

# Assessing Digital Resources at the Tampere University of Technology Library by Star Rating System

This poster outlines a star rating system that is being used to guide the evaluation of digital resources.

## Why to rate resources?

Licensing digital resources at technical universities has increased over past ten years. The process is a subject of the constant change because the system development and the service production have not been established. When the supply increases there is a need for more product and other relevant information on the digital resources to support the licensing decisions and thus to speed up the process. Other reasons for evaluating digital resources are: getting better results of the trials, finding the key digital resources for strategic research fields and strong areas of competence, binding digital resources to e-learning environment, and finding an assessing method suitable for our use.

## How are the stars determined?

The star rating system was developed at the Tampere University of Technology (TUT) Library. The thinking behind the scheme is similar to the way people choose restaurants by stars from the Michelin guide. Digital resources are evaluated on a scale of 1-5 on four collection development criteria: disciplines, teaching, scope and coverage and usability. Scores are collected separately for full-text journal services, databases, e-books and trials. The scores are added up and total score is a basis for the star rating ranging from one star to five stars. Five stars indicate the highest rank.

We have specified the requirements of criteria. The basic requirements to score 5 for example require from the criteria "Disciplines" that the resource is from TUT's strategic research field and has high quality or is peer-reviewed. Reliability of the digital resources is included in the requirements of criteria. The scope and coverage of the resource concerned is determined by the number of chairs it is applicable and relevant.

The final assessment is performed by a panel. The panel consists of subject specialists. External help from faculty is used in the evaluation of trials. The panel assembles every month and confirms the stars.

The total score is basis for stars:

Stars	Total score
*****	18 - 20
****	14 - 17
***	10 - 13

## Discoveries

We have evaluated 31 full-text journal services. According our criteria 6% get a five-star rating and 55 % get four-star rating. There are 38 eBooks services, 11% get a five-star rating and 74 % four-star rating. In the group of databases 30 % of 17 databases get five stars and 35 % get four stars.

### Example of assessing

Table: An example of 12 digital resources evaluated according criteria: Disciplines, Teaching, Scope and coverage and Usability. The total score is basis on stars.

Digital resources	Disciplines	Teaching	Scope	Usability	Total	Stars
A. Full-text journal services						
IEEEXplore	5	4	4	5	18	*****
Emerald	4	4	2	4	14	****
B. Databases						
Compendex	4	5	5	5	19	*****
ETDEWEB	4	3	3	4	14	****
C. eBooks						
AccessScience McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology Online	4	4	5	5	18	*****
CRC ENGnetBase	5	4	5	4	18	*****
D. Trials						
Derwent Innovations Index	5	3	5	4	17	****
Books 24X7	4	4	3	3	14	****
E. Earlier agreements						
ProQuest: ABI/INFORM	4	4	2	4	14	****
Elsevier: World textiles	3	3	2	3	11	***
F. CD-Roms						
RT Building information files	3	3	2	2	10	***
ST Electrical information files	3	3	2	2	10	***

### Using star rating

With the help of the star rating system, we can get the better understanding about our digital resources.

The information is used for licensing decision practices and collection policy development and marketing of resources. The star rating system supports research and teaching by pinpointing the most valuable digital resources.