Electronic Public Access Catalogue (EPAC)

Dr. K.Kiran Kumar[1] | B.V.Nagalakshmi[2] | Rochana[3] | G.Sai Teja[4]

[1]Associate Professor & HOD, Department of CSE, Chalapathi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Guntur, AP, India.
[2,3,4]UG Students, Department of CSE, Chalapathi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Guntur, AP, India.

To Cite this Article
Dr. K.Kiran Kumar, B.V.Nagalakshmi, Rochana and G.Sai Teja, "Electronic Public Access Catalogue (EPAC)", *International Journal for Modern Trends in Science and Technology*, Vol. 03, Special Issue 01, 2017, pp. 27-31.

ABSTRACT

EPAC stands for Electronic Public Access Catalogue. An Electronic Public Access Catalogue is an online database of materials held by a library . Users search a library catalogue principally to locate books and other material available at a library. EPAC is the gateway to library's collection. The EPAC is Library management software for monitoring and controlling the transactions in a library. The software " EPAC " is developed in java which mainly focuses on basic operations in a library. The basic operations are adding new member, new books, and updating new information, searching books. In this system we can register through our mobile number .If we check the availability of the books in the library. If the book is not available we can make a query then we will get the availability of the book information through SMS.We can also get the alert notifications such as submission date of books which we took from the library.

KEYWORDS: *Electronic Access, Public, Catellogue, information, books.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the application is automation of library ,it provide facilities to students and faculty members to search for the required books .It allows the administrator or librarian to Issue & return books to students and can create & delete membership of students. The software EPAC has four main modules. Insertion to Database Module - User friendly input screen Extracting from Database module - Attractive Output Screen Report Generation module - borrowed book list & Available book list Search Facility system - search for books and members.

ALIC's Online Public Access Catalog contains over 99,000 bibliographic records, with more records being added on a daily basis. The collection's strengths include archival administration, administrative history, American history and government, biography, information management, and government documents. The catalog contains various formats: books, microforms, computer disks, and audiovisual materials. These materials are available to all NARA staff members and to onsite researchers. The catalog also includes citations to NARA's microfilm holdings. These citations include the title, contents, and NARA viewing location(s).

The OPAC search form allows searching by any combination of author, title, subject/keyword, date or format. Items that do not indicate a holding location have not been barcoded, indicating that they may not be available. Staff and onsite researchers may contact the library reference desk at (301) 837-3415 or via e-mail to confirm availability. Wherever possible, the records include links to the online version of the publication.

1.1 Early online catalogs

In spite of the fact that a modest bunch of exploratory frameworks existed as ahead of schedule as the 1960s, the primary extensive scale online lists were created at Ohio State University in

1975 and the Dallas Public Library in 1978. These and other early online list frameworks tended to nearly mirror the card inventories that they were planned to replace.[2] Using a committed terminal or telnet customer, clients could seek a modest bunch of pre-facilitate records and peruse the subsequent show similarly they had already explored the card list.

All through the 1980s, the number and complexity of online inventories developed. The principal business frameworks showed up, and would before the decade's over to a great extent supplant frameworks worked by libraries themselves. Library inventories started giving enhanced pursuit instruments, including Boolean and watchword seeking, and in addition subordinate capacities, for example, the capacity to place hangs on things that had been looked at. In the meantime, libraries started to create applications to robotize the buy, recording, and flow of books and other library materials. These applications, all in all known as a coordinated library framework (ILS) or library administration framework, incorporated an online list as general society interface to the framework's stock. Most library inventories are firmly fixing to their fundamental ILS framework. The most up to date era of library inventory frameworks are recognized from before OPACs by their utilization of more advanced inquiry advances, including importance positioning and faceted pursuit, and elements went for more noteworthy client connection and interest with the framework, including labeling and audits. These new elements depend intensely on existing metadata which is frequently poor or conflicting, especially for more seasoned records.

These more up to date frameworks are quite often free of the library's coordinated library framework (ILS), rather giving drivers that permit to the synchronization of information between the two frameworks. While more seasoned online inventory frameworks were only worked by ILS sellers, libraries are progressively swinging to cutting edge index frameworks worked by big business seek organizations and open source ventures, frequently drove by libraries themselves.[5] The expenses related with these new frameworks, in any case, have moderated their appropriation, especially at littler establishments. A case of a cutting edge OPAC framework is incorporated into the Libramatic programming bundle.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

An Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) has altered conventional openness to assets of libraries all in all and scholastic libraries specifically. It is an interface of data recovery framework which help data searchers to get to assets of library(ies) utilizing a few get to focuses. Generally, it is worried with hunting down and recovering bibliographic records of data things rather than full-content of the substance of assets. It has made seeking and recovery of bibliographic records of materials less demanding and quicker. Thinks about demonstrate that most data searchers tend to utilize effortlessly accessible data sources as opposed to sources that require impressive endeavors. For example, library clients will like to inquiry a database that is quick, simple and recover exact records of things they really require. Be that as it may, it has been watched that numerous library supporters utilize manual lists frequently times while the OPAC is up and running in Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. In addition, it is normal that data searchers with access to the Internet whether at homes, workplaces, inns or even on their shrewd cell phones ought to have the capacity to get to library electronic OPAC before going to the library to obtain their required materials. Consequently, this review researched understudies' consciousness of Library OPAC; the utilization of library OPAC and their encounters to pick up understanding into why they utilize manual lists regularly keeping in mind the end goal to guarantee that they make most extreme utilization of OPAC administrations. Obviously, OPAC accessibility ought to mean its availability and successful ease of use. In this way, it is basic to quantify the viability and effectiveness of the OPAC administrations accommodated library supporters now and again so that all important alteration could be made to guaranteeing most extreme presentation and use of library assets.

Both the students and the staff use the library, although students constitute the majority of the users as shown in Table 1. Most respondents use the library 2-3 times a week or daily (Table 2), a good indication of library use. Many reasons were advanced for using the library (Table 3). The largest number of respondents, 50 (32.6%), came to read books from the collection, while 42 (27.3%) came to consult reference materials. This shows that resources are used, even though 20 (13%) came to the library to do course assignments. Textbooks are the most frequently-used materials with 98

(63.6%), followed by reference materials at 25(16.2%) (Table 4). Nearly three quarters (113, 73.4%) of users indicate that they go directly to the shelves to locate material, and 18 (11.7%) ask the library staff. Only 8 (5.2%) use the card catalogue. This low rate of catalogue use casts doubt on whether the library's collections are being fully used. This doubt was confirmed by 129 (83.8%) of respondents who claimed that "sometimes" reading materials were available (Table 6), and was further confirmed when 55 (35.7%) and 43 (27.9%) said they needed assistance in locating materials (Table 7). More than half of respondents (84, 54.5%) said that they always receive staff cooperation, while 57 (37.0%) "sometimes" receive it (Table 8). That may explain why users rely more on library staff than on the card catalogue in locating reading materials. While this commendable, users should learn to use the catalogue. Half of users (78, 50.6%) rated library services and facilities as "fair", 40 (26.0%) rated them "good," 7 (4.5%) as "very good." "Poor" and "very poor" were chosen by 11 (7.1%) and 18 (11.7%) users, respectively.

The ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983) characterizes OPAC as a PC based and bolstered library inventory. It is intended to be available by means of terminals, so that library clients may specifically and adequately look and recover bibliographic records without the help of a human middle person. This infers an OPAC is an automated library index that is accessible to the general population which gives bibliographic data about data assets in the library. It is essential that this definition particularly express that searchers utilize OPAC without human associate which propose that data searchers ought to be data aptitudes and PC literates. Additionally, Wikipedia (2012) depicts an OPAC as an online database of materials held by a library or gathering of libraries which give a stage to clients to seek and to find books and different materials physically accessible in the library. This is to state that an OPAC is an online reference index of the library gathering which incorporates prints and non-prints, for example, books, diaries, magazines, daily papers, sound visuals, government productions, propositions and electronic assets. Along these lines, utilizing the library OPAC, data searchers can get to bibliographical records of an assortment of accessible data assets freely.

Ansari (2008) reveals that a high percentage of library users in five academic libraries in New Delhi use OPAC as a search tool for retrieving documents. His study also shows that most of the users handled the OPAC themselves. One can conclude here that users of those five academic libraries have gone through the training offered by the libraries which help information searchers to use OPAC without requesting for the assistant of the library staff.

The academic library is the nerve centre or the hub around which scholarship revolves. It is an indispensable instrument for intellectual development. A well stocked academic library is a storehouse of information, or a record of human experience to which users may turn to for data or information. This study examines the extent of use of library resources in Covenant University, Nigeria. Two separate questionnaires were used to gather data. 400 registered library users were selected using the stratified random sampling technique. The findings revealed that 88% of the students sampled visited the library to read for examination while most faculties visited the library to read journals, electronic or print. Also, students used OPAC more than faculty. It is recommended that faculty give reading assignments that will require students to consult journals and other resources in the library, not just for examination purposes. And the library should organize a "library week" each semester to showcase the various resources available in the library.

Iruoje (1995) discusses the difficulties underlying efforts to measure and evaluate library services based on use. Iruoje discusses library services that can be evaluated: catalogue use, reference service, journal use, and retrieval systems. She argues that evaluating services based on use is difficult, that the varied services provided by libraries must be evaluated independently, and that evaluation must be tailored to library type, collections, and users.

III. ELECTRONIC PAC

In this EPAC system we can register through our mobile number along with our account. If a user search for a book in the library this software makes easy for the user to search book where it was located in the library and it also shows the availability of the book . If the book was not available in the library we can get the exact date of the bookwhen it will be returned to the library. This software also sends alert notifications for the students who took books from the library about the submission date of the book. In this we can make advanced booking for a particular book then we can get a notification message to our mobile about the book.

The project aims and objectives that will be achieved after completion of this project are discussed in this subchapter.
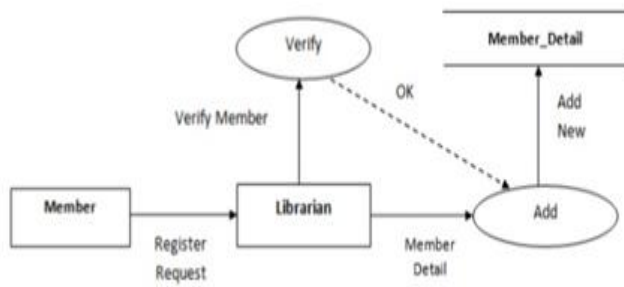

Fig1: Prposed system approach

In this approach member request for new registration by filling required entries, Librarian verifies the member detail with its own database and if verification is OK, a new member is added to member detail. In this EPAC system we can register through our mobile number along with our account. If a user search for a book in the library this software makes easy for the user to search book where it was located in the library and it also shows the availability of the book . If the book was not available in the library we can get the exact date of the bookwhen it will be returned to the library. This software also sends alert notifications for the students who took books from the library about the submission date of the book. In this we can make advanced booking for a particular book then we can get a notification message to our mobile about the book.

The purpose of this study is to assess students and staff use of EPAC examine frequency of use, investigate reasons for using the library, determine which reading materials were used most, examine how users locate materials, assess the availability of material, determine which kinds of material users need assistance to find, assess the helpfulness of library staff, seek user opinion on library services and facilities. The EPAC aims and objectives that will be achieved after completion of this project are discussed in this subchapter.

3.1 Objectives of the EPAC :
- Online book issue.
- Request column for librarian for providing new books.
- A separate column for digital library.
- Student login page where student can find books issued by him/her and date of return.
- A search column to search availability of books.

- A teacher login page where teacher can add any events being organized in the college and important suggestions regarding books.
- Online notice board about the workshop.

3.2 Innovative features of EPAC
1. When a patron id is entered in issue window, it flashes a message if there are overdue materials with that patron
2. The earlier version generates issue/return slips in different popup windows with every circulation. In the newer version, showing 'task successful' in the same window instead of generating slips in different windows and back end e-mailing to the patron's mail reduces circulation time.
3. Two utilities - patron information and item information help in providing answers on the most widely-used queries very quickly. Queries on a document‟s circulation history (i.e., how many times the book had been issued) to get the most widely used book on the topic and other information about the users -like the number of documents still with the user- or to cull out a specific document details from the user's circulation history are very common.
4. Auto prevention of multiple copies of the same documents helps maximum possible democratic use of documents.

3.3 Applications of EPAC
- Any education institute can make use of it for providing information about author, content of the available books.
- It can be used in offices and modifications can be easily done according to requirements.
- This application is used to convert the manual application to the online application.
- Customized data will be used in this application.
- User does not have right to enter information about books

IV. COCLUSION

This website provides a computerized version of library management system which will benefit the students as well as the staff of the library. It makes entire process online where student can search books, staff can generate reports and do book transactions. It also has a facility for student login

where student can login and can see status of books issued as well request for book or give some suggestions. It has a facility of teacher's login where teachers can add lectures notes and also give necessary suggestion to library and also add info about workshops or events happening in our college or nearby college in the online notice board. There is a future scope of this facility that many more features such as online lectures video tutorials can be added by teachers as well as online assignments submission facility, a feature Of group chat where students can discuss various issues of engineering can beadded to this project thus making it more interactive more user friendly and project which fulfills each usersneed in the best way possible.

REFERENCES

[1] https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-public-access-catalog.html

[2] http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2241&context=libphilprac

[3] Ansari MA (2008). "Awareness and use of OPACs in five Delhi libraries", Electronic Libr. 26(1): 111-129.

[4] Dinet, Jerome; Favart, Monik and Passerault, Jean-Michel (2004). Searching for information in an online public access catalog (OPAC): the impacts of information search expertise on the use of Boolean operators. Journal of Computer Assisted Learning, 20.

[5] Yusuf, Felicia and Iwu, Juliana (2010). Use of academic library: a case study of Covenant University Nigeria. Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal, 30. http://www.iclc.us/cliej/cl30YI.pdf

[6] The ALA glossary of library and information science (1983). American Library Association, London. 18 Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/online-public-access-catalog

[7] Don, D. (2006). How students and faculty use academic libraries differently. Retrieved May 31, 2010 from http://www.Irs.org/documents/fastfacts/242_ALIS_2_KL.pdf

[8] Amkpa, S. A. (2000). Students' use of University of Maiduguri Library: An evaluative study. Gateway Library Journal, 2(3), 70-80.

[9] Oyesiku, F. A., & Oduwole, A. A. (2004). Use of an academic library: A survey on the Olabisi Onabanjo University Libraries. Lagos Journal of Library and Information Science 2(2):96-101.

[10] Scriven, M. (1967). The methodology of evaluation In: Tyler R. W., Gagne, R. M., and Scriven, M. (eds.). Perspectives on curriculum evaluation. Chicago: Rand McNally: 38-39.