

EBSCO Discovery Service

What Is It?

EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) is one of the many web-scale discovery products available to library. EDS offers a single search interface that uses both full text searching and EBSCO's indexing and abstracting services.

How Might It Relate to SFX?

In order to work more effectively, EBSCO needs a complete list of all the resources you hold and/or subscribe to. In fact, loading your ejournal and database subscriptions information into EBSCO's index is a major part of setting up and maintaining EDS.

EDS offers a limiter called "Available in Library Collection" that allows your patrons to limit their search results only to items available in your library or available in full text online. This limiter is driven by a local collection that you can make in EBSCOadmin and assign to your EDS profile. You can use SFX data to create this local collection that, in turn, can drive this limiter.

Stating the obvious - SFX can also be configured as your OpenURL link resolver for all EBSCO databases. This integration is covered in other CARLI documentation.

How Can SFX Be Integrated with EDS?

There are two ways to import SFX data to create a local collection within EBSCOadmin: as a "row-based" file or as an XML holdings file. Row based files like Excel or CSV files are acceptable but also cumbersome and difficult to manage. The better alternative for exporting SFX data into EDS is to export the SFX holding data as a SFX-XML file format in the Google Scholar format.

After getting this file, you'll have to load this to your EBSCO FTP account. You can also work with EBSCO to schedule and automate this load to keep that EDS limiter current and accurate.

Are There Pros and Cons for Integrating SFX with EDS?

Loading SFX data into EDS takes some time and effort as well as some on-going maintenance. However, providing your users with the ability to limit searches to only what is available might be worth the effort.

Comparing how well your institution's holdings are reflected in SFX and EDS might help answer this question. If the majority of your resources are included in the EDS central index - and the

ones not included are not critical - then loading SFX data might have a very low return on investment. If, on the other hand, your SFX data better reflects your institutional holdings, then loading SFX data into EDS might be critically important for your institution.

Pros

- This is the best way to make sure all your resources are included in that limited search.
- Leverages your SFX holding data in a new service.

Cons

- Coordinating the exports and imports takes some time and effort.
- Your library needs to work with both CARLI and EBSCO to enable and coordinate the automated process.

Where Is More Information?

http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=6776