

## Brainstorming a list of questions for the DDT:

Key to ranking:

1=essential – can't have a DDT without it

2=would be great to have, higher priority

3=would be nice to have, lower priority

Ranking	Question	Metadata
1	What's the subject?	Subject (vera and/or LC subjects) controlled list, uncontrolled keywords, LC classification?
1	What's the scope of your question and/or project? (length of paper, type of research)	General vs. specialized Scholarly vs popular Fast fact vs in-depth (audience)
2	When is the paper due?  (may need different wording)  Are you willing to go off-campus for information or are you willing to wait for the information to be retrieved for you from elsewhere?	Percentage of Full text or none English versus non-English % Owned by MIT or not % available through SFX
“	Full text? Only?	% Full text or not (housekeeping)
“	Databases that are SFX sources?	SFX or not (housekeeping)
2	What is the needed date range of the information need?	Coverage dates of the database/print index
1	What types of information do you need (newspapers, articles, theses, etc.)?	Long list of possible types (possibly Dublin Core) Some vera subjects are really types
2	What are you? (undergrad, alien, grad student, faculty,	Audience for the database

	staff, etc.)	Goes along with the type of project (combined with)
1	Subcategories to the subject?	Combined with subject headings., subdivisions of subject headings, aspects of subjects
3	Plug in a course number and it would pull in stuff from a course page. Is this related to course #? Links to OCW?	Course number
2/3 – subject?	Is there a geographical focus to the question?	Geographical terms (subcategory of subject headings). Specific, regional, etc.
2	Are you willing to go to other libraries on campus?	Networked resources or not. Where is the resource on campus? Where is the user right now?
1 - impractical	What question are you trying to answer? Describe in detail the information need?	Natural language question/searching? Impractical? Keywords?
2	What languages of materials are you interested in?	Languages, multiple per database possible.
2	What formats of information are you interested in retrieving (PDF, print, audio, video, etc.)?	Formats included in the database (Dublin core?)
3	What size of output are you interested? Short articles, certain number of pages, etc?	[possible metasearch limit]
2	Fast facts versus in depth information (articles)?	Ready reference characterization
2	Have you used Barton? What subject in Barton was particularly relevant to your search?	Subject headings/keywords
2 - impractical	Are there journals that have articles like you want?	Search in Ulrichs to pull relevant databases
1	Databases accessible from off-campus?	Housekeeping data/ see vera (local information)
2	Filter for free things that anyone can use?	(housekeeping – licensed versus free)
2	What community you are part of? (Lincoln lab, haystack...)	(housekeeping – in vera already)
3	Databases including articles by specific people	External search – very difficult

		Can't do right now
2	Articles in popular press versus academic articles	% Peer reviewed titles or ability to limit to this
	Narrow it to certain providers, professional organizations, etc.	Publishers that are covered in the database, corporate authors, (110, 710, 260b), Interface provider  Note: could pull from journal records, but this isn't done consistently.  Can't do right now
3	By date the newest databases only?	Acquisition date of database or "made public" date
1	Rank the databases	Attached to subjects, value of the database within that subject, staff invented
2	sort the databases (1. frequently used databases, 2. by date, 3. most expensive etc.)	1. use data 2. coverage dates, or acquisition date 3. price
2	Print versus electronic (for the databases themselves)?	Format of the database
3	MIT (local) resources versus non-MIT resources? (Cognet)	Published at MIT? Yes or no
2	Results listed by databases/selected web sites/research services	Database/website/service/person (values) Genus? Origin? Type? Species? Genre?
2	Include people in the database.../ include known experts? (especially when no results found)	Expert record – name, email, specialty, phone directory info. E-card. Office hours. Languages.

## Housekeeping metadata

- Unique record ID
- Linking fields to join relational stuff together
- Creation date
- Modification date
- Who last modified
- Who assigned subjects
- Turn on date
- Hide record? (until ready to display) (or old records not active)
- Deselection date
- Broken
- Licensed or free?
- Number of simultaneous users
- Location (holdings information from Barton, or from Vera)
- Quirks/Notes internal
- Interface sponsor/database sponsor
- Classes offered
- Donor thanks
- Additional license info (specific terms)
- PO number
- Passwords for staff
- Passwords for access (limited public)
- Vendor
- Interface
- Contract renewal date
- Payment notes
- Vera record number
- Barton record number
- % Owned by MIT or not
- % available through SFX
- MIT Course number

- Use data
- Price

## **Descriptive metadata**

- URL (5 fields for access management)
- Get URL
- Alternate titles
- Terms of access/access inclusions/exclusions
- ISSN/ISBN
- Title
- Publisher
- Author
- Subjects (subdivisions of subject headings, aspects, geographic)
- Local ranking of database by subject area
- Format of
- Formats within (PDF, data files, HTML, etc.)
- Types within (articles, maps, standards,...)
- Includes full text?
- What it indexes (510?, ulrichs?)
- Language
- Public Notes
- Description
- Coverage dates
- Table of contents (e-book)
- Audience
- Search help (cheatsheet, help page from vendor...)
- Copyright date for the database
- Continued as/Continued by/ replaced with (in notes?)
- Vendor
- Interface

- Ready reference characterization
- % peer reviewed
- Genus (Database/website/service/person)

### **Calculation fields**

- Counter (total number of databases) (mechanism for whole database)
- New calculation (to indicate resources recently added)
- Where the user is right now

### **Brainstorming the underlying vision/philosophy/purpose of the DDT**

- Self-teaching interface – by seeing what’s in the menus you get an idea of what’s available and what’s there. Questions we ask teach them what sorts of questions they should ask. Helps people understand how information is structured.
- Customized per discipline?
- One portal, everyone comes in, few barriers between person and results. Have an options with very few questions, but have the option for complex, search.
- Possible to personalize once you’ve been in a few times... favorites, frequently searched sources.
- Easy for different types of people with different needs. It’s an online simulation/approximation for a reference interview. Simulating the person-person interaction.
- Did this meet your needs – go to another page and ask some more questions – layers of questions.
- Need the option to refer patrons to people and print (to fully simulate a reference interview).
- Definition of a database is more than just electronic. Include both print/electronic indices, reference works, etc.
- The DDT is for people who don’t necessarily know what they need. – not for a known title search.
- So an assumption: Vera exists or next generation, green box. Perhaps a known title search is best done in Vera/Barton.
- Goal: fewer entry points to our resources, but intermediately might need more? Might not be possible with just the DDT.

### **Overall purpose/philosophy**

- Self-teaching interface

- Simulates the reference interview
- Single starting point within DDT for all audiences, with different paths (flowchart, tree).
- Assume that this is implemented while vera and barton exist
- More than just electronic resources will be included

**Parking Lot:**

- 2 Include DSpace?
- 1 Include web site/Internet resources with the licensed resources?
- 2+ Appropriate questions for audience (short form/long form rather than basic/ advanced)
- 2 Customizable, remembers previous interactions with it, or preferences
- 3 Or having more than one identity
- 2+ Must include, should include, should not include Search algorithm rather than metadata
- 2 Rate the importance of each criteria, less important to more important Search algorithm, results display algorithm
- 3 Set up an alert for this question? Service/ personalization
- 2 More like this – what databases have been useful in the past on this type of subject? Subjects/ search algorithm