FROM THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC STREAM TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC OCEAN

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This poster is available at <http://www.umich.edu/~kshawkin/preprints/20050208.pdf>. A fully documented website on this topic will be available at <http://www.umich.edu/~kshawkin/projects/20050208/>.

While discussions of digital libraries often focus on digitization methods, it is just as important to ensure that the digitized materials can be found by users. Numerous studies have shown that information seekers are more likely to consult Web search engines before, or even instead of, library catalogs for their scholarly information needs. Therefore, creating website links and OPAC records for the digital objects will do little to make the resource easier to find. New, small digital library projects will have difficulty generating enough publicity to rise near the top of search engine rankings, and, furthermore, since many digital resources (and nearly all OPACs) are located in the "Deep Web" (also "Hidden Web" or "Invisible Web"), the resources themselves and their metadata are usually impenetrable to search engines.

It is imperative to ensure that these resources are accessible directly from major search engines, and this is best accomplished through any number of special metadata feeds that exists outside regular crawling mechanisms.

This poster shows how metadata can "trickle up" to search engines through various mechanisms, some of which are available only to subscribing institutions and some of which are freely available. A number of these mechanisms also accept digital objects themselves, but these are not distinguished in this poster.

Additions, suggestions, corrections, and references:

Thoughts on how to use SVG and collaborative editing tools for the project website: