Demystifying Primo Central

ODIN
Online Dakota Information Network

Primo Central – Defined

What is Primo Central?
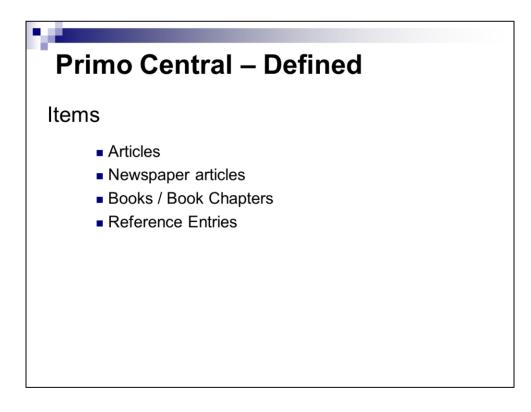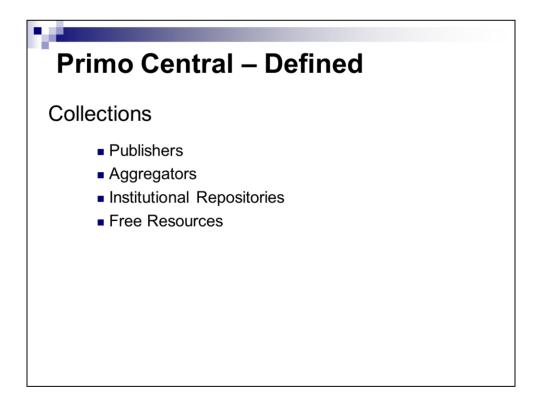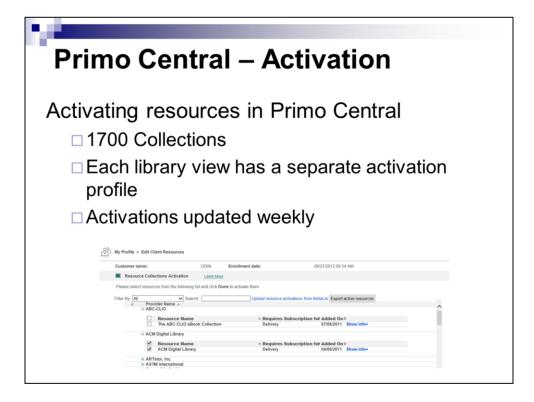
□ Approaching 1 billion items
□ 1700 Collections

- Primo Central (PCI) is a database of citations – a mega-aggregator, approaching 1 billion items contained in 1700 collections

- PCI is used in the Articles tab, as well as the Everything tab

Primo Central – Defined

Items

- Articles
- Newspaper articles
- Books / Book Chapters
- Reference Entries

Citations in the PCI database include periodical articles, newspaper articles, books/book chapters and reference entries.

Primo Central – Defined

Collections

- Publishers
- Aggregators
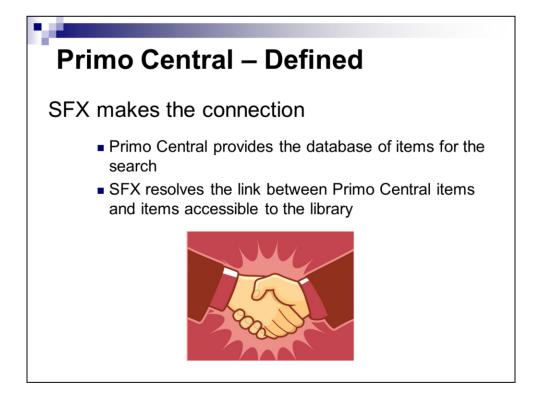- Institutional Repositories
- Free Resources

The items in PCI come from various collections of citations – the collections are provided by publishers (such as Oxford University Pres, Sage Publications), Aggregators (JSTOR, Proquest), Institutional Repositories (Harvard, University of Iowa) and free resources (ERIC, US Department of Energy).

Primo Central – Activation

Activating resources in Primo Central

- ☐ 1700 Collections
- ☐ Each library view has a separate activation profile
- ☐ Activations updated weekly

For each Primo installation, we are able to activate different collections – or collections of citations.

Activations are updated weekly. Changes must be in by Thursday at 5:00 – Ex Libris runs various jobs to update the collections within the Primo installation, and changes are reflected the following Monday or Tuesday.

Primo Central – Defined

SFX makes the connection

- Primo Central provides the database of items for the search
- SFX resolves the link between Primo Central items and items accessible to the library
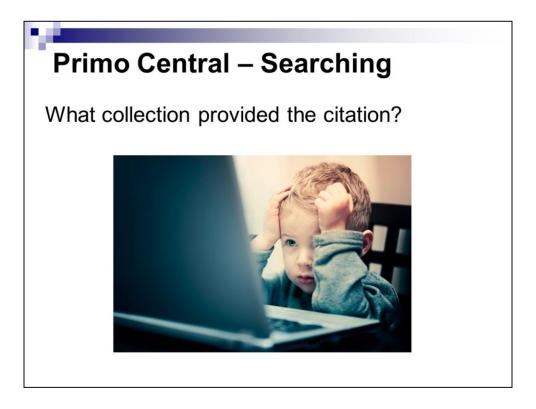
Although there isn't the one to one correlation between PCI resources and databases, SFX steps in to make the connection so patron can find material. PCI is an index of citations only – no full text. In Primo, a search is conducted for material, and SFX determines which items in PCI are available full text via the various databases the library is subscribed to.

Most ODIN libraries are set to default in bringing up only those items that are full text. At the top of the facet list there is a button called 'Expand my Results' which reconducts the search, and includes those PCI citations that are not available full text.

Primo Central – Activation

What should be activated?
- ☐ Subscribed Resources
- ☐ Free Resources
- ☐ Alternate Coverage List

Activations are based on a variety of things –

- If the actual database is a collection in PCI, it is activated

- A document exists called the Alternative Coverage List. This document includes various databases and indicates if you subscribe to X database (such as Ebsco Academic Search Premier) you should active Y collections to obtain the most overlap between PCI and Academic Search Premier.

- Free resources can be activated, but bear in mind, sometimes you get what you pay for.

Primo Central – Searching

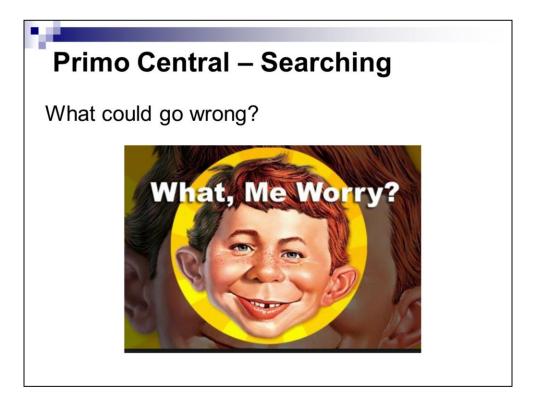What collection provided the citation?

A good troubleshooting device when experiencing issues is to determine which collection a particular citation is coming from.

When searching for an article, on the results screen go to the 'Details' tab of the citation. The last line of the record provides a 'Record Source' indicating where the citation is coming from.

Primo Central – Searching

How does my patron retrieve the material?

The 'View Online' tab of each entry provides a list of databases where the patron can obtain full text of the item. This menu is provided via SFX, and resolves the PCI citation to the actual full text of the material.

There are several different issues that may result in a 'View Online' link not working –

- Embargoes – Some journals impose embargoes on material, and do not allow current full text to be available. This is an issue in all databases.

- A specific article may be indexed, but the full text not available due to an author withdrawing the rights for their article.

- The metadata in the 'Details' tab may be inaccurate, thus providing the user with a false-positive, indicating full text is available when it is not. We've been told that now the Proquest collections are available in PCI, the quality of metadata is better.
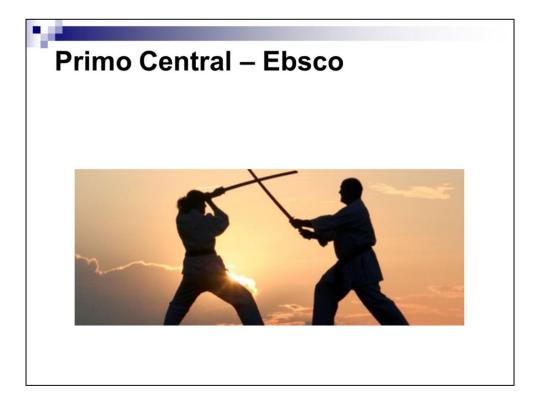
- Sometimes the metadata cataloging doesn't jibe with how the native interface searches; the clicking of the link in this case will launch a search that fails in the database

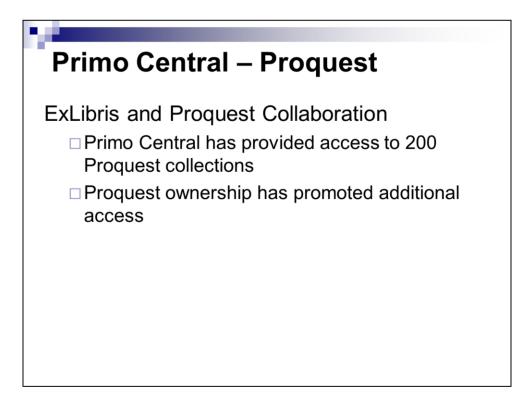- Some resources (especially free ones) only take you to the journal level - website

- Sometimes the SFX target date coverage is inaccurate. Perhaps SFX has a date range of a journal configured to be 1988 – current, when it should be 1989 – current; in this case, a PCI citation for a 1988 article would indicate full text is available when it is not.

Project working with ExL to improve linking experience – working with the Customer Success department to improving the searching experience for patrons.

Click 'broken link' next to the database name in the 'View Online' tab when you discover a link doesn't go where it should; additionally, turn in help desk tickets to report issues.

Primo Central – Ebsco

There's an ongoing battle between Ex Libris and Ebsco that affects quality of information. Not sure there will ever be a resolution.

Primo Central – Proquest

ExLibris and Proquest Collaboration

- □ Primo Central has provided access to 200 Proquest collections
- □ Proquest ownership has promoted additional access

In 2014, Ex Libris and Proquest began a collaboration to include various Proquest collections in PCI. The kicker was that you had to subscribe to the particular Proquest database in order to activate the corresponding collection. In 2015 Proquest purchased Ex Libris; a result of this acquisition is that now most Proquest collections can be activated in PCI without having a subscription. This means the citations from various Proquest databases can be included as a base for search – with SFX resolving the citations to various databases (Gale, Ebsco, etc.) that ODIN subscribes to.

Primo Central

Questions?