

Agents On The Move.....

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Abstract:

With such pressure on staff to deliver efficient workflow strategies, making the most of existing vendor's services makes clear business sense. This presentation revisits the traditional services provided by subscription agents and contrasts them with the innovative ways that agents have begun to add value to library collections.

These innovations include

- Smartlinking between aggregated databases and ejournal gateways that allows individual e-journals to be searched using the database search engines.
- Facilitating the searching of multiple e-journals and packages through federated search engines using ejournal gateways.
- Increasing the visibility of titles buried in databases through the provision of title listing services.
- Configuring link resolvers and federated search engines by virtue of an ejournal or e-package order.
- Saving time and eliminating human error through the introduction of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) invoicing.
- Creating and maintaining usage statistic standards.
- Facilitating consortium access across various networks and managing adherence to license restrictions within organisations.

In the past six months, there has been a perceptible move towards more proactive access management of all subscription-based products around modern technologies, allowing organisations to outsource most electronic library functions to their traditional agents-in-arms.