

## Metasearch Partner Access Information

- [OpenURL](#)
- [Z39.50](#)
- [HITS API Access](#)
- [To Get Started](#)

**Background:** Metasearch services have emerged as a means to help libraries offer their users one-search access to multiple resources. Libraries want to provide the ease of searching found in Web-based services like Google™. Unlike Google, these metasearch services strive to offer uniform access to multiple database targets with heterogeneous content and accessibility. As a consequence, metasearch services use multiple approaches to search and retrieve, including open standards like Z39.50, proprietary application programming interfaces (APIs), and screen scraping. The lack of widely supported and common methods of access greatly increases the effort needed to develop an effective service. In addition, as the number of libraries deploying metasearch services increases, so does the potential negative impact on content providers.

Thomson Gale is actively engaged with the NISO Metasearch Initiative Planning Committee to identify strategies and standards to address long-term implications and support of metasearch technology. To address the immediate needs of metasearch vendors, Thomson Gale endorses two methods of access and searching for its electronic databases. The first method uses an HTTP-based API and the second uses the Z39.50 protocol. Which method you choose depends on the design of your metasearch product.

If you have any questions as you review the following, please feel free to call Technical Support at 800-877-4253 option 4.

### OpenURL

[This Web page](#) provides details for Thomson Gale's OpenURL Access. The page describes supported products, URL recipes, and detailed technical information.

### Thomson Gale Z39.50 Partner Access

[View Thomson Gale Z39.50 Server Capability Profile.](#)

This document provides detailed technical information for Z39.50 access to database content. Partners will use the Z39.50 protocol to access database content in accordance with the Thomson Gale agreement. A partner identifier is are required. Thomson Gale will provide partners with a partner identifier and trial account for testing purposes. Thomson Gale staff will arrange dates for testing and production access to the databases.

## HITS API Partner Access

[Download HITS API Profile \[884 KB\]](#)

This document provides details for Thomson Gale's HTTP-based API to be used by partners for access to its databases. Partners will use the API to access database content and Thomson Gale will provide partners with a partner identifier and trial account for testing purposes. Thomson Gale staff will arrange dates for testing and production access to the databases.

### To Get Started

1. [View List](#) of currently supported products.
2. Contact Gale Technical Support at 800-877-4253 option 4 or by email at [gale.technicalsupport@thomson.com](mailto:technicalsupport@thomson.com) to help determine the type of access that is appropriate for your needs.
3. Work with Thomson Gale staff to set up and test the connection.
4. Arrange production schedule with Thomson Gale staff.