Why add browse to academic search?

- Researchers and students often find it difficult to search for academic publications or evaluate the credibility of the academic content they find using search tools.
- There are many “Fuzzy search publications” that a user is looking for but does not know what search terms to use to find them. They hide behind a wall of vagueness: the users don’t know how to ask for them.

1. Studies by Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B., retrieved from http://projectinformlt.org. Previous studies done on this project confirmed these results.

Method and Instruments

- **Equipment**: A laptop with camera
- **Software**: Morae
- **Prototype or mockups**: Well prepared test questions, tasks, and rating sheets
- **External experts**: We organized a panel of five student experts specialized in User Experience research and design, information architecture, or HCI

Evaluation Framework

- **Effectiveness**: Does this tool behave in the way the users expect it to?
- **Efficiency**: How quickly can the user’s goal be accomplished?
- **Usefulness**: Does this tool enable users to achieve their goals?
- **Learnability**: Does it require training to use this tool?
- **Satisfaction**: User’s feelings and opinions of this product
- **Design suggestions**: How might you design it differently?

Impact

- Added value to the design process by bringing in external experts
- Identified key design flaws and provided timely feedback to validate and inform design decisions

Key Insights

- **Browse helps with finding “Fuzzy search publications”**
- **Browse triggers ideas and helps organize ideas for writing a research paper**
- **Users expect to see search results immediately after performing a search**

Example analysis and reporting

- Rating of design components (Importance)
- Rating of search scenarios
- Design suggestions on prototype
- Highlight video clips featuring the most important findings

* Usability attributes from *Handbook of Usability Testing*