

At the Horace W. Sturgis Library, Kennesaw State University

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Until recently searching across databases (also known as “metasearching,” “federated searching,” or “cross-database searching”) within GALILEO was not possible. Just this year an experimental version of a federated search was made available on GALILEO’s home page, just below the links to the suggested “quick search” databases, Academic Search Premier (EBSCO) and Research Library (ProQuest). On March 28, 2006, federated searching became the central option on GALILEO’s home page. GALILEO Announcements stated: “Beginning on Tuesday, March 28th, GALILEO Quick Search BETA will be available from the GALILEO homepage. Quick Search utilizes the WebFeat federated search product and provides users the ability to search across multiple online library resources simultaneously.” This rollout is only the first step in the “GALILEO Upgrade,” a “complex project that will be implemented in phases over the next three years.” The Upgrade itself is billed as a “complex project to make GALILEO simpler!”

There are two main advantages to federated searching: 1) Students can search several databases at once, from a simple request box, and 2) they do not need to know about rules or peculiarities of the individual databases searched. In addition, some of the databases searched are ones that the student might never have thought to consult, federated searching can explore important areas of the “deep web,” which portals such as Google and Yahoo! cannot access.