

Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC) – New and Improved

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AgNIC

- Partnership of almost 14 years, over 60 institutions globally, and growing!
- Each partner takes 1 or more subjects within agriculture
- AgNIC mission ... “identification, delivery and preservation of reliable, freely-available, evaluated, digital content and quality services”
- 18 million hits in 1998 to 145 million hits in 2008
- Contributions of subject-specific sites, reference, metadata, full-text, data sets

Content Building Options

- Federated search – in our view it is too slow for user
 - Scrape Google for “stuff” – hard to tell what we would get
 - Do nothing – and redefine our mission completely
- ▶ None of those seemed like good options
- Needed a new idea for gathering more metadata

Solution – Get More metadata!

1. Export metadata from existing databases
2. Harvest Institutional Repositories
3. Harvest Delicious bookmarks from partners bookmarks

More on AgNIC Technology –

- Open Source
- Convened the Code4Lib Maryland/Virginia/DC group in April, Chaired by Vern Chapman (AgNIC IT)
 - Library “coders” involved with multiple projects
 - Current issue for July’s meeting, Institutional Repositories
- Involved with –
 - University of Virginia’s BlackLight Project, an open source OPAC
 - Fedora interface project
 - Digital Initiatives Group – Chaired by American Distance Education Consortium

Questions & Contacts

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