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## International College launches special search engine for Web

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When it comes to research, students and faculty want to be able to look up information on the Internet that is credible and easy to find.

So, International College joined The Library Corporation (TLC) and WebFeat Inc. to launch a search engine for students, faculty and staff called the IRC Search.

Similar to search engines such as Google and Yahoo, IRC Search provides quick access to information.

Before, International College students, like Elaine Reed Kruse, searched for information on single database search engines. Now they have access to more than 70 databases, such as catalog holdings, proprietary databases, electronic books, and subscription data, simultaneously through one search engine.

She said her initial thought was that IRC Search was an excellent improvement from the past.

Reed Kruse, like many students, spent hours working on research papers for her master's degree in public administration, but now, with IRC Search, she will "save time and frustration".

The new search engine will cost the college \$50,000 per year.

Melody Hainsworth, vice president of Information Resources and Services said that as more databases became available on the Internet, the college wanted to have access to them to assist students and faculty.

After the college and WebFeat Inc. worked to customize the search engine for more than one year, IRC Search was launched last week.

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Webfeat founder and CEO Todd Miller said that one of the aspects that makes International College's search engine unique is that it was configured to be integrated into the college's Web site.

It is available to anyone with an International College library card.

Hainsworth said the program is the beginning of making database access easier through the Web site for many patrons.

She said the program was created to be easy to work with, since many of the college's students are nontraditional.

Reed Kruse agreed.

"It's extremely user-friendly and seamless and makes research less cumbersome," she said.

Such search engines, which are provided by WebFeat, are a growing trend.

"The product has been growing steadily in the information industry, and it has become the white-hot topic," said Miller.

Created in 1998, Webfeat Inc. has about 1,500 customers, from public libraries, schools and major corporate centers, such as NASA.

"It has made database available that students and faculty would have never thought about," Hainsworth said.



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