# Use of subject metadata for access to resources via library discovery systems: A global survey

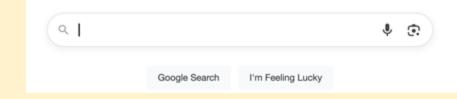
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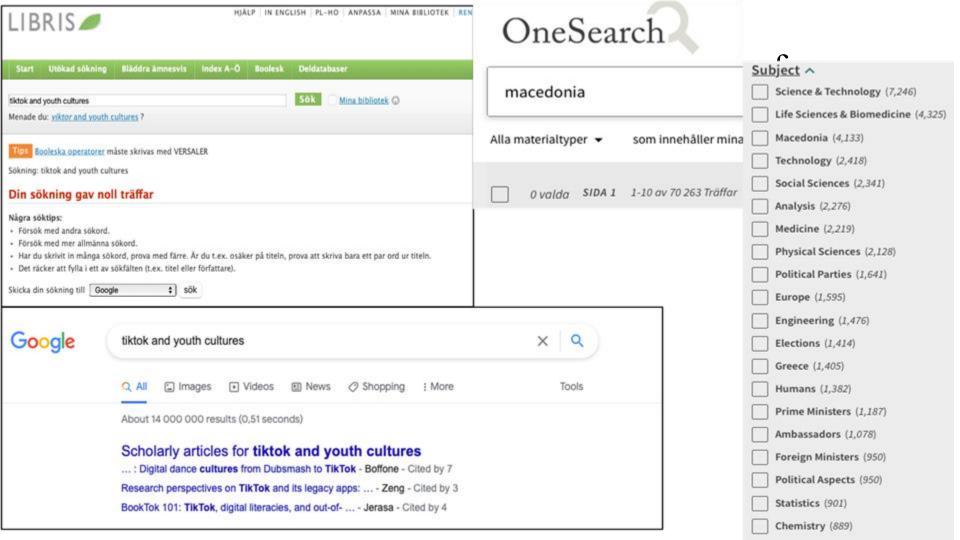
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# Background

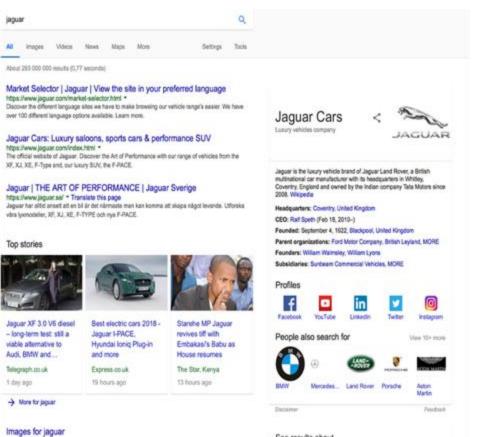
- End user library catalogues
   / discovery systems limit
   use of subject metadata
  - Model of single-search box

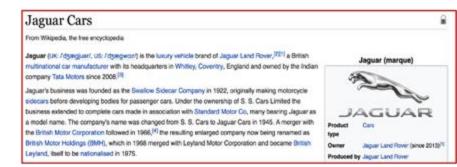
 Users face barriers in subject searching





# Example: Google's disambiguation



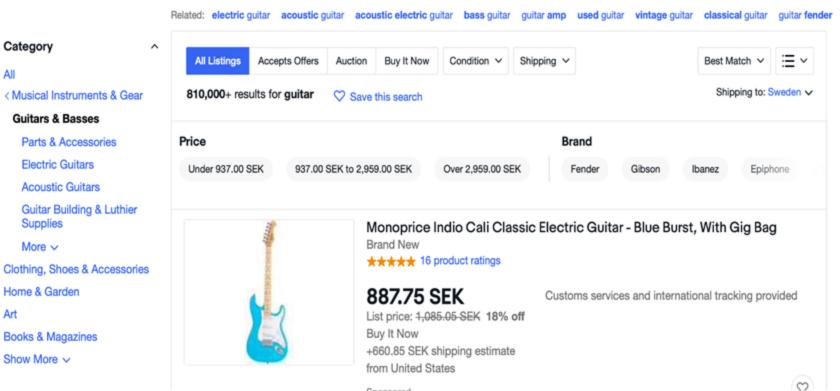




#### Example: E-Bay



guitar Guitars & Basses



### Purpose & Goals

- Investigate how subject metadata is made accessible in library catalogues and discovery systems
- Identify barriers
- Provide guidelines

#### Research Questions

- Interfaces and access points
- Metadata availability
- Use of KOS
- User support
- Barriers

# Methodology

- Global survey of 116 libraries across 34 countries
- Main responses: Europe, North America, Asia
  - No responses from Africa

| Country        | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| United Kingdom | 27        |
| Spain          | 12        |
| China          | 7         |
| United States  | 6         |
| Argentina      | 5         |
| Czech Republic | 5         |
| Italy          | 4         |
| Lithuania      | 4         |
| Brazil         | 3         |
| Canada         | 3         |
| Germany        | 3         |
| India          | 3         |
| Sweden         | 3         |
| Switzerland    | 3         |
| Australia      | 2         |
| Chile          | 2         |
| Croatia        | 2         |
| Ireland        | 2         |
| Mexico         | 2         |
| Portugal       | 2         |

### Participants

- Library types: academic, national, special, public
- Majority from academic libraries

| Library type     | Frequency | Description and notes  |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| Academic         | 69        | university library   |
| Academic special | 20        | academic library focusing on a domain or unit within a university (e.g., social sciences)  |
| Center           | 7         | identified either as an institute, center or academy= one or more research organizations   |
| National         | 7         | national library (total is 8, not counting here the 1 counted under "academic; 1 is national-special counted here)   |
| Archives         | 3         | (1 government/state archive) mainly an archival collection (not part of an academic library with archives)   |
| Museum library   | 3         |  |
| Government       | 2         | government library (e.g., EU Council)  |
| Other special    | 2         | includes a specialized library outside an academic<br>setting, e.g., church/monastery= library in a<br>religious institution (church or monastery),<br>law/legal |
| Consortia        | 1         | catalog includes collections from member libraries   |
| Corporate        | 1         | a collection in a corporations/industry  |
| TOTAL            | 115       |  |

# Library Software

 Concentration among major suppliers: Primo, Alma, EBSCO, Koha, OCLC

| Software                | Frequency |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Primo                   | 29        |
| Alma                    | 13        |
| Other                   | 12        |
| EBSCO Discovery System  | 10        |
| Aleph                   | 9         |
| Koha                    | 8         |
| OCLC WorldCat Discovery | 4         |
| OCLC WMS                | 3         |
| Dot Beyond              | 2         |
| Summon                  | 2         |
| Symphony by SirsiDynix  | 2         |
| VuFind                  | 2         |

### Classification systems used

- Classifications used: DDC, UDC, LCC, NLM
- Also national classification schemes

| Classification system                             | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification)                | 39        |
| UDC (Universal Decimal Classification)            | 27        |
| LCC (Library of Congress Classification)          | 14        |
| NLM (National Library of Medicine Classification) | 3         |
| Chinese Library Classification System             | 3         |
| RVK (Regensburger Union Classification)           | 3         |

#### Controlled vocabularies used

• International: LCSH, MeSH, FAST

| Subject indexing languages: international                             | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| LCSH  | 48        |
| MESH, including national translations                                 | 20        |
| FAST  | 9         |
| Homosaurus  | 6         |
| LCGFT by LoC for genre and form, no subject                           | 6         |
| AAT (Arts & Architecture Thesaurus)                                   | 3         |
| LCMPT (Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music) | 2         |

#### Controlled vocabularies used

National: GND, Czenas, BNE etc.

| Subject indexing languages: national   | Frequency |
|--|-----------|
| GND (Integrated Authority File of the German National Library)               | 5         |
| National Authorities of the National Library of Czech Republic (czenas)      | 4         |
| Nuovo soggettario (National Central Library of Florence)                     | 4         |
| Spanish Subject Headings (Subject Headings of the National Library of Spain) | 3         |
| Spanish Subject Headings (BNE)   | 3         |
| Swedish Subject Headings (SAO)   | 3         |
| Canadian Subject Headings  | 3         |
| Rameau (French subject headings)   | 3         |

#### Collections without subject metadata

64 (56%) provide subject metadata to all collections

- 50 (43.5%) responses indicated that they do not provide subject metadata to portions of their collections
  - 34 academic libraries, 4 academic-special, 4 research centers,
    4 national libraries, and 1 each of consortia, corporate, government, and museum libraries
  - Subject metadata most complete for print
  - Often missing for e-resources, AV, and special collections

#### Barriers

- Familiarity with KOS
  - Complexity and natural language gap
- Interface design

Awareness / training

Cost

#### **Next Steps**

- Expand survey scope in future rounds
  - Geographic bias in survey
  - Language barrier
  - Interviews
    - Also with software vendors

- Develop guidelines for libraries
- Follow the developments at <u>https://www.isko.org/stac/metadata.html</u>

#### ISKO International Society for Knowledge Organization home ISKO STAC working group on Subject Access Metadata about ISKO join ISKO ISKO STAC has set up an international working group to develop a set of guidelines for specifying subject access metadata requirements for procurement of Knowledge library management systems (LMS). This arises from the observation that such Organization platforms do not typically make effective use of subject metadata or other KOS journal elements to support search and discovery services. The purpose of the guidelines is to ensure that an LMS enables library users to get maximum value from access ISKO events metadata such as classification schemes and controlled vocabularies. These ISKO chapters represent considerable intellectual effort by cataloguers and indexers but are often overlooked during the procurement process (and sometimes in system design). ISKO people