

UK Educational Evidence Portal Requirements for a new search engine using text mining

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Overview

- What is eep?
- About our consultation
- A new search engine
 - Based on ASSERT
 - Developed by NaCTeM
- Next steps

UK Educational Evidence Portal

- eep – is an online resource dedicated to and for educational professionals, bringing together research and evidence from multiple sources
- An ‘all resources’ search enables users to search the contents of the websites of 28 organisations
- A ‘selected resources’ search enables users to search a much smaller pool of materials that have been assigned terms according to the British Education Thesaurus.



Welcome to eep the UK Educational Evidence Portal

This portal helps you find educational evidence from a range of reputable sources using a single search. It is designed for both professional and lay people interested in education.

Search All Resources



Refine:



Help



Save Preferences



Keywords Builder



Sources



Sort Order

Reset

Enter the keywords or phrase that interests you. The search will retrieve documents from the websites of all the organisations associated with eep that contain any of the words you have entered. For guidance on how to get the best from your search click [Help](#)

You can also [Search selected resources](#) from a database of resources selected by a smaller group of organisations to be particularly relevant to practitioners and researchers. These resources have been indexed to provide more focused searching.

This portal is being developed continuously and new content added from time to time. The database of selected resources is currently limited in size but will become increasingly valuable as more resources are added.

Give us your views!

An online survey of users' opinions about eep is being carried out right now, by the Higher Education Academy, which will influence the future development of eep. Take a minute to feed back your thoughts.

Next steps for eep

The eep consortium is developing the portal to suit the needs of specific groups. Through workshops with subject associations, children's services and policymakers it is finding out what is needed. Contact eep if you would like to suggest another group at eep@cfbt.com.

ESRC now part of eep

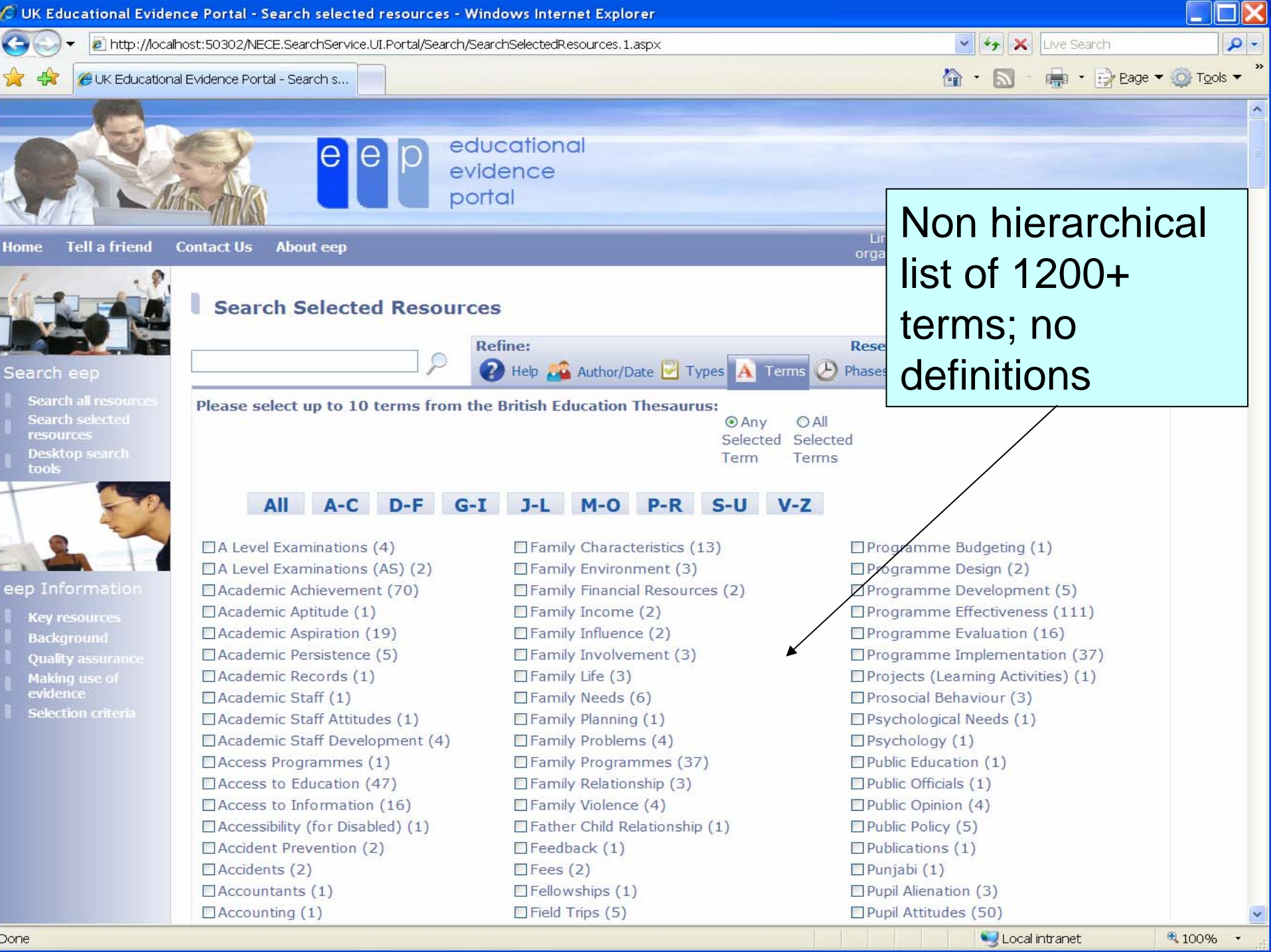
The Economic and Social Research Council has made the education documents from its Society Today database available

The 'all resources' search

- Uses the Microsoft 'Windows Live' web service
- Searches the websites of 28 organisations
- Results ranked according to Windows Live algorithm (maximum 250 hits) – certain sites always end up on top
- Sometimes large numbers of irrelevant hits

The 'selected resources' search

- A much smaller pool of documents: approximately 1300
- Documents have been identified as relevant by eep consortium and assigned British Education Thesaurus Terms by the BEI
- Records are in the form of citations with URLs
- Stored and searched in an SQL Server database



Non hierarchical
list of 1200+
terms; no
definitions

Our consultation

- Aimed to speak to users and potential users of eep in order to:
 - Understand what they search for, how and where
 - Favourite features, 'wish lists' and 'show stoppers'
- Interviews and focus groups
- Recorded and made detailed notes
- Identified key priorities for new search engine

Who we spoke to

- 47 people working in education
 - 5 focus groups and
 - 13 interviews
- The focus groups were with:
 - National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)
 - Training and Development Agency (TDA)
 - CfBT Education Trust
 - 2 groups from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) (analysts and researchers).

Who we spoke to - interviews

- Four teachers / people preparing teaching resources
 - a primary school deputy head
 - a primary school teacher
 - a secondary school head of subject
 - a field studies centre trainer
 - an education information officer within an NGO
- Information specialists from the Higher Education Academy and Learning and Skills Council, the DCSF, Institute of Education, London (IoE)
- Leaders of
 - Best practice and research for a county council
 - Research and development at a higher education college
 - 2 subject associations

What people told us – what they DON'T want

- **Show stoppers**
 - Site registration required
 - Payment required
- **(Dis)functional**
 - Tick boxes or specific pre-selected terms of limited value
 - Small search boxes
 - Confusion over 'select all button'
 - Similar/ duplicate results
 - Many citations of a report, but not the report itself
 - Broken links
 - Jargon
- **Cosmetic**
 - Adverts
 - Popups

What people told us – what they DO want

- Expected / standard
 - If not available considered ‘show stoppers’
- Desirable criteria
 - Favourite features of sites they use
- Competitive edge
 - Wish list

What they DO want – Expected / standard

- Fast searches
- Clear information/ guidance
- Clear instructions for searching
- Definitions available
- Clarity over which sites are being searched

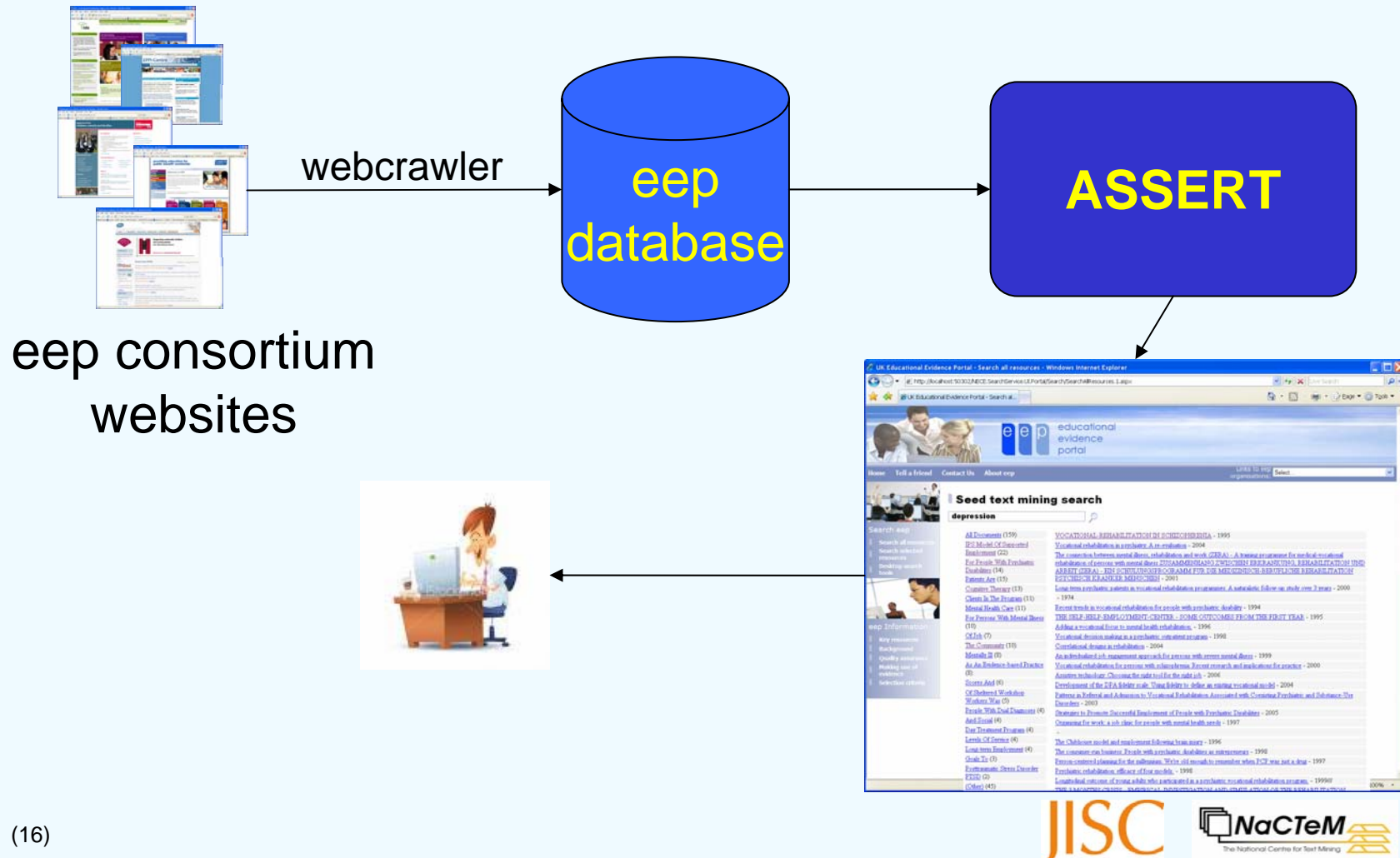
What they DO want – Desirable criteria

- Can do a useful task in 10 minutes
- Can save and return
- Simplicity of site design (clean page/ three clicks)
- Intuitive design
- “Trusted” sources
- Display search history
- Display 5-20 hits initially??
- Display: details of source, keywords, date created, type of source, pictures
- Clear citations / attributions
- Able to navigate to keywords in found doc
- Markers of ‘bias’: credible organisations, well designed sites, quality assured sites, star rating
- Presenting results in terms of their % match to the search terms used
- Present results in different formats
- Useful pointers of where to look next

What they DO want - Competitive edge

- Search for complex and new concepts, changing policies/ curricula/ terminology
- Search for document types (policy, research, resources, news, pictures, blogs, curricula) not just content
- Search for UK/ date in search (not just search output)
- Search for higher education/ schools / certain organisations
- Search for author, title
- Filter by concepts
- Natural language searches
- A “search engine that interrogates you”
- Access to full text documents for free

Text mining search for eep



Next steps...

1. Develop three options for searching eep using text mining
2. Evaluate these alternatives
3. Demonstrate and deploy

Next steps (1): search engines

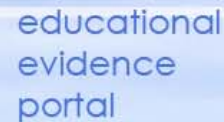
- Free-text search - lists of documents
 - Search returns documents which contain the selected term(s) AND related documents
- Free-text search - clusters of documents
 - Rather than a simple list, this search returns a list of clusters which can then be explored
- Taxonomy search - either clusters or list of documents
 - Returns results in either format based on user selection of term(s) from a hierarchical taxonomy

Next steps (2): evaluations

- Internal evaluation
 - Sensitivity, specificity and efficiency
 - Research team and eep development group
- External evaluation
 - User testing
 - Interviews and observations

Next steps (3): demonstrate / deploy

- Demonstration site on the eep portal
- If evaluations are positive -
 - The preferred search(es) will be used on the live portal



- Search all resources
- Search selected resources
- Desktop search tools



- Key resources
- Background
- Quality assurance
- Making use of evidence
- Selection criteria

Goals To (3)

[Person-centered planning for the millennium: We're old enough to remember when PCP was just a drug - 1997](#)



Search eep

- Search all resources
- Search selected resources
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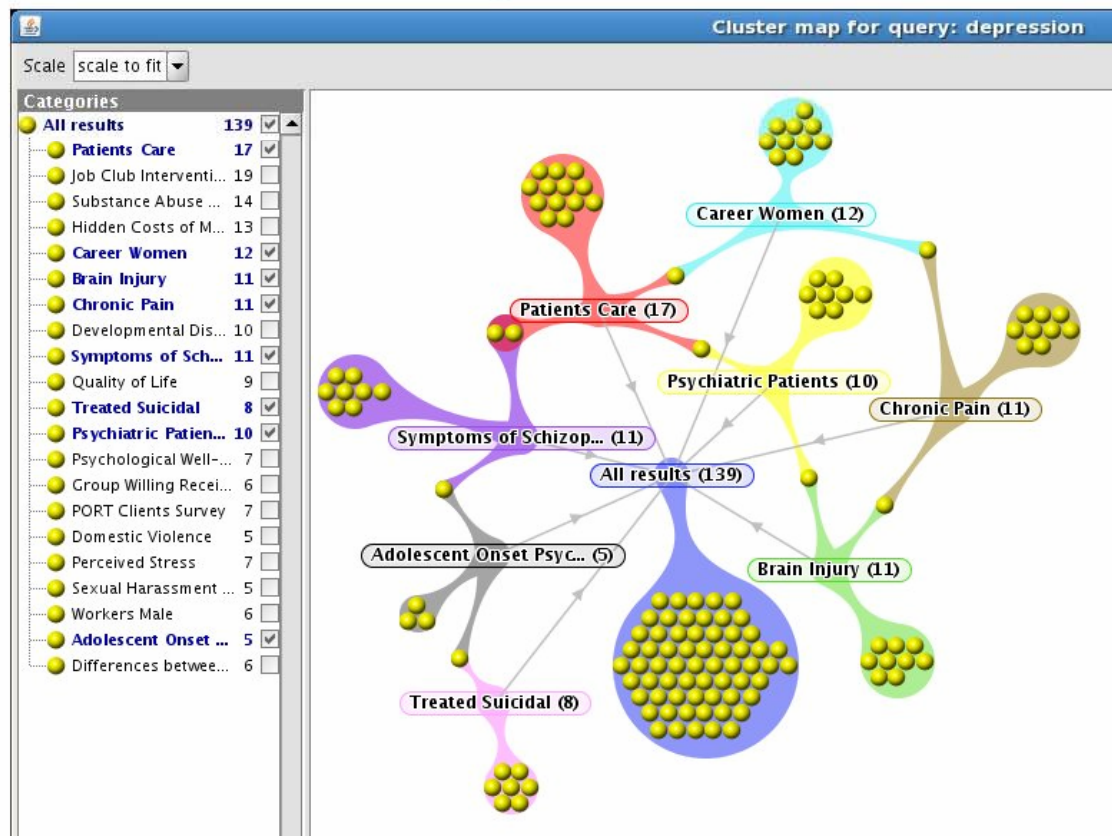
eep Information

- Key resources
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- Quality assurance
- Making use of evidence
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Seed text mining search

depression

Visualisation



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