Primo VE Essentials

**4 Central Discovery Index (CDI)**

**What is the Ex Libris Central Discovery Index?**

Every day, new scholarly and academic material is published on paper and online. Ex Libris and ProQuest work with publishers, aggregators, subscription services, and open access repositories to acquire citation data for those publications on an ongoing basis. All that citation data is loaded into the Central Discovery Index, or CDI. CDI contains over 5 billion records. It is vendor neutral, and it indexes material worldwide.

In addition to the citations themselves, CDI stores the relationships between the citations. So, for example, a book review is connected to the book it is reviewing. An author is connected to all the articles they have published.

**What’s the connection between our local catalog and CDI?**

Records that are part of your local catalog are managed in Alma, your library management software. Records that come from CDI do not need to be managed by your librarians in Alma, because they are managed by Ex Libris for the benefit of all libraries that use CDI.

However, which CDI records are activated for your patrons is determined by activation in Alma. For example, if you activate a journal title in Alma with specific coverage dates, that will also activate the articles in that journal in CDI with those same coverage dates. The availability of resources is updated automatically once a day.

**How does Primo VE work with CDI?**

When you search with Primo VE, you can use a search profile that searches CDI only, or your local catalog only, or a blend of both. Each of these search profile labels can be changed by your administrator, so the CDI search may be called “Articles” and the blended search might be called “Everything,” just to give two examples.

Let’s run a search of CDI only. We can see the number of results, and as we scroll through them, we can see that each one is available online.

The user doesn’t see that Primo VE compares records retrieved from CDI against the institutional holdings file in Alma to determine if the institution has full text access rights.

From the search results, Primo VE provides quality links directly to the full-text of the article.

If this has been enabled, you may see a quicklink in the brief result that will take you directly to a PDF of the content, or a link to the full text online. If not, Click Available Online or the title to see the list of providers in the full record. If there are multiple providers of this article, their display - which providers appear, and in which order – is configured in Alma.

To the user, the process is seamless: Search and then open the full text in a click or two. When signed-in to Primo VE, users do not need to navigate to a content provider’s platform, for example, sign-in there, and then open the journal, issue, and page number that they are looking for.

Remember to sign-in to ensure access to all your institution’s subscriptions.

**Expand my Results**

By default, a search of CDI is what we call a “filtered search.” Each result shows Available Online because it is only showing records from CDI that you can access, either because they are open access or because your institution has a subscription. You can remove this filter with Expand My Results. This shows many more results, because it is searching all of CDI, including resources for which your institution does not have a subscription. Now, we can see some results that are labelled “No Online Access.” This allows the patron to discover resources that are not deliverable. These results may still be useful for a patron’s research, especially if the institution offers resource sharing services.

As you can see, CDI plays an important role in providing patrons with a seamless discovery and delivery experience in Primo VE.