

Setting Up An Open URL Resolver in Pubmed : One Library's Experience



Why Set Up An Open URL Resolver in Pubmed?

- Greater Visibility and Accessibility of Print and Electronic Serials
- Increased Usage of Library's Print and Electronic Serials
- Saves Time for Patrons and Staff
- Fewer Unnecessary Interlibrary Loan Requests for Items the Library Owns
- No Cost to Library Except Staff Time

This handout is a guide to some of the basics. Extensive information on the requirements and the setup process is available at the web pages listed under Relevant Online Resources.

Requirements:

- Links to Serials Records Must Support Open URL
- Open URL Interlibrary Loan Form
- Must Have a Link to a Help Page on the Open URL Resolver Results Page
- Turn off features that allow one click linking to articles
- Cost – FREE!
- Requires staff time to set up and test

Process

Compile the following information into a document.

1. You need to submit proof that your open url resolver links properly and that you have an open url compliant interlibrary loan form. The **Evaluating Your Open-URL Based Service** web page listed below includes PMIDs (Pubmed ID numbers) for testing your open url resolver.
2. If applicable, a username and password that NCBI staff can use temporarily to view the service, including the ILL form. The information is only necessary to verify linking is working. Our systems department gave us a fake user id and password to avoid security problems.
3. The base URL of your local service. For example:
<http://goodlibrary.edu/libtool.cgi?sid=Entrez:PubMed&id=pmid:>
4. Contact information for the institution and for a contact person.
5. The URL of an icon that will identify your institution's service in PubMed. The icon must be no larger than 150 x 35 pixels.
6. The URL of an HTML help page that explains your service. Our open url vendor gave us a url for a default web page, but you may be able to create your own.
7. A label of less than 50 characters identifying your institution and local service in My NCBI. NCBI recommends beginning the label with your institution name.
8. Indicate whether you would like a testing period where your Outside Tool is not visible but is available.
9. Submit this information to NCBI in an email to lib-linkout@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. NCBI will email you when setup is complete.

Time Commitment

If your institution meets the requirements, the process should require about 1 hour of staff time to put together necessary information. My first attempt at this failed because we did not have an open url compliant interlibrary loan form and I didn't realize that it is required. The rest of the process involves waiting for the setup to be completed by NCBI staff. The NCBI website indicates it should take about 3 weeks for setup. We allowed about a month after implementation for in-house testing before going live.

Relevant Online Resources

Related Services: Outside Tool and Document Delivery Service

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=helplinkout&part=related#related>

Information About Icons

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=helplinkout&part=files#files.Icons>

Evaluating Your Open-URL Based Service

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=helplinkout&part=lib#lib.EvaluatingYourOpen>

Results

While we were not able to use our usual linking icon or display an icon in the summary, we accomplished the goal of providing increased visibility and access to our serials. Hopefully, this will result in greater usage and decreased ILL requests from our patrons for serials we own. Patrons do enjoy being able to use the open url functionality that we have had in other databases. All reports have been positive.

Helpful Hints:

- Update your website's links to Pubmed to your institution's Pubmed link.
- After getting your Outside Tool set up, publicize its availability to users, possibly through email, blogs, etc. Conduct bibliographic instruction.
- Urge those who may want to create links in course management systems, syllabi, email, etc. to use your institution's Pubmed link so they can use Pubmed to its fullest potential.

Alternatives to Setting Up An Open URL Resolver in Pubmed

LinkOut – This option allows you to submit and maintain data about your library's serials holdings. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/linkout/doc/lbsub-i.shtml>

My Contact Information:

Barbara M. Pope, MALS
Periodicals/Reference Librarian
Axe Library
Pittsburg State University
1701 S. Broadway
Pittsburg KS 66762
620-235-4884
bpope@pittstate.edu