SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES AND DATABASE FINDING AIDS FOR KOREAN SUTDIES RESEARCHERS

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ABSTRACT. The author explores and introduces fee-based Korean databases and virtual finding aids for Korean and English databases to aid Korean studies faculty, students and scholars in their research, learning and teaching. These databases provide researchers with quality materials available through the internet for a fee, or subscription.

Thirteen Korean databases are introduced with their specific features. The databases discussed here include Korean Studies Information Service System (aka KISS), Dbpia (electronic journal full text service), Krpia (Korean studies primary source), Kdatabase (post-1945 history database).

Along with the databases mentioned above, there are over 400 electronic resources databases that the University of Chicago Library alone subscribes to. Therefore, it is important for researcher to identify and access the information they need quickly and efficiently.

The libraries have tried to offer better service for the users by providing consolidated search environment for these remote information resources. The finding aids such as E-Korean Studies (Korean) and MetaLib (Mainly English) that streamline the discovery process in one easy-to-use user interface are discussed along with the issues and limits in utilizing them.

KEYWORDS. Korean Studies Databases, Metasearch, Metalib, E-Korean Studies Databases, virtual finding aids. fee-based Korean databases, subscription Korean databases

INTRODUCTION

Over 21% of the world population is connected with the internet and its internet growth rate has soared to over 300% over the eight years from 2000 through 2008.(Internet World Stats 2008)

In Asia alone over 65% of the East Asian population has the internet connection to use in their daily lives. 71% of the population uses the internet for information search in South Korea. (Internet World Stats 2008)

Such a sharp rise in the internet usage mainly attributes to the development of search engines, such as Google, that have made information easily accessible through the World Wide Web. And the most of the information which search engines locate can be viewed freely by anyone with a connection to the internet.

Therefore, the "free" Web can be a great place to start when you are looking for information. Particularly governments, universities, and various non-profit organizations often place information on their Web sites. Along with these types of Web sites, you also can find pages that

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are created for completely different reasons. The Web sites that people create usually do not contain peer-reviewed publications. In fact, the content may not have been reviewed for accuracy, or quality.

Commercial Web sites, personal Web logs (blogs), and discussion groups can be informative and entertaining, but they often do not provide the type of peer-reviewed information which researchers and scholars are seeking for academic research.

Yet, it is true the Internet and World Wide Web technologies have greatly influenced and promoted scholarly communication in a tremendously different fashion from the past. It readily provides bibliographic information, full-text scholarly journals, and primary sources like dictionaries, encyclopedia and archival materials on line.

The exponential expansion and diversification over the past ten years of e-journals in almost all disciplines have led to the prediction of the extinction of traditional academic journals; the claim is even made that a new paradigm is sweeping scholarship (Valaukas, E.J. 1997)

Such electronic information resources as subscription journal databases have their own interface, including its specific search syntax and method of managing result sets. To fully exploit the content of an information resource, users need to master its user interface and be award of the various searching options that it offers. Once users enter the environment of an information resource, they are limited to the functionality and content provided through its interface.

Therefore, the paper intends to introduce and explain contents and features of the Korean studies subscription databases to assist scholars and researchers in increasing their resource literacy to understand the form, format, location and access methods of the databases. And discussed here are the finding aids known as metasearch systems to help access information in a variety of resources in one user friendly interface.

The categories are divided into three parts in the first section: Firstly, full text journal databases, secondly, primary source databases for ready reference and lastly, the hybrid databases mixed with the full text journals, primary sources reference materials and others such as newspaper databases and electronic books. The second section discusses the metasearch systems of E-Korean Studies Databases and MetaLib.

I.   SUBSCRIPTION KOREAN STUDIES DATABASES

FULL TEXT JOURNAL DATABASES

A.Korean Studies Information Service System (aka KISS):
http://kiss.kstudy.com.proxy.uchicago.edu/Others/info/info.asp

Korean Studies Information Service System offers a database that contains 900,000 scientific and scholarly journals published by 1,200 research institutions and scholarly associations as of 2005. They are all accessible in full text. The products contain peer-reviewed journals and reports of research quality written by university and college faculty and researchers, managers and administrators. There are some 200,000 participating authors, and 100,000 record items. In case of journals, the collection coverage is from first to current issues.

The database has been updated twice in 2001 and in 2006. In the latest update, it changed its search approach to the lexical analysis in which a word only listed as meaningful is searched. For example, in the old version, "푸른 한강" is searched with the Boolean search of AND, so any record that does not include both "푸른" and "한강" did not show in the result sets. In the 2006 version, the word, "푸른" is considered not meaningful, therefore, any record that includes the meaningful "한강" would be displayed in the result pages.

It is the same case with the particles, as the particles are not considered meaningful words, regardless of the presence of a particle in the search term, it will not affect the search.

Basic and advance searches are offered with keyword searches, including author and title. In the Advance Search, you can limit the search with the Boolean algorithm and rearrange the search results in the alphabetical order. The Publisher Search has a ㄱ-ㅎ list of entries in the drop-down menu of the search box, and the keyword search within each index is allowed.

The Subject Search offers 9 categories, and each category is subdivided by disciplines. Under each discipline, there is a list of institutions that publish articles relevant to each discipline.

You can save the bibliographical information in the folder called My Information. This feature is available only to the authenticated users.

B. Dbpia:
http://www.dbpia.co.kr.proxy.uchicago.edu/index_b2b.asp

The integrated database includes 1,138 titles of Korean scholarly journals from 563 publishing institutions and offers more than 890,000 articles in full text. All the journal titles are divided into 11 topical categories. In addition, there are some 55,997 items exported from the Korea Knowledge Portal

Search options are keyword integrated search, search by title, by publishers and by topical categories. Basic, advanced and Boolean operation features are available, and search within the search results is possible. You can change search fields without retyping the search term by clicking on the tabs in the result screen, such as Academic Association's Publications, Proceedings, Reports, Scholarly Journals, and Korean Knowledge Portal Articles and Information.

In the right hand column of the result page, it displays the subject categories that contain the search term in question and also a list of the publishing institutions related to the term. And you can monitor the search terms that you used as the search history is retained.

Spacing in the search terms affect the search results in the way how the spacing is treated in the text. The non-spaced terms retrieve a fewer number of records.

The languages supported by the Database are Korean, Chinese, Russian and Japanese. It is equipped with the SDI feature, an alarm system that sends your email account a notification when the publishers of your research interest publish new issues, new articles, or another journal titles.

The folder feature called "My Dbpia" allows authenticated users to save bibliographical information. The information such as an article, volume designation, publication title, and institution names can be scrapped and saved in "My Dbpia." The saved information stays in the folder until they are deleted.

You can also set up the search environment with sorting orders by publication dates, alphabetical order of author names, titles, number of result pages and options for the basic and full abstract views.

C.Electronic Article Service

http://www.earticle.net/

The database is the smallest among the three full text journal databases published in South Korea and also the latest to the scene. It has 345 participating institutions with 483 journal titles in eight fields with Humanities and Social Sciences as core subject areas.

Search features are simple with Basic, Detailed Search, Search by Institution and Search by the eight subject fields. My Study folder is available for information storage for future use and the log-in is required. Search functions do not include the Boolean operation. In the publisher search page, there is also ㄱ-ㅎ list along with a search box for article titles.

The languages supported for search are Japanese, Russian, old Korean, and Greek. The site has a weekly list of the most viewed article. "My Study" is available to the authenticated users to save bibliographic information for future reference.

D.Kpjournal:

http://www.kpjournal.com/index.aspx

Kpjournal databases offer a full-text database of 18 academic journals on physical and natural sciences published in North Korea in the fields of Biology, Physics, chemistry, geography, medicine, pharmacology, engineering and Mineralogy. It contains 18 scholarly journals and 30, 000 article titles. Spacing in search depends upon how the spaces are treated in the text.

There are two search options: Basic and Detailed Search. The Basic Search offers Anywhere, Author and Title Searches. In the Anywhere Search result page, journal titles, article titles and author titles are displayed. When you opt to search titles, it only searches article titles, not journal titles.

The Detailed Search has options to choose multiple subject fields, and you can also designate publication periods. Sorting by ㄱ-ㅎ, or in the reverse order, is available. It allows the authenticated users to store bibliographical information in My Folder.

The database offers links to North Korean Encyclopedia and North Korean Biographical Dictionary online so that you can directly access these primary source databases from the Kpjournal Webpage.

PRIMARY SOURCE REFERENCE DATABASES

A.KRpia:
http://krpia.co.kr/

The integrated databases with various Korean Studies primary sources include special dictionaries, archival and historical resources, biographical sources and other reference materials related to Korean history, literature, civilization, and medicine. The opening page has 10 subject/material type categories to choose from. The databases are keyword searchable across different database platforms. It also contains the image files of original texts in classical Chinese with the translated version searchable in Korean.

One noteworthy feature is the links to the Institute for the Translation of the Korean Classics, and Korean Studies Advancement Center, and Chonnam University Museum. It provides the integrated search capability across these institutions' databases.

The search category is divided into 10 topics and 140 subcategories under each topic. The search can also extend to the DBpia, the full text journal database that the same producer/vendor Nurimedia offers. The search term automatically appears in the search box of the DBpia in the left column of the page.

The integrated search among different dictionaries is available by clicking on the Sajon Tonghap tab. The subject index is also available. "My Krpia" allows the authenticated users to keep selected records in their personal folder for future reference. The records are added to the My Krpia by clicking the "Scrap" button.

In addition to old Korean, foreign language fonts in Chinese, Japanese and Russian are supported.

B. Korea A-Z:
http://www.koreaa2z.com/index.cgi

The Korea A-Z database focuses on primary sources for ready reference such as dictionaries and encyclopedia. The integrated search for the entire databases are not available. The users need to go to the individual databases to locate the information they need.

Noteworthy databases it offers are Hansong Sunbo (Oct. 31, 1883-Dec., 1884), Hansong Chubo (Jan. 25, 1886-1888), Maeil Sinbo, Ilche Sidae Minjokchi Apsu Kisa Moum. Hanguk Ollon Yonpyo, Sasanggye, Sial ui Sori, Kyohoe wa Yoksa, Changjak kwa Pipyong and Supil Munhak.

A collection of old maps such as Dadong Yojido and Daedong Chiji is available in 3D images. The World Cinema Encyclopedia database contains soundtracks, cinema history and encyclopedically wide knowledge on movies with image files.

There is no My Folder feature, and the links to Choson Wangjo Sillok and Koryo Taejanggyong are available in the Korea A-Z opening page.

C. Korean History and Culture Database (aks Zininzin)

http://www.excavation.co.kr/

The Korean History & Culture Research Database offers a collection of excavation reports on archaeological sites in Korea, and its contributing institutions are national and university museums, private research institutions and associations with data dating back to 1910. It contains archaeological research papers, reports, catalogs and maps. A total of 76 institutions participate in the database that contains approximately 3,000 volumes of reports.

Report indexes by museum, region, period and publisher are available. There is a section that exclusively contains excavation records made during the Japanese colonial period.

The Basic Search has various options to select search by keyword, author, publishing institution, region and period.

The search within the search results is possible, and spacing in the original text affects the search result. (Ex. 부안 격하패총). The search within each index is not allowed, and the My Folder feature for saving records is not supported.

D. History Culture Series
http://www.hisculture.co.kr

The database offers multi-media contents on Korean history and culture. It is developed majorly for K-12 school use by professors, researchers and museum curators. Among 17 categories that include prehistory 1, 2 and Korean celadon and folk paintings, 14 are in Korean and three in English.

It supports the "Scrap" feature to allow users to save and download text and images, and enables users to enlarge these images to letter size for better printing.

HYBRID DATABASES MIXED WITH ARTICLES AND PRIMARY SOURCES

A. K-Contents Lab (aka Kdatabase):
http://www.kdatabase.com/

The database is for research on modern and contemporary Korean history. It is divided into two categories: full-text articles written by a selective group of scholars and image files of archival documents produced by the Government-General of Korea during the Japanese colonial period and the U.S. military government in mid-1940s.

It offers links to two important North Korean primary source databases: North Korean Encyclopedia and North Korean Biographical Dictionary.

With Korean modern history as its core subject area, the Kdatabase offers search by title and author name. Indexes by author name, time period and topic are arranged in the Korean alphabetical order. When "Tree Search" on the menu bar is selected, the index list is displayed in the left hand column. Search within the result set is possible. Basic search has only Anywhere, Author and Title keyword options. Spacing depends upon how the original text treats it. However Kdatabase has consistency that the author name does not have space between the family and given name nor within a noun phrase—ex. "강만길," "사상정세시찰보고집." The feature called "Memojang" allows users to save notes along with the input date and article titles.

B. LawnB's Legal Information Service
http://www.lawnb.com

The database contains the largest collection of Korean legal materials online. It provides a portal service with law-related issues, indexing 50 categories such as statues, precedents, commentaries,

legal administrative documents, statistics, journal articles, and law-related news. The database is aimed at scholars and researchers in law schools and private law firms to use.

The data includes current laws, ordinances and reinforcement regulations, and precedents (Supreme Court's decisions, lower courts' decisions, and constitutionals cases).

One noteworthy feature is the language-translation function of the text in Westlaw Japan. The Korean search term can be converted into Japanese. When the Japanese text is displayed, the text can be translated back to Korean.

The result from an integrated search is displayed according to the categories such as precedents, current laws, ordinances, journal articles, textbooks, law magazine articles and other miscellaneous contents, such as news articles.

The information from government-run free Web sites, such as the Ministry of Government Legislation, is offered for free of charge in the LawnB database, and most of the free information is statutes and ordinances. The storage folder My LawnB is available with the log-in requirement. The spacing depends on how the search term is treated in the text.

NEWS PAPERS AND E-BOOKS

A.Electronic Book Database:
http://ebook.kstudy.com/

The electronic book database consists of the books published only by Hanguk Haksul Chongbo, the same producer of the Korean Studies Information Service (KISS) and Choson Ilbor Archive databases. The E-book database contains 10,000 monograph titles with the full text accessibility.

The search types are Basic, Extended, Search within the ㄱ-ㅎ Title Index, Subject Categories Index, Search by Multivolume titles, and Integrated Expert Search. The Integrated Expert Search allows users to search keyword within the titles up to 10 that have been selected and saved. In order to utilize the feature, the user must select "검색도서추가," and when a new window opens, there is an option to bring up the titles either from the "관심도서" list, or from a new list by choosing "선택항목 추가," after the search by keyword is performed.

The storage folder feature called "독서 카드" is available, and the bookmark option that mark the page content of the record is available through "책갈피" feature. "책갈피" is customizable by creating new folders, and "관심 독서" allows a list of titles to be stored for future reference and the titles viewed are stored in "독서 기록." All of the features require the users to log-in.

B. Choson Ilbo Archives
http://srchdb1.chosun.com.proxy.uchicago.edu/pdf/i_archive/

The most widely circulated newspaper in South Korea, Choson Ilbo's archival database, covers the early issues from 1920 up to the present. It contains some 2.6 million articles. The search is relatively complicated with options varied according to the period coverage.

The keyword search, both in the titles and in the texts, is possible with articles published from 1990 to the present articles. However, only the title keyword search is available for the articles

before 1990. Other than the keyword search, the newspaper database can also be searched by author and date.

It is essential that the users know which period they are searching in order to map out a search strategy as it could vary upon the target dates. For example, the editorial columns and series search and the search by social, city, and political sections are available only after 1995. And, the keyword search in the contents is available for the articles published after 1990 only.

The users can search by the issue date and article type-- editorials, series, opinion surveys, biography, personnel announcement, obituaries, and picture captions. Also, the search by region, such as Korea, provinces, administrative districts and foreign countries is available.

The Boolean operation and truncation can be used in search: Search accuracy is increased by using "and," "or," and "not." The result is not affected by the particles. When the articles on"독도의 영유권" are searched, "독도" and "영유권" without the particle "의" can be entered as regardless of whether there are particles or not, the search result are the same.

Truncation is also supported. Therefore, when you put an asterisk (*) after 탈북 , the search result shows records that contain the words, "탈북," "탈북자," "탈북자 정책." The spacing plays an important role in searching. When the words have no space, the search retrieves records with the exact term.

 However, when there is a space, it uses relevancy analysis and retrieves more results—For example, the search of "북한난민" and "북한 난민" shows different result sets as the search with the latter term finds articles that contain "북한," and "난민," while "북한난민" only displays records with the exact term without space.

A.KPM (Korean People's Media, or 조선언론 정보기지)

http://dprkmedia.com/gate/gate_main.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2findex.aspx

The database offers articles from six North Korean newspapers and 15 magazines/periodicals, including Nodong Sinmun, Minju Choson, Choson Sinbo, Tongil Sinbo, Munhak Sinmun, and Kim Il-sung University Periodical that contains theses and dissertations. It also plans to add service with full text access from Choson Chungang Yongam and Choson Munhak Yesul Yongam.

II. INTEGRATED SEARCH DATABASES

A.E-Korean Studies Database:

http://e-koreanstudies.com/ksdb_index_EN.aspx

The interface is supported by four languages: Korean, English, Chinese and Japanese.
The E-Korean Studies Database was originally intended for the overseas libraries and research institutions to provide a common interface for varied databases ranging from full text journal databases to primary source databases.

The E-Korean Studies Database that contains all of the above-mentioned individual databases, except Choson Ilbo Archives and KPM (Choson Ollon Chongbo Kiji: North Korean Periodicals Full-text Database), provides links to individual databases' homepages in the opening screen so that the users can have direct access to a specific database from E-Korean Studies Database..

The review will concentrate on the features that are shared across all databases. The opening screen displays the menu bars that allow access to publisher index, publications index, and subject index.

It also allows one to search across the databases simultaneously by general keyword, article and publication titles, publisher, and author search. The results screen lists the article titles along with the authors, and names of the publishing institutions, and the source database producers.

The federated search retrieves a fewer number of data in the results than when the user searches individual databases. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to go to the individual database for more accurate data retrieval.

The Contents menu introduces the multi-volume titles and monographs. It offers options to search by 10 subject categories or by the Korean Decimal Classification (KDC). The Contents menu is also used to cover the opening page of the E-Korean Studies Databases

Spacing does not affect the search results as much as some of the databases because the search result displays both records with and without space.

When a title in the search result set is selected, it will lead to the bibliographic information page within the individual database, from which the data originates. No storage feature, commonly called "My Folder" is supported, nor is the search history preserved.

A. MetaLib:

a. What is MetaLib?

Similar to Google and other Web Search engines, the federated search systems, MetaLib, enables the users to search library catalogs, subscription databases, e-journals, and other digital repositories customized by the individual libraries through a single search interface.

The MetaLib is a gateway and metasearch system similar to the E-Korean Studies Database in that it allows the users to simultaneously search a variety of resources remotely and view the results in one interface. Search results are deduplicated and displayed in a single list.

However, when it is compared with the E-Korean Studies Database, the MetaLib is a more sophisticated and advanced system. It offers customizable features and ranking by relevance topic clusters. With its integration with the SFX link server, it also plays a powerful discovery tool: It enables users to complete the discovery process with links to full text and a range of other services. For example, the users can check the library catalog for print holdings, place a document delivery or interlibrary loan request.

However, how the users perceive the MetaLib system varies according to their information literacy levels by users due to its complex functionality that goes beyond a simple integrated search function. A study (Tang 2007) shows that students considered the MetaLib system

primarily as a tool for locating full text, while librarians viewed it as a secondary search tool. Students tend to focus on full-text retrieval capability and search efficiencies, while librarians pay more attention to search strategies and retrieval quality. Consequently, they expected quick retrievals of full text documents and had little interest for learning more about a sophisticated interface or the resources involved (Tallent 2004).

b. Using the MetaLib

To find the names of the databases of interest for your research, the FindDatabase tab needs to be selected (the names of tab on the menu bar can be customized that the name could vary by individual institutions). When you do not know which database you should search to search, the Subject Browse in the FindDatabase is very useful. There is a list of subject categories in the left-hand column for your guidance, and when you click on a subject, databases related to the subject will be displayed in the right-hand box.

In the Quick Set, the databases are already grouped together, so a search term will retrieve articles, while the FindDatabase search will locate databases in the result set, and to locate an article, specific databases should be selected.

Another tab on the menu bar is the CrossSearch. The option allows you to choose a subject category in the drop-down menu in the left-hand box. When a subject is chosen from the list, another list of databases is displayed in the right-hand column relevant to the selected subject. Only those with a check box on the list are cross searchable for an article. Those without a check box, specific databases should be searched individually.

The e-journal tab has a list of the alphabetical index of e journals that the library subscribes to, and in the advanced search, the ISSN and title searches are possible. With the e-journal search, only journal titles are searchable and for an article search, you need to go to the individual journal database to find articles.

My Space allows you to save the records or databases for later reference, and log-in is required. Without log-in, users still can use all the features, but the saved records will be deleted when you session is over as a guest. With the My Space feature, the user can create multiple folders and save articles and database of their research interest. My Space also enables you to create a temporary set in the Quick Set page so that you can conduct the keyword search of the databases of your choice.

CONCLUSION

A. Korean Studies Databases

Korean studies subscription databases are dynamically evolving in terms of system technology, interface design, and information content development to accommodate the changes seen in the information literacy. The technological level of the individual databases vary from underdeveloped and less sophisticated to more developed in all aspects of information literacy from search, access, location and preservation.

In the search function, spacing is a prominent issue for the Korean databases as the search results differ significantly on the presence of the space in the search term. The most ideal solution is to adopt the lexical analysis to extract words listed as "meaningful." The lexical analysis approach witnessed in the KISS database would resolve a majority of problems that stem from the spacing

issues. Until the technology further develops, it is strongly recommended to search the term twice, including and excluding the space.

Some databases need more help than others from system and interface designers to improve on features that will enable users to go beyond keyword searching. For example, field search, search refinement, and Boolean logic are not available on some of the databases like Korea A-Z.

The storage feature generally known as My Folder has a varied level of functionality. Some databases, like Choson Ilbo Archive and Korean History and Culture Database, do not offer the essential features, some have a simple option only to store titles, and others have more advanced functions that go beyond a simple storage of bibliographic information and search history. KISS's E-book database even offers a search function among the titles personally selected and stored for reference.

B. Metasearch Systems

Federated searching represents a major change in information access and retrieval. And, it has become an increasingly popular way for academic libraries to provide access to their diverse and rapidly growing collections of electronic resources (Hanna 2007).
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The E-Korean Database is successful in the first attempt to enable search across heterogeneous platforms for title, publication, publisher and author. However, it falls short of being an advanced search system as it fails to empower the users to search by topic. Less efficiently, it offers a topical index from ㄱ-ㅎ. The system also lacks important features like My Space, relevancy ranking in search results. In addition, E-Korean Studies Database has an issue in interoperability across the databases as the search results differ from those in number when each individual database is searched.

On the other hand, the MetaLib is a very powerful metasearch tool that enables the users to search the catalog of their library or other libraries, abstracting and indexing databases, citation databases, e-journal packages, Web subject gateways, and other Web-based resources. The individual institution that installs the MetaLib can decide and customize which resources they add or disregard.

Being compiled from a variety of different resources, the metasearch system has very complex and sophisticated features. The users need training to benefit most from the metasearch system. Information literacy on federated searching, as many librarian participants pointed out, would need to go beyond basic search skills typically taught about individual databases. Searchers will need to take the system limitations into account to conduct effective searches.(Tang 2007)

In this regard, the users need to learn on how results are displayed, how the FindIt button works, how and where full text is retrieved and how the searches are executed, whether the target results are databases, or articles, or journal names. Even how to use the My e-Shelf function, which serves to save information, is different depending on whether the search result is a journal, article, or database.

The full texts that the student users mostly look for through keyword search are possible in the quick search module. However, an advanced search module that improves the system's compatibility with the native interface of individual databases is desperately needed for the expansion of cross search capability for all databases.

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