EBSCO position:

• Discovery of your paid EBSCO content through your discovery service of choice [i.e. Primo] can only be done via an API.

• This API is to EDS [not EBSCOhost].

Implications:

• EDS is NOT an open API layer on top of EBSCOhost. It is a separate product that provides access both to EBSCOhost and to other licensed content. As such, it is in the same category as discovery products such as Primo.

• This is a business decision, not a technical issue – EBSCO wants to impede clients’ ability to use other discovery solutions and require libraries use the EDS discovery product.
EBSCO position:

- An API solution is superior to index-based discovery.

Implications:

- This is quite odd and certainly contrary to the prevailing industry view. See, for example, the Library Journal article of April 16th entitled “Discovering Reciprocity” as well as the NISO Open Discovery Initiative.
- Ironically, EBSCO themselves market EDS as an index-based search providing access to both EBSCOhost databases and other content.
- Can both be true?
EBSCO Position:

- EBSCO does not have rights to provide all of the content.
- EBSCO feels they can determine a quality user experience for their libraries’ end-users.

Implications:

- Let’s not be confused about the content that Ex Libris is requesting: since we have direct relationships with content providers for the other resources, the content in question is the content owned by EBSCO for which they have rights.
- EBSCO chooses not to share the content that they do have the rights to share (content that you, the library, pay for).
- This point also contradicts previous statements and actions by EBSCO, who have made content available to Ex Libris in the past and more recently to OCLC. We wonder, therefore, if EBSCO has since lost rights to content.
EBSCO Position:

• Because of Primo’s relevancy ranking algorithm, EBSCO does not provide content to Primo.

• EBSCO is concerned that end users will have a diminished experience if they do not search databases directly.

Implications:

• Primo is recognized for its superb ranking capabilities, offering clear, fair, and content neutral ranking. ScholarRank has been acknowledged at numerous international conferences.

• EBSCO wishes to control the ranking of its content, which is possible through the API to EDS they require. Ex Libris believes ranking should be based on attributes of the content, context, and user.

• EBSCO clearly believes that end-users (who are “led to believe”) prefer to search database silos. This runs counter to what both end-users and libraries wish to achieve with a library-based discovery service.
EBSCO Position:

- Providing metadata weakens the user experience.

Implications:

- The entire industry understands the benefits of indexed-based search, yet EBSCO attempts to claim that API-based search is superior.
- One has to wonder, is EDS itself based on API to external content too? If this is the case, it’s really a metasearch tool and not a true next generation discovery service.