

## EBSCOhost Databases from Librarian's Perspective

A Critical Approach By Saša Madacki, Head Librarian Human Rights Centre, University of Sarajevo



- Established 1996
- Till March 1999 traditional library
- Since March 1999 changing goal to LIBRARY WITHOUT WALLS
- From "Ptolemaic" to "Copernican" Library



### From 1959 till now library users still want to:

- Get the information they desire
- At the time it is desired (not before or after)
- In order of importance
- With auxiliary information attached
- And indications of reliability attached
- And authority of the information source indicated
- Exert minimum effort to get the needed information

Hary Goodwin, 1959

## Does and How EBSCO fit in this?

#### Get the information they need

- User simply can contact librarian and ask for search – can be done in few minutes
- User can register at Library Administrator's desk and perform search on his/her own after getting ID for access
- ACCESS TO MILLIONS OF RECORDS IS ENSURED

#### At the time it is desired

- Simple search can be done in 115 seconds (cca 2 minutes): 3.00 PM Search: Criminal law 206 articles Full text emailed to client Client received information at 3:02 PM same day
- Complex Search: 3:00 PM Complex search: Rome or Roman in Title and Civilization in Abstract, located 200 articles, e-mailed 5. Total time needed:2min 30 sec Client received information at 3:02:30 same day

BASED ON SIMPLE REQUEST!

#### In order of importance

- User contact 3:00 PM. Search 2 min 30 sec. Phone to user and agree with articles. Selection of titles: 20 minutes. Librarian on duty sending report to user at 3:22:30
- After 23 minutes user ready to use choosed articles.

## With auxilliary information attached

- Cross references included
- Follow subject hyperlink rafined search
- Abstracts included
- Bibliography included in each article
- Sources of articles with copyright info attached

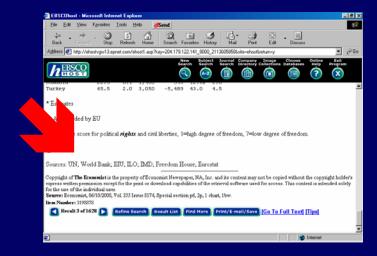
## And indications of reliability attached

- Choose PEER REVIEWED Articles
- Choose Periodicals with reputation
- Contact librarian about reliability
- Reliable source ensured

### And authority of the information source indicated

Check top and bottom of each article in database





## Exert minimum effort to get needed information

- Just try EBSCO at search.epnet.com
- You have to decide is this minimum efort ... We think it is...

# EBSCO*host* Databases in University of Sarajevo **Human Rights Centre Library**

#### General overview

- Usage started in November 1999
- Administration in December 1999
- Usage increase of Library services more than...we can not calculate that...
- User satisfaction ② ② ② ②
- Librarians satisfaction © © © © ©

#### EBSCO statistics November 1999 – January 2002

- Number of searches 14.323
- Articles located HITS 20.122.331
- Abstracts delivered 49.357
- Full Text Articles delivered 39.149
- Number of FText pages delivered 420.422



How much we saved, or how much we can earn with EBSCO through EIFL?

227.314,00 DEM Or 116.273,00 €



Imagine that you have asked New York Public Library to do this?

537.112,00 USD

Based on calculation: for research you have to pay \$75,00 per hour. We calculated that every complex search was done in half an hour

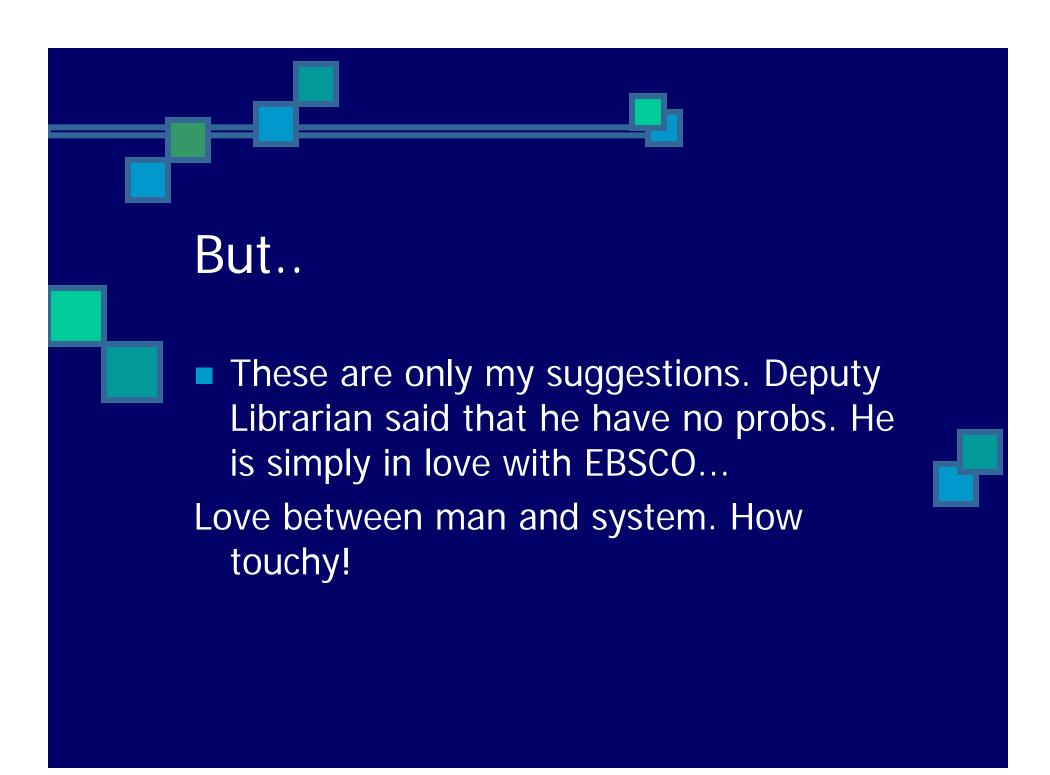
### What our clients said to our librarians about EBSCO...

- Is really 15 articles in my Inbox?
- This is complete madness...
- I don't believe you...
- **?**
- Aha, and my grandmother is an astronaut!
- You can really do that, I mean without bribe?
- Is this "academic" invitation for dinner or what?
- I LOVE YOU

## Everything looks nice but, is there any problem with EBSCO?

#### Yes, there is some...

- Bibliographic manager function have to be improved (i.e. ProCite .cfg files)
- Statistics module need more functions
- There is no subject search among periodical titles – you have that only in printed (PDF) form
- Technical Support Phone: (800) 758-5995 - 1-800 you can not reach if you are not in US





- Relationship between GOOD and BAD things is 98:2 Nobody is perfect
- Just remember There is no perfect system
- But...EBSCO tends to be
- Use this 98 GOOD thing and be happy librarian

