

How does the EconBiz Relevancy Ranking work?

General Thoughts

Relevance lies in the eye of the beholder. Students might consider a textbook or an MA or BA thesis as highly relevant whereas a researcher needs the latest working paper or an article from a peer-reviewed journal.

Automatic relevance-ranking is based on a couple of assumptions on basic user needs. These may be helpful in one context and unsuitable in another.

We would like to lay open our criteria, so that users can see how our result lists are created. We will keep working on improvements and look forward to your questions and comments: info@econbiz.de

Our criteria

The relevance ranking is based on a simple text matching approach ([TF-IDF](#); term frequency-inverse document frequency). Special syntactic features, such as proximity of search words (especially phrases) or exact matching of the content of metadata fields, are benefitted. Matches in the title or the subject field are most important. But matches in other fields such as author, abstract, table of content etc. do also influence the ranking.

Additionally, some special features of the documents can influence the ranking:

- Recent documents are preferred.
- Open-Access documents are preferred; especially over non-directly accessible editions.
- Some special document types are ranked down (e.g. there are some bachelor theses in the database BASE; if there is other relevant material, in most cases the BA-theses should not appear first on the list.)

Some publications on this topic:

Flimm, O. (2007). Die Open-Source-Software OpenBib an der USB Köln - Überblick und Entwicklungen in Richtung OPAC 2.0. *Bibliothek Forschung und Praxis*, 31(2), 2-20.

Langenstein, A. & Maylein, L. (2010): Relevanz-Ranking im OPAC der Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg. *B.I.T. Online* 12(4), 408-413 http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/volltexte/2010/10343/pdf/Langenstein_Maylein_aus_BIT_4_09_kpl_kl.pdf

Lewandowski, D. (2009). Ranking library materials. *Library Hi Tech*, 27(4), 584-593.

Lewandowski, D. (2010a). Der OPAC als Suchmaschine. In P. Danowski & J. Bergmann (Eds.), *Handbuch Bibliothek 2.0*. München: Saur / de Gruyter. 87-107.

Lewandowski, D. (2010b). Using search engine technology to improve library catalogs. In A. Woodsworth (Ed.), *Advances in Librarianship*, Vol. 32. Bingley: Emerald. 35-54.

Dellit, A., & Boston, T. (2007). Relevance ranking of results from MARC-based catalogues: from guidelines to implementation exploiting structured metadata. *Library*, (February), 1-14. Retrieved from

<http://www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/nlasp/article/viewArticle/1052>