

# EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF A LINK RESOLVER

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## Functions of Link Resolver

- Connect clients from a citation to the full-text article
- Ability to connect to a full text article is primarily affected by the accuracy of data in Link Resolver's knowledge base

Database

Citation

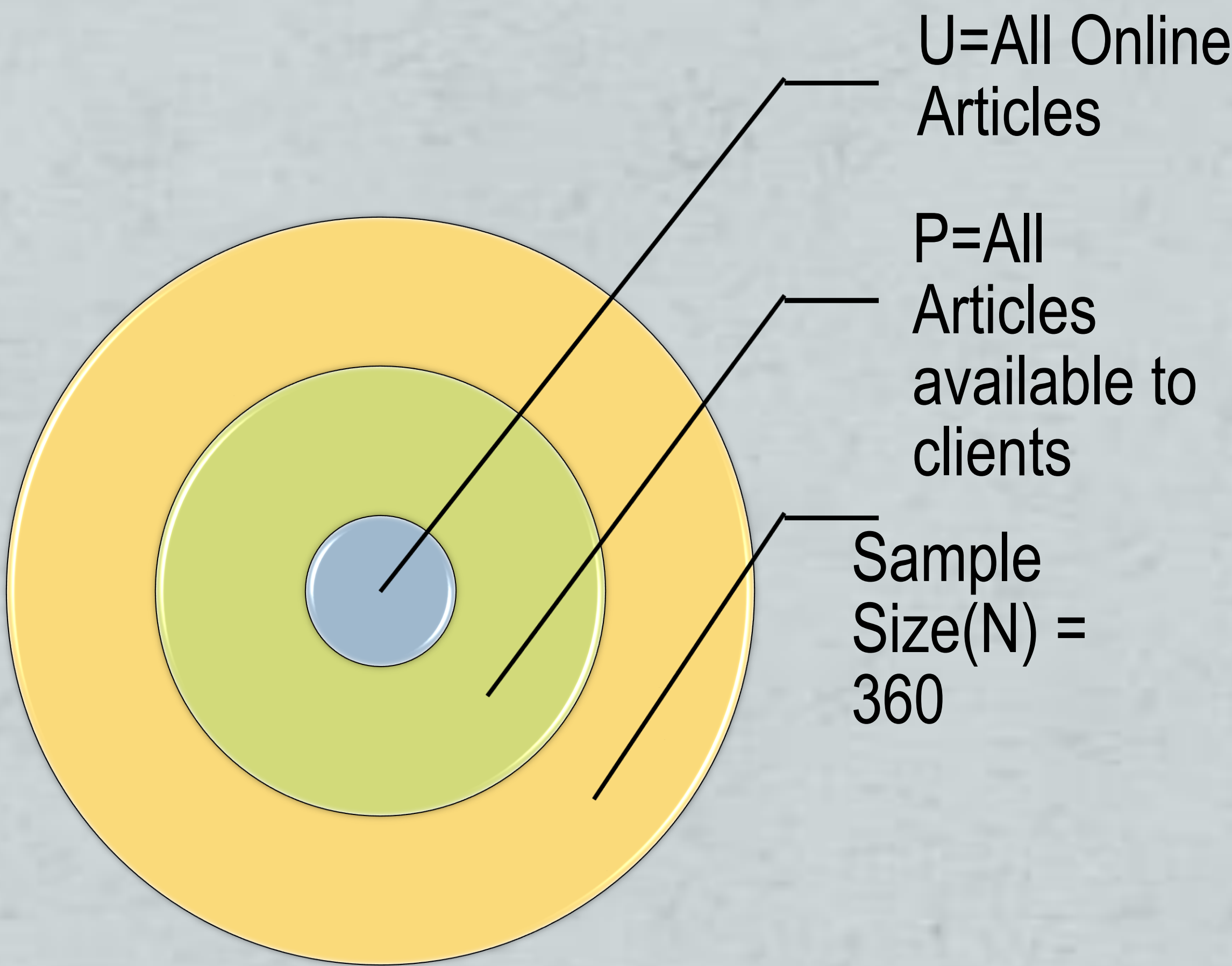
Link Resolver  
Knowledge Base

Full Text Link

E-Journals

## Quality of Link Resolver

- The primary indicator of the quality of a link resolver is the success rate of linking the user from the citation of an article that is available online to the full-text.



## Sample Selected

- Titles
- Titles not indexed in resource searched were skipped
- Randomly selected from link resolver download
- Articles
- 7 sources were searched
- Articles during the coverage dates provided including embargo period
- If no articles could be found the title was skipped
- If articles were found , one article was randomly selected

## Results

- Testing stopped after 60 titles were tested. Most useful statistics were :
- **Success rates** (#success/#titles) Always between 0 and 1
- **Click rates** (#clicks/#titles) Always  $\geq 1$

## Problems

- More titles needed in some databases.
- Some titles were listed multiple times.
- Care was taken to run each query based solely on the date range provided.

Database	Sample Size (N)	Success	Clicks
PubMed	65	57 (87.69%)	75 (115.38%)
Ovid MEDLINE	65	57 (87.69%)	76 (116.92%)
Web of Science	65	61 (93.85%)	76 (116.92%)
Scopus	65	58 (89.23%)	69 (106.15%)
EBSCO	65	63 (96.92%)	65 (100%)
Gale	65	57 (87.69%)	65 (100%)
Google Scholar	65	62 (95.38%)	70 (107.69%)
Totals	455	415 (91.21%)	496 (109.01%)

## Citation Tested

- Clicked on the FindIt! @The Library icon for selected citation
- Full text page= Either the full text article OR a page with a link directly to the full text
- Success=The full text page
- Failure=No full text page found
- Efficiency=Number of clicks

## Conclusion

- Process controls for effect of the collection on the evaluation of the link resolver.
- Can be conducted for any link resolver that is implemented.
- Results can be compared over time.
- Results could be shared and link resolvers compared with other libraries.
- Process only moderately time consuming