USE OF THE ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE IN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

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Abstract: - *This paper examines Online Public Access Catalogue of MPKV University Library, Rahuri. OPAC is an information retrieval system, has revolutionized access to bibliographic information through search capabilities such as keyword searching, Boolean searching, truncation, proximity searching, and item identity number searches. The paper discusses various aspects of OPAC such as how to search, options of OPAC use etc., application of open source software (Koha) as a form of resource sharing tool and a single authoritative source of MPKV University library resources.*

Keywords : *Open Source Software, Online Catalogue, Library Networks, Koha, Document Delivery, OPAC.*

INTRODUCTION

During the recent period quite a large number of libraries and information centers are forming union catalogue for sharing the resources among the participating Libraries. The advent of computer networking as an accepted part of the library and information infrastructure has had a very significant impact on the way in which library and information systems are perceived. India is thus on the threshold to a new era of computer communication networks both for general purposes and for library and information purposes. The following principles are motivated behind the union catalogue:

❖ Maximizing the utilization of existing information resources / collection by sharing

❖ Providing speedy access to information resources located at different places through communications channels for mutual benefit.

❖ To avoid duplication in the information process and control over the collection.

The escalating cost of information resource materials, increasing cost of processing documents and their information contents, decreasing budgets in terms of real worth and wide use of computers have also contributed to the development of union catalogue.

CONCEPT OF UNION CATALOGUE

Union catalogue in the broader sense can be any formalized system of information exchange. But, in modern union catalogue, technology is utilized to link libraries, specialized data resources, or individuals to the persons or institutions in need of information. An union catalogue usually consists of a formal arrangement whereby materials, information, and services provided by a variety of libraries and other organizations are available to all potential users. Libraries may be in different jurisdictions but agree to serve one another on the same

basis as each serves its own constituents. Computers and telecommunications may be among the tools used for facilitating

communication among them tonic document sources in MPKV University library.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a union catalogue database of print and electronic document sources in MPKV Library.

2. To provide bibliographic access to the information resources available in the University Library.

3. To utilize the resources in a better way, by disseminating the specific areas of interest available in the region.

4. To generate new services and to improve the efficiency of existing ones.

5. To develop forums for interaction among information professionals and users and thereby, helping them seeking solutions to common problems.

6. To promote and support adoption of standards in library operations.

7. To provide a common platform for document supply requests.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Banieghbal (2001) investigated the situation of 34 libraries affiliated with Tehran University in terms of their organizational structure, information and human resources, and facilities and services. Also examines the feasibility of establishing an information network, and discusses the grounds for cooperation among libraries and its impact on resource sharing in order to offer information services more

effectively and quickly. Finally established an information network among libraries affiliated with Tehran University could considerably improve the status of information and technical services. describes the Penang Library Network (PLN) is a network of private and public higher education libraries formed with the aim of bringing Penang"s citizens to the forefront of uniform access to a knowledge warehouse through the use of information and communication technologies. Khan (2005) describes the resource sharing and networking activities among universities in Pakistan in 2005. The Pakistan Education and Research Network connect all the public and private universities in the nation through a high-speed network. It allows real time transfer of audio and video, multimedia-enabled lectures and remote research partnership. Zhang (2009) describes the construction of resource library based network teaching platform of English extensive reading course is the actual manifestation of the rapid development of network communication technology and multimedia technology. The network-teaching platform mainly is composed by curriculum-teaching platform, the management system and auxiliary teaching resource library.

SCOPE

MPKV library have already computerized their housekeeping operations and have created bibliographical databases of their collections. MPKV will develop a resource-sharing model. MPKV Library can avail inter-library loan and document delivery services. The study also aims at collects academic and research interest of the user. The bibliographic records of Books will be updated in union catalogue of books under ICAR-e-Granth Project. The author has given an overview of proposed network model.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed for developing MPKV is outlined as follows;

Technology Platform

- Linux operating system: Linux li355-94
- Open source library management system: KOHA
- Database: MySQL Ver. 14.14
- Programming Language: Perl
- Server Version: Apache/2.2.17
- Search engine: Zebra

The online union catalogue has developed based on open source software. KOHA Open Source Integrated Library Automation Software has installed at the University Central Library. Koha library management system modules were customized for online union catalogue model. Metadata was created as to the MARC 21 format and multiple library databases were created. 1,09,764. Bibliographic records pertinent to selected library surveyed were converted into MARC 21 format and the same has been imported into KOHA.

The following MARC tag has been used to describe the respective records

Tag Name	Description
082$a	Call No
100$a	Personal Author Name
245$a	Title of the Book
250$a	Edition Statement
260$a	Place of Publication
260$b	Name of Publisher
260$c	Date of Publication
850$c	Holding Institution
942$c	Item Number
952$a	Home Branch
952$b	Holding Branch
952$p	Accession No
952$0	Available
952$c	Shelving Location
952$g	Price

MPKV – HOME PAGE

The below picture is a main page of MPKV Library web and it gives the information about all types of resources available with the libraries and instructions to search the catalogues effectively.

Fig:1 Home Page of MPKV Library

SEARCH / BROWSE INTERFACE

This user interface allows the faculty and students to search the bibliographic details of books, journals and other bibliographic records from MPKV server. There are eight search fields are given such as Keyword, Subject, Title, Author, Publisher, Publisher Location, ISBN and Barcode.
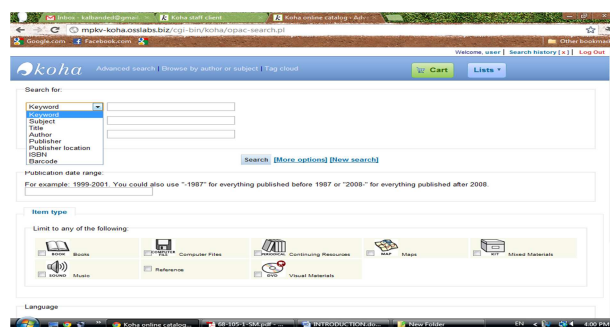

Fig. 2 : Opening Screen of the mpkv user interface

DISPLAY OF OPAC OUTPUT

OPAC and online union catalogue of mpkv can be accessed and viewed by selecting field name then enter the search term and click on 'search' button. It will show all the bibliographic record of books on the basis of search term with respect to search field. Book jacket is also enabled for better visualization. As shown on below fig.3.
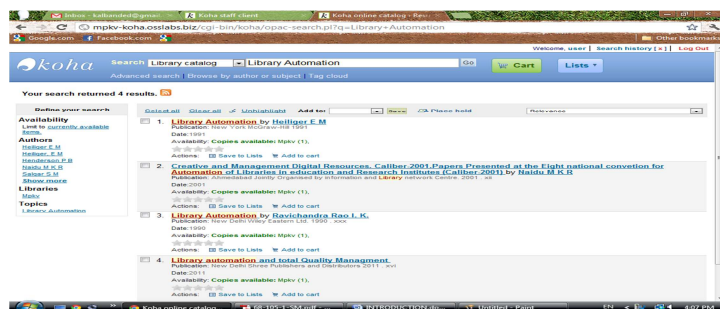

Fig. 3 : OPAC – Output Search

SELECTION OF LANGUAGE AND TYPE OF DOCUMENTS

Unicode system has been enabled in this networked model to search user's respective language, also can select / search the resources by selecting the library database for a quick retrieval. As shown below fig 4.
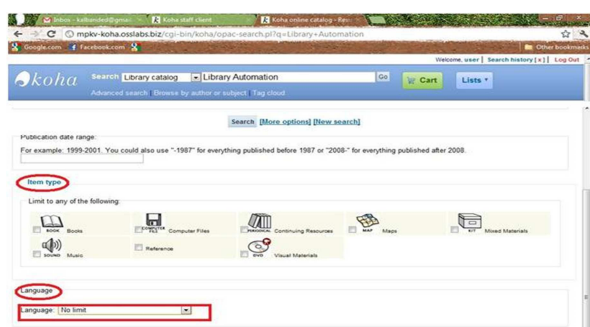

Fig. 4 : Selection of Type of documents and Language - OPAC Search Screen

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS AND ITS LOCATIONS

The below figure displays the bibliographic details of a selected record with its available locations like institution name, status, call number and other relevant information.

Fig. No 5: Bibliographic Details and its Location

SERVICES PROVIDED BY MPKV LIBRARY

➢ The Union Catalog is a source for searching for and finding a particular document, or gathering information about documents concerning certain topics that are available in the institutions of this region.

➢ Provision of reference and inter-library services, i.e. sending a loan request to ILS, where the identifying data for a library are generated from the directory and the document data from the record in the Union Catalog;

➢ The Union Catalog allows the user to locate the library that holds the document in question, and possibly also to obtain detailed data about the documents shelf mark, usually facilitating the borrowing of the document.

➢ The Union Catalog makes it possible to act on a request to borrow a document or request its copy (Inter-library Loan Service—ILS).

FUTURE PLAN

1. All databases of constituent colleges are to be incorporated in Union Catalogue

2. Institutional Repository is to be linked to the Union Catalogue

3. AgriCat and WorldCat (OCLC) is to be linked to the Union Catalogue

CONCLUSION

The free flow of information and knowledge is a basic prerequisite for the development of modern societies. The coordinated creation of and access to library catalogs, relying on modern technology, make significant contributions to the society development. Long-term practice supports the belief that one of the most effective instruments for promoting the free flow of knowledge is the union catalog and the best method for creating it is cooperative cataloging, which is labor-saving and contributes to the quality education. The fundamental principle in creating a union catalog is the controlled harvesting of data of the broadest possible scope, with the aim of creating a concentrated information base and a qualitatively and quantitatively rich source of secondary documents (records). This principle, if followed, allows for the introduction and development of additional services for the users of libraries and information institutions, as well as for librarians themselves. This kind of initiative in regional and root level would integrate the rich information environment with ease access of sustained quality in Library and Information Services.

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