

“HAVE YOU TRIED THE GIANT SEARCH BOX?”

TRAINING STUDENT WORKERS TO EFFECTIVELY USE DISCOVERY PLATFORMS



Meg Galasso

Information Services Librarian &
Archivist

Indiana University Kokomo Library

Twitter: [@MEGalasso](https://twitter.com/MEGalasso)



PREVIOUS RESEARCH & COLLABORATION

Cohen, R., Galasso, M., & Pusnik, A. (2019, March 3-6). *Reframing discovery: Implementing a cascading instructional model* [Conference presentation]. Electronic Resources & Libraries (ER&L) Annual Meeting 2019, Austin, TX, United States.

Cohen, R., & Pusnik, A. (2018). Measuring Query Complexity in Web-Scale Discovery: A Comparison between Two Academic Libraries. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, 57(4), 274-284.
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Galasso, M., Cohen, R., & Thorpe Pusnik, A. (2019). A cascading approach to training discovery. *Reference Services Review*, 47(1), 60-72.
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Rachael Cohen
Indiana University Bloomington



Angie Pusnik
Indiana University Kokomo
(former)

Librarians don't need to teach students how to use the discovery platform because students are already using the discovery platform.

THE DISCOVERY FALLACY

GOALS FOR DISCOVERY TRAINING

- Improve student worker performance
- Gain insight into student searching
- Identify roadblocks in discovery
- Inform reference and instruction services

INITIATING DISCOVERY TRAINING

STRATEGIES TO GET THE BALL ROLLING

INITIATING TRAINING

- Find your comrades
- Find (or create) your why
 - Usage and search query data
 - Reference logs and anecdotes
 - Instruction requests
 - Pre-training activity

PRE-TRAINING ACTIVITY

- How would you start this search using the discovery platform?
- Where do you (or other students) get stuck?

ASYNCHRONOUS DISCOVERY TRAINING

FOR STUDENT EMPLOYEES

BEST PRACTICES

- Choose the platform that works for you (and your students)
- Be mindful of timing and deadlines
- Clearly state your purpose

BEST PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

- Use realistic search terms and topics
- Keep it challenging yet immensely doable
- Provide thorough, thoughtful feedback

EXAMPLE TRAINING TOPICS

- Boolean operators
- Filter by date
- Filter by source type
- Full-text access options
- Citation tools
- Permalinks
- Saving and emailing results
- Identifying source info
- Filter by subject
- Filter by publication
- Search within title or abstract
- Advanced search options
- Search term strategies
- New features

DISCOVERY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

EXAMPLES & QUESTION BANK AVAILABLE IN
DOWNLOADABLE PDF

(CONTINUING) TRAINING

- Pedagogical approach
- Screenshots, videos
- Collaboration encouraged

Let's continue with the student who is looking for scholarly articles about the mental health impact of immigration policy in the United States.

Construct a search for this topic and apply your filters.

Copy and paste the permalink to your search results.

The screenshot shows a search results page for 'Nursing' on a university proxy server. The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled '1. Nursing in a pandemic.' A 'Share' dropdown menu is open, showing options to 'Add to folder', 'Add search to folder', 'Create an alert', and 'Use Permalink'. The 'Use Permalink' option is highlighted with an orange box, and the permalink URL is visible: <https://proxyko.uts.iu.edu/login?url=https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7041111/>. The search results page also shows 'Search Results: 1 - 30 of 3,257,912' and 'Relevance' and 'Page Options' dropdown menus.

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ADVANCED TRAINING

- Pedagogical approach
- Emphasis on reflection

Another helpful but underutilized filter is **Filter by Publication**. By clicking on **Show More**, you can browse the journals that appear most frequently and mix and match publications.

This is particularly helpful when a student is researching a topic that many disciplines are interested in but they need research from particular disciplines and perspectives. Even though you might not be an expert on every journal listed, you can get a sense of what the area of focus is and select accordingly.

A student needs scholarly articles discussing how social media influencers have changed marketing. Using the **Filter by Publication** strategy, what are **three publications** you would recommend they select to narrow their search?

Publication 1:

Publication 2:

Publication 3:

Do you think one strategy (Filter by Subject or Filter by Publication) is more helpful than the other? Are these strategies new to you or have you used them before? Do you have any other comments or questions about these strategies?

DISCOVERY = TEST KITCHEN

- Build discovery platform into other training topics
- Key to advocating for discovery in instruction

Question 8

4 pts

Let's say a student is doing a research paper on whether or not broken windows policing reduces crime.

Use EDS to search for a scholarly article that you would recommend to this student.

Using the tools in EDS, provide the **permalink** to the article.

Also, provide the **name of the journal** in which the article was published.

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RESEARCH CHALLENGES

- More advanced prompts
- Interpretation required
- Friendly competition

(Fargo & Miller, 2017)

This research challenge will introduce (or re-introduce) you to some of the most helpful strategies for searching in library databases and search tools using EDS as our test kitchen.

This challenge should be completed while you are working at Circulation Desk. Be sure to work on your own and write down any questions as you go.

Name: (required)

For this challenge, you'll need to pick a research topic. Select one from the list below, and jot it down so that you don't forget it as you do your search: (required)

- Alzheimer's disease
- Homelessness and health care
- Preventing patient falls
- Prison nurseries
- Foster care's effect on kids
- Anxiety and social media

Next

Page: 1 of 7

POST-ACTIVITY QUESTION

**After completing this activity, I feel _____
searching for sources in the discovery platform.**

- a. More confident
- b. Less confident
- c. About the same

SHARING & APPLYING RESULTS

WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

SHARE YOUR RESULTS

- Compile and anonymize results
- Provide some context
- Identify and clearly state trends
- Be open to answering questions

APPLY YOUR RESULTS

- Share question bank with colleagues
- Collaborate to address sticking points
- Revise and build new activities for student employees

EXAMPLE: DISCOVERY IN INSTRUCTION (100-LEVEL WRITING COURSE)

2016

- **What is the EBSCO Discovery Service? (keep it brief)**
- How to search the library catalog
- How to search Academic Search Premier
- How to evaluate information

2021

- Define and identify peer-reviewed journal articles
- **Locate relevant peer-reviewed journal articles using EDS**
- **Use search results from EDS to refine research questions and topics**

Librarians can build student search skills and confidence by teaching them how to use discovery platforms more efficiently and effectively.

THE DISCOVERY REALITY

QUESTIONS?

Email: galasso@iu.edu

Twitter: [@MEGalasso](https://twitter.com/MEGalasso)

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Email: galasso@iu.edu

Twitter: [@MEGalasso](https://twitter.com/MEGalasso)