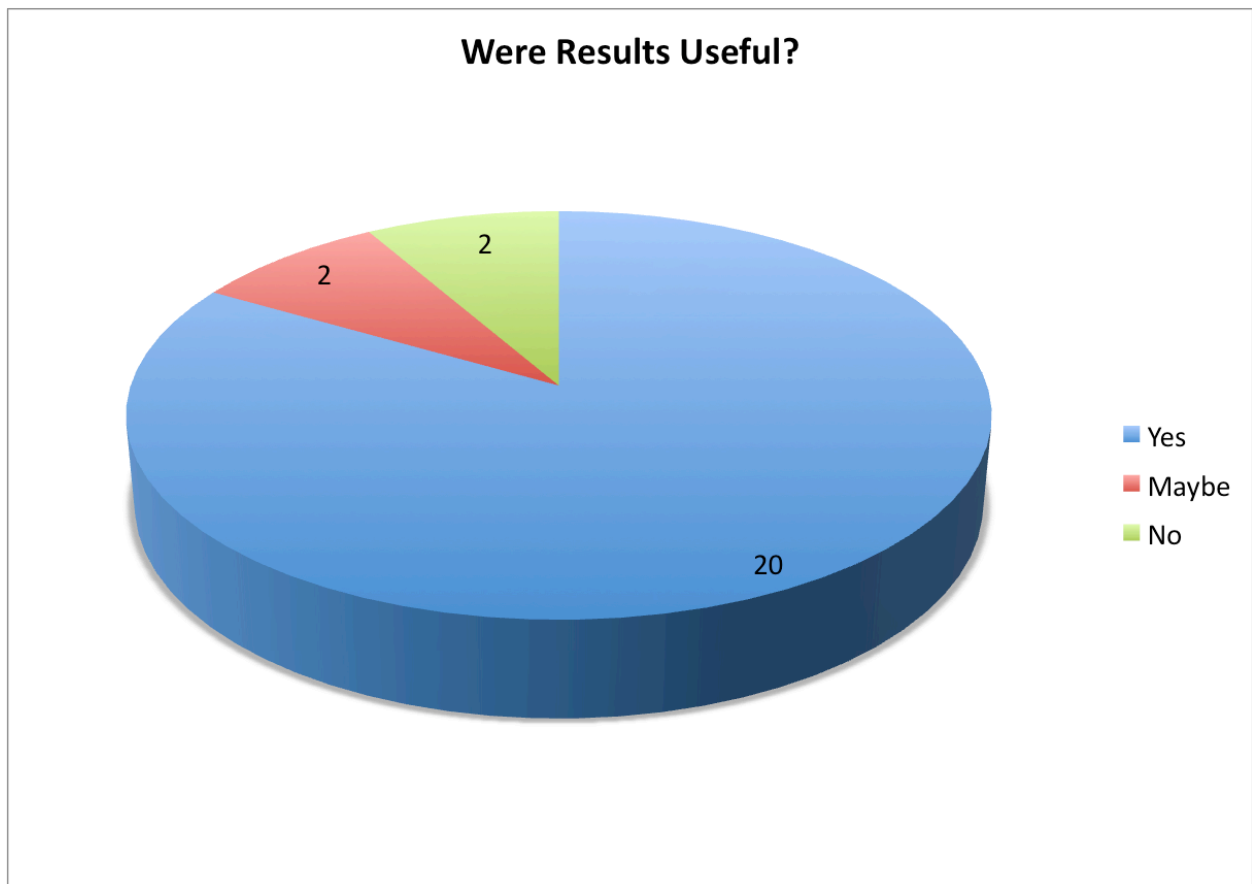
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[*] See the Appendix for the interview script.

Table 2

Status	Number	%
Undergraduate	10	52.6%
Graduate	5	26.3%
Faculty	5	26.3%
Staff	2	10.5%
Affilliate	2	10.5%

The overwhelming majority of users felt that the results they received in Summon for a search typical to the kind of research they usually conducted were "useful" (see Figure 1):

Figure 1

Were Results Useful?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

Both of the 2 'no' responses were from researchers at the medical campus who expressed a strong preference for PubMed as their article research tool. One said, "it's useful, but I'm unlikely to switch from PubMed."

We asked people what other tools they used for article search. All but one respondent provided at least one tool (respondents could provide more than one response). A summary of their responses is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2
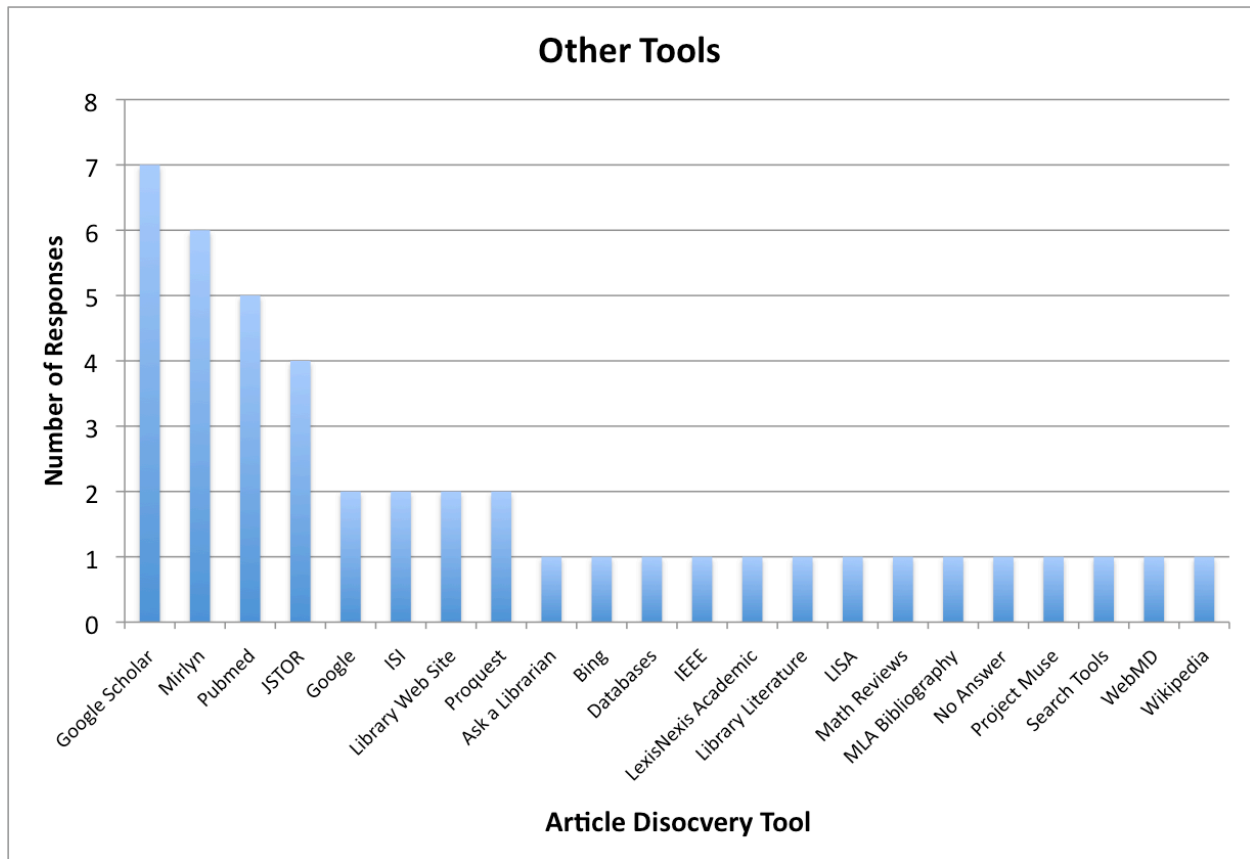
Echoing the results of our earlier user survey, 6 of 24 respondents said they started with Mirlyn to find articles; two of these users explained that they did so when they knew the journal they wanted. Google Scholar is a clear favorite starting point, with 7 of 24 respondents noting that it was a starting point.

The majority of respondents said that the results they found through Summon were better than the results they found using their usual tool. (See Figure 3.) Several points of note:

- Each of the 7 who noted that Google Scholar is a starting point felt that Summon provided better results.
- Of the 5 who thought their usual tool provided better results 3 began their search with PubMed.

Figure 3

Better than Usual Tool?

- Yes — 78.9%
- Maybe — 10.5%
- No — 10.5%
- No, I use Pubmed — 15.8%
- No Answer — 10.5%
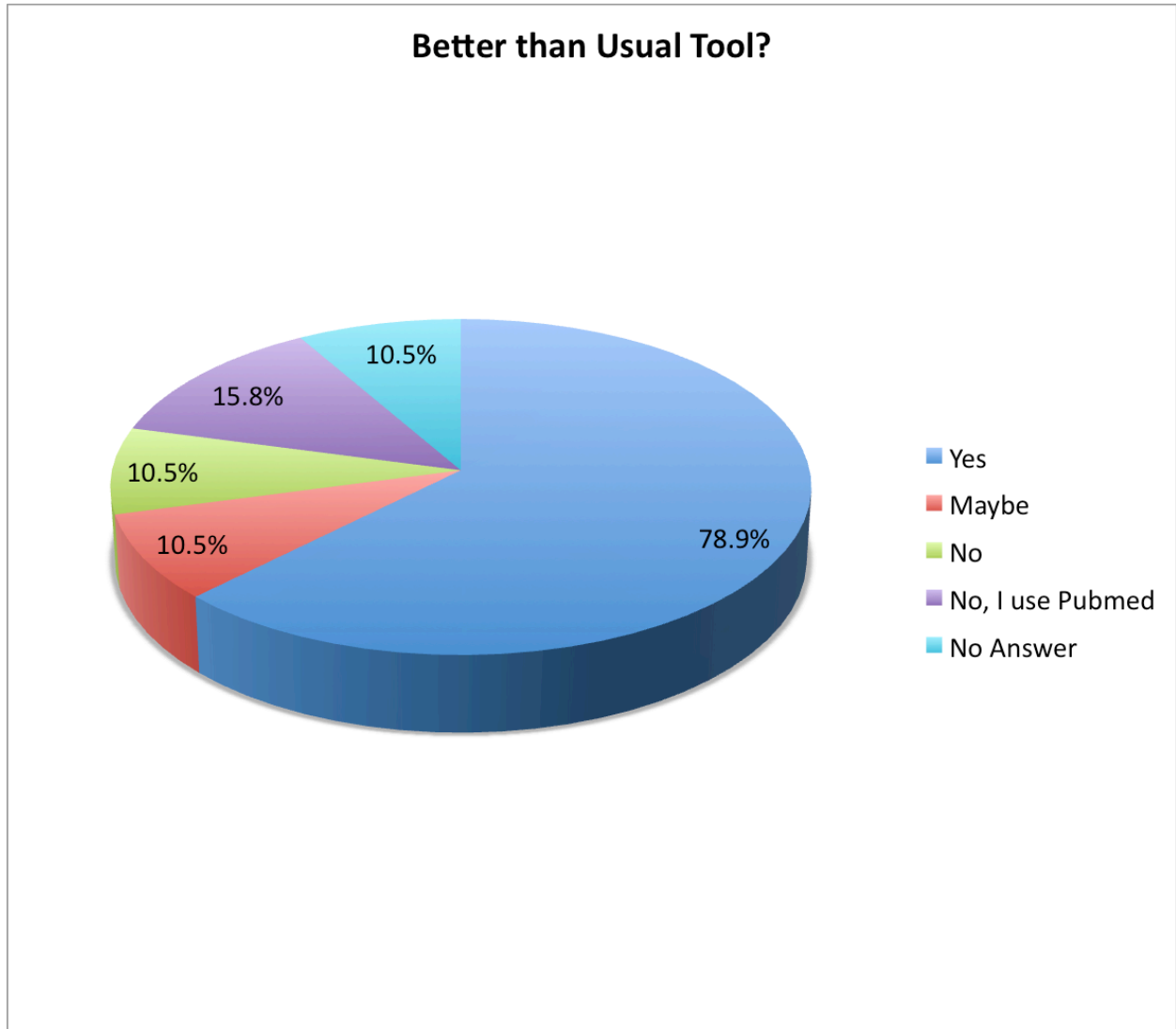
Conclusions

Based on the data we gathered, the Article Discovery Working Group feels that Summon will meet the needs of students and faculty at the University. Advanced researchers (PhD students, faculty, and medical researchers) and clinicians will likely continue to use the domain-specific databases they are familiar with.

Appendix: Interview Script

SOLICITATION

Hi, I'm _____, a librarian here. We're investigating tools to improve searching on our web site. Do you have about ten minutes to give it a test in exchange for 5 Blue Bucks?

No → Thanks anyway

Yes → Great! Please have a seat.

INTRODUCTION

This tool is not available at U-M, but other institutions have added it to their sites. We're going to use the version at Dartmouth College. Please keep in mind that the specific journals and books that Dartmouth College owns may not be the same as those that you would have access to here, if this tool were purchased.

First, some basic questions:

What is your role at the University (i.e., undergrad, grad, researcher, faculty, staff)?

What is your affiliation (school or department)?

I'd like you to think about something you might search the library for (for example, the topic of a recent or current assignment). Now, I'd like you to try that search on this site and look for some materials that might interest you.

Note what they searched:

Take a look at the results and describe to me what you've found.

Let user play around a bit, if they seem inclined. Remind them that they may not be able to reach the full text for some items.

Note what they searched and what they do – do they use or mention the facet? Sort? Did they click any titles? You might have to probe with questions like:

- ***If you were a Dartmouth student/faculty, would all of these items be available to you online?***
- ***What all kinds of items did this find?***

Did you notice the column on the left?

       Yes – what did you think about them?

       No – What do you think it's for?

Do the results seem useful?

Have you searched for articles before today?

       No – ok, thanks

       Yes –

       a.) Where do you usually search for articles?
       If needed, prompt with examples (Search Tools, Google Scholar, ProQuest, PubMed, etc.)

       b.) How does this tool compare with the one you usually use?

Any other questions or comments?

WRAP-UP
Thank you for your time. Here are your Blue Bucks.