

Cox, Christopher N. *Federated Search: Solution or Setback for Online Library Services*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Information Press, 2007. 453p. \$65.00 (ISBN: 0-7890-3660-5)

Federated Search is a hardbound copy of articles co-published as *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* Volume 12, Numbers 1/2 and 3/4 2007. It contains 21 articles, an annotated bibliography, and an index. The authors of the articles are primarily from academic backgrounds, and the information and research found here is mainly relevant for academic library settings.

I found myself questioning the purpose of this book. Was it meant to be a textbook? If so, it would have made more sense to me to organize it by topic (researching, purchasing, integrating, training, etc.) arranged in some sort of project management cycle order (initiation, planning, execution, and closure) with the relevant articles residing in the appropriate areas. Or, was it meant to be a resource to someone actually researching the implementation of federated search for their organization? In this case, the material is almost too selective and dated and I would have opted for a database search.

That being said, there is good material to be found within the covers of *Federated Search*. I particularly liked the articles on federated searching in consortia and virtual library settings as these apply to all different types of libraries.

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