How to integrate your OpenAthens subscription with the InCommon federation

• What do you need to do?
• Review your options
  ◦ Option 1
  ◦ Option 2
  ◦ Option 3
  ◦ Option 4
• Additional Notes

OpenAthens has partnerships with multiple federations including UKFED and InCommon.

Members of multiple federations can get additional benefits by integrating their existing federation with OpenAthens:

• OpenAthens Redirector linking: use a consistent linking prefix for OAFED/UKFED/InCommon providers. Make WAYFLess linking easy!
• Use a single SSO session to access all library providers – decrease user logins
• Access to more federated providers in your OpenAthens resource catalogue
• Minimize IT involvement in library resource activation – get a simple administrator interface and 24/7 EBSCO support
• Get flexible login options – Get the benefit of OpenAthens’ robust login options to connect additional user directories OR create OpenAthens accounts for users that aren’t in your institutional directory (e.g. guests or alumni)
• Get granular OpenAthens statistics for InCommon/UKFED providers

What do you need to do?

Review your options with your IT department. IT manage the set-up of all University applications with your existing federation. They will need to approve any changes to the way access is managed.

Contact EBSCO (support@ebsco.com) if you would like to start the set-up or discuss your options.

What providers are accessed using your existing SAML federation (InCommon/UKFED)?

1. Get the name of the IT contact who manages membership of your federation

2. Ask your contact(s) to list:

   a. ALL providers accessed via the federation. The list must include: library subscriptions and University/system applications
b. Identify any providers that require personal data (claims(attributes)) e.g. emailAddress. List the attributes required for each provider.

Review your Options

There are four set-up options with different benefits. Review the options with your IT contact. You can compare the options with this table.

Option 1: Fully integrated federations

Core benefit: You get all the benefits listed in the introduction.

- IT must read the migration requirements in this document: [http://docs.openathens.net/display/public/MD/Migrating+from+your+own+IdP](http://docs.openathens.net/display/public/MD/Migrating+from+your+own+IdP)
- IT can work with EBSCO to migrate existing providers to OAFED and/or duplicate attribute release policies to retain personalization
- IT would update InCommon to use OpenAthens IdP metadata endpoints (instructions will be provided) and the same EntityID (as your SAML IdP).
- Access to existing InCommon/UKFED EntityID would be retained (see above FAQ).
- Your SAML Identity Provider (e.g. Shibboleth) will be the Identity Provider of OpenAthens
- OpenAthens would act as the Identity Provider of InCommon/UKFED (but you would be using the same source user directory)
- Going forward, IT/Library would set-up all federated applications through OpenAthens admin. IT could still register new InCommon service providers with InCommon (these will appear in the OpenAthens catalogue where attribute release would be configured)
- You can use redirector links for both federations

Option 2: Integrated federations (library with unique InCommon entityID)

Core benefit: Simplify the management of library applications to a simple library-managed interface. IT will retain independent management of the original InCommon/UKFED entityID – reducing any risk to active University service providers.

- IT would not need to migrate University applications – they would continue to be managed through the current InCommon entityID – service would be retained.
- IT would work with EBSCO to migrate existing library applications to OpenAthens and/or copy attribute release policies to retain personalization.
• IT would register a NEW EntityID with InCommon/UKFED (metadata will be supplied by EBSCO) for management of library subscriptions/applications. This would be used for any federated providers not available through OAFED. There may be fees associated if you register a second EntityID with InCommon – consult your federation support desk.

• Your SAML Identity Provider (e.g. Shibboleth) will be the Identity Provider of OpenAthens

• OpenAthens would be as the Identity Provider of InCommon/UKFED (for library applications)

• Going forward, the library would manage set-up of all library subscriptions through OpenAthens admin (minimal IT assistance required)

• You can use Redirector links for both federations

**Option 3: Parallel federations (no InCommon integration)**

*Core benefit:* No changes need to be made to InCommon metadata. The library would manage access to applications primarily through OpenAthens.

• IT would not make any updates to InCommon or existing applications

• All library service providers would need to be migrated to OpenAthens (or managed outside OpenAthens). This relies on the providers either joining the federation or allowing us to set-up one-to-one SAML connections by exchanging metadata. EBSCO could assist with this but the library may also need to speak to providers too.

• Going forward, library would manage set-up of all library subscriptions through OpenAthens admin (minimal IT assistance required)

• Any providers that are only available through InCommon would need to be set-up through IT. EBSCO would not support contacting the providers.

• You can’t use redirector links to InCommon providers. The library would need to use the provider’s WAYFLess syntax (if InCommon access is activated)

**Option 4: Parallel federations (redirector integration only)**

*Core benefit:* No changes need to be made to InCommon metadata. The library could use redirector links for InCommon providers

• IT would not make any updates to InCommon or existing applications

• Library service providers may need to be migrated to OpenAthens.

• Going forward, library would manage set-up of all library subscriptions through OpenAthens admin with EBSCO support (minimal IT assistance required)
• Any providers that are only available through InCommon would need to be set-up through IT. EBSCO would not support these providers.

• You will be able to use Redirector links to InCommon providers but they will not use the same SSO session. Users will have to login once for each federation.

**Additional Notes**

Not a member of InCommon yet? You can get these benefits by joining the InCommon federation. You can register using your OpenAthens metadata. Ask us how support@ebsco.com!

Read More: [http://docs.openathens.net/display/public/MD/Migrating+from+your+own+IdP](http://docs.openathens.net/display/public/MD/Migrating+from+your+own+IdP)