

Instruction Discussion Group – Teaching SFX October 15, 2004

General Information

- SFX Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/sfx/>
- SFX Linking Levels: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/sfx/linkinglevels.html>
Lists which databases and e-journal packages link at the database, journal, volume, issue and article level - useful for planning examples for class
- Report an SFX Problem:
 - <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/help/probform.html>
 - <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/comments.html> - library comment form
 - <http://staff.lib.utexas.edu/divisions/cird/Credits/serialorder.html>
 - Email Ronda Rowe and Alisha Little (make sure to email both at once)

Tips for Teaching Undergraduates

- Talk about it in the context of finding an article; don't explain what SFX is as a separate concept (in fact, you don't even need to say SFX!)
- Spend 3-4 minutes maximum
- Let them know that it can be confusing and to ask for help if they get stuck
- Come to class with a canned search that doesn't take them directly to the article level – find one which takes them to the journal or issue level instead. (Use the “Linking Levels” page to help you find a good canned search)
- Use the opportunity to explain elements of a citation.
 - Ex: If they find something from 2003 in a database, they should be able to compare this against the ranges for a resource presented in the SFX box
- Put “Hints” on your handout and point these out to your class

Sample Hints:

A. Where's the Article?

If the article you need is not full-text, try either Option 1 OR 2:

OPTION 1: Look for the "Find it UT" link to see if the full-text article is available in a different database or if the library owns a copy in print.

OPTION 2: Search the Library Catalog for the TITLE of the JOURNAL, not the title of the article.

- B. **Hint:** If the article is **not** full-text in the database, search for the title of the journal in the Library Catalog or follow the Find it UT link.

Tips for Teaching Graduate Students

- Explain SFX as a tool – they will want more details than undergraduates
- Explain the many ways you can find a journal (SFX, title search in Library Catalog, Browse a Journal page)
- Use more complex canned searches and, given time, use more than one. For example, show them linking to the database level if those databases contain information relevant to your class topic.

Linking from ERes or a Course Page

- Use the SFX link rather than the stable URL you may find in a database
- Show them the “Linking Levels” page – they will need to explain to their students how to get to an article if SFX does not link to the article level
- Check Usage Rights (appears in the SFX box under the resource) to see if you can use it in Course Management Software (ex: Blackboard) or Electronic Reserves
- From the Browse a Journal page, you can generate a stable URL.