Creating a Custom Search Engine

Or, how I made my own database with Google Co-op and how you can too!
Hi there, I’m Laurie...

I’m sorry that I couldn’t attend MEC 2007 in person, I hope that this presentation makes up for my absence.
Introduction

• A search engine is an information retrieval system designed to help find information stored on a computer system, such as the World Wide Web, inside a corporate or proprietary network, or in a personal computer.

Retrieved March 29, 2007
Benefits to You

• No cost
• No hosting concerns
• Available anywhere
• Can be shared
• Can be hidden
• Easy to contribute to
• Easier to search than to scroll
My Example: FreeAcademicDatabases.org

Collaboration with Richard Baer at Camosun College Library.
Also involved is Dale West, a Library Technician Student doing his co-op at Camosun College Library.
Process

1. Make decisions (WWWWW & H)
2. Read handout from Google’s Librarian Center
3. Go to http://www.google.com/coop/
4. Create a Google Account
5. Create a Google Co-op
6. Start adding
7. Optional - Register a domain name for URL forwarding
Handout:

http://www.google.com/librariancenter/librarian_tools.html
Google Marker

Using the Google Marker

The Google Marker allows you to add and label sites in your Custom Search Engine or in a Google topic. Please note that you must already have created or signed up to collaborate on a Custom Search Engine to use the Google Marker with a Custom Search Engine. You must already have signed up to contribute to a Google topic to use the Google Marker with a Google topic.

Once you are ready, simply add the Google Marker link below to your browser toolbar.

- Firefox users: Drag the marker into the Bookmarks Toolbar.
- Internet Explorer users: Right-click on the marker, then select "Add to Favorites" > "Links."

Now, when you're on a site or page that you'd like to include or exclude in your Custom Search Engine or Google topic, click on the 'Google Marker' link in your browser toolbar.

Select from the Marker whether you'd like to include or exclude the entire site or just the page you are visiting. Your Google Marker will also allow you to select any refinement labels that apply to your Custom Search Engine or Google topic that you can use to annotate the site.
Drag and Drop

Limiting
Final Steps

- Collaboration
  - Control
- Distribution
  - Private and personal vs. Public and shared
- Promotion
  - Very long URL, recommend registering domain name for URL forwarding
- Terms of Reference
  - Example: [Terms of Reference for FreeAcademicDatabases.org](#) done in Google Docs
The End

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