
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DIGITAL MANAGEMENT : A CASE STUDY OF J.N.N. COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING LIBRARY

H M Chidananda Swamy

Abstract

This paper highlights the initiatives undertaken at J.N.N.College of Engineering Library with specific reference to the development of infrastructure for digital asset management.

Keywords : Bibliographic Information, Database, Resources and OPAC.

1. INTRODUCTION

We are living to-day in a world of change and the changes we see all around us due to availability of information quicker than before, faster communication through E-mail, voice mail and video conferencing and the great influence of the Internet and web pages. The use of computer-based system in the libraries and information units is now commonplace all over the world. Computers are used to assist in a variety of functions such as maintaining and providing access to the catalogue of items in the collection, managing the issuing and returning of items from the collection, the acquisition of new items for the collection, controlling the serial publications and allowing the retrieval of information from the databases relating to bibliographic data financial or numeric data or the full text of documents.

2. DIGITAL INITIATIVES AT J.N.N. COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING LIBRARY

It is experienced that Bar-coding has revolutioned the library activities globally. A Laser Barcode printer was purchased and Bar-coding software was also installed. The Bar-coding labels for each book were generated.

3. BAR-CODING OF BOOKS

Printing barcode labels and pasting in three places of each book viz. Title page, Secrete page and due date slip were entrusted with a contractor. This generating of Bar-coding labels and pasting the labels for all 53,500 volumes were completed within five months. Retrieving of information through barcode labels using barcode scanner was tested. The computer displayed the Accession Number and the relevant bibliographic information was retrieved from the book database. The bibliographic information includes Accession Number, Author, Title, Call Number, Publisher and Keywords.

4. BAR-CODED IDENTITY CARDS

The work of bar-coding of identity cards for all users (Students and Staff) J.N.N. College of Engineering. College was entrusted to the Frontier Information Technology, Secundarbad. The identity card contains the attributes: Class, Dept, Eligibility, Valid up to, Blood group, Residential address, residence phone number. In addition to the above details, a stamp size photo of each member was scanned and printed on each card. Both Librarian and Principal are signed on this ID card. The identity cards looked good rather than the old traditional plastic card. Each user used to carry this card and produce the same in the issue counter along with the books and get it issued. Now user feels happy in handling this bar-coded identity card. They also feel proud in producing the same card wherever he visits either inside the college or outside the campus.

5. NETWORKING AND MANPOWER TRAINING

J. N. N. College of Engineering, Library is a member of the DELNET. The users of the library access the resources listed in this network through the net connectivity. The library staff had their sufficient training at Frontier Information Technology, Secundarbad on various divisions of the library such as Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation and Periodicals control. They received special training with regard to preparation of Bar-coded identity card. Various processes include:

- Scanning of the User's Photo.
- Printing the photo in the special art paper using the colour printer.
- Composing various fields viz. name class, branch, valid up to, eligibility, blood group, residential address, residence phone.
- Laminating the above paper using laminating machine.
- Books issue through scanner.
- Books return through scanner.

Our Library staffs were sent to nearest libraries to have practical exposure towards developing of bar-coded identity cards. J.N.N. College of Engineering Library staff underwent hands on training nearest libraries studied the system form all perspectives. The hands on training assisted the Library staff to develop the barcode identity cards. For this purpose the following equipments have been identified.

- Digital camera.
- Colour printer.
- Scanner.
- Laminating Machine.

J. N. N. College of Engineering Library staff has also studied various operations in DRTC Library, Bangalore.

6. DIGITAL ASSETS

1. Floppies :

Certain Books are accompanying floppies; such floppies are assigned the concerned Book Accession Numbers. These floppies are arranged serially and kept in the floppy boxes. J.N.N. College of Engineering Library has 200 floppies. Users lend and read these floppies in OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) systems.

2. CDs :

Some new books contain CDs also. Such CDs are assigned the Concerned accession Number and kept in CD container. There are about 1,400 CDs available in Library. Users refer these CDs through OPAC system.

3. Software used in J.N.N. College of Engineering :

There was one software, which was developed by one programmer of computer science Dept. It had some limitations. Now, 'LIBRIS SOFTWARE' has been purchased and installed. This software put into use.

4. LAN :

Local Area Network was established by connecting all 6 systems in Library with a Main Server [windows 2000 server and 512 RAM Speed]. Each system was connected Ethernet and Win proxy Card through Co-Axial cables.

5. UPS :

An UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply-5 KV) was purchased and connected with all 6 terminals in the Library.

6. Computers :

There are 7 computers available in the Library.

PC's Configuration: -

- Pentium III/650 MHZ and above, 512 KB internal and external
- Cache memory 815 E-Intel
- Chipset motherboard 128 MB SD RAM.
- Minimum 17.1 GB/HDD IDE Drive.
- 1.44 MB FDD, 32 Bit Graphic Card 52*CD Drive, 17 inch Colour
- Monitor with electronic turner and energy saving windows
- Keyboard, Logitech Mouse, ATX Cabinet with preloaded and O.S.Windows 95/98.

7. Printers :

There are one Dot Matrix and one Laser Printer available in the Library.

8. Bar-Code Printer :

One Bar-Code Printer is also printing in barcode labels in Laser Printer was purchased along with 2,500 Book Barcode sheets and 5000 ID Barcode Label Sticker Sheets.

9. Book Database :

A book database was created with 53,500 records. Bibliographic information about each Access No. Title, Author, Call Number, Keywords, Publisher, Price, etc.

10. Periodical Database :

A periodical database was created entering all current journal's bibliographic information. The data entry for receipt of periodicals is being entered into computer. Reminders for non-receipt of periodicals are taken as print out and sent to the periodical suppliers.

7. ADVANTAGES

Computerization of Library operations saves much time of the Library Staff and users. Students and Staff members feel happy to handle Bar-coded Membership Card. Bar-coding facilities stock verification of books and journals.

8. DRAWBACKS

Since we implement computerization, our library staff does dual job entering all operations manually and through computer. Staff finds this as a job. In the beginning it may be do their, jobs through computer only.

During power failure time, staff face problems to operate computer. These problems can be solved using UPS. An UPS*(5 KV) was purchased and connected to all systems in the library. This UPS solves power problem up to some extent.

9. HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN FUTURE

Our library staff will prepare bar-coded identity cards for fresh students in future using the barcode equipments. Similarly barcode labels will be generated and pasted in three places of each new book purchased in future. Stock verification will be done online using the barcode scanner in future.

10. PURCHASING CD CABINET

To preserve CDs it is proposed to purchase a CD Cabinet. All CDs will be serially arranged and kept in proper order. Whenever a user requires particular CD, Library Staff can provide the same for reference purpose.

11. CONCLUSION

Library Staff finds change after Computerization of Library Operations. After one and half decades in the history of JNN College of Engineering, it is milestone in the achievement of Library Staff. No doubt, Computerization will solve many problems of the users. Similarly, Library Staff will use it very effectively and efficiently and provide better information service to the users.

12. REFERENCES

1. Lohia J.S.: "Need for Digital Libraries: An Emerging Reality" READIT National Seminar, held at Madras Library Association, Chennai, September 18-19, 2001, PP. 49-55.
2. Water, D.L. "What are Digital Libraries? CLIR Issue, July/August, 1998.
3. Sarmah, Mukut and Chakrabarty, Sumana.: "Issues and Challenges in Creating Digital Libraries. Seminar Paper: 47th All India Library conference, held at Warangal, 20-23 December 2001. PP. 618-627.
4. Rajashekar T.B.: "Digital Libraries" Information Studies (4), October 1995, PP. 223-238.
5. Hulser, Richard P.: "Digital Library: Content Preservation in a Digital World". DESIDOC Bulletin in Information Technology. Vol.17, No.7, 1997, PP. 7-14

ABOUT AUTHOR

Sh. H M Chidananda Swamy is working as an Assistant Librarian, J.N.N. College of Engineering. Shimoga-577204. Karnataka, India.

E-mail : hgs_chidu@hotmail.com