

Prospects of Using Web-OPAC in Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library

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1. Introduction

The growth and development of Information Communication Technology (ICT) has brought a revolutionary change in all library activities, from collecting and organizing to disseminating and retrieving of information. It has changed the entire environment of traditional searching system through endless drawers of the card catalogue. Recently, its value has been restricted by its physical form, commonly a large catalogue or a set of printed volumes. With the advent of computer, users can search/ retrieve their relevant literature immediately in the form of OPAC in the world via Internet.

2. Objectives: The objectives of the study are as follows

- i) To analyze the levels of use and effectiveness of the OPAC.
- ii) To study the present status of retrieval system in KKH Library.
- iii) To enhanced the retrieval system through internet.
- iv) To study the relevant condition to provide the facilities web based technology.

3. KKH Library: At a Glance

Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library (KKH Library), the Central library of Gauhati University is one of the best libraries of Assam, with a huge collection

of library resources. From its existence, it is serving different requirements of users and also preserving the knowledge and human civilization. A table about the library holdings of KKH Library is given below:

SL. No.	Library Holdings	Total Numbers
1	Books	259490
2	Bound periodicals	102212
3	Thesis & Dissertation	2250
4	Reports & Dissertation	6908
5	Maps	300
6	Manuscripts	4500
7	KKH collections	7593
8	Newspaper	17
9	Popular Magazine	11
10	E-Journal	7000+

Table 1: Library Collections

4. OPAC and Web-OPAC

With the goal of modernizing their web presence most of the libraries are racing to deploy a 'next generation catalogue'. Considering the limitations of traditional catalogue system and to optimize the users need, one strategy is to think about our catalogue as a platform that can support many discovery applications, not just the OPAC and also it provides the facility to access from anywhere of the world.



4.1 OPAC

Online Public Access Catalogue, popularly known as OPAC, provides access to the catalogue through a computer terminal. As a gateway to library collections, OPAC allows searching the entire catalogue in a convenient manner by using one or more search strategy. It is the modern and flexible form of the catalogue, which one can search by author, title, keyword, class number or more of these combined together.

4.2 Web-OPAC

With the modern library system, offering interface to OPAC, it also provides access from anywhere of the world via internet, which is known as Web OPAC. In simple words, an internet enable OPAC is called Web OPAC, by which users can access the required information from anywhere by using Microsoft Internet Explorer.

According to Washington University in St. Louis, "A Web OPAC interfaces, which uses the World Wide Web protocol to act as OPAC".

4.2.1 Salient Features of Web OPAC

Some of important features are-

- i) It is accessible through internet.
- ii) It is possible to search independently by "Author", by "Keyword" in title or "Year".
- iii) Combination of search keys –as Author + Year, or Keyword + Year is possible.
- iv) Displays complete bibliographic information as appeared on reprints.
- v) To select search keys Author and Year drop down list box has been provided.

vi) It has ability to use hypertext links to facilitate navigation through bibliographic records.

vii) Linking to full text when available is there.

4.2.2 Advantages of Web OPAC

Following are the advantages of the Web OPAC-

- i) It is worldwide and accessible in any time.
- ii) It has no limitation of space and time for searching any document. Anyone can search a document of not only his/ her library but also any networked library.
- iii) It is possible for users to send reprint request immediately by email.
- iv) Compilation of various lists of reprints becomes very easy.

5. Prospects of using Web-OPAC in KKH Library

At the information age, due to the tremendous growth of user's demand, it is better to keep separate the information to be accessed locally as well as globally. In present day context, the issue of Web OPAC should be well established and practiced sincerely in each and every library, especially in University Library.

Gauhati University has a significant role in developing society by widening access to information via research output, continuing professional development and improving social inclusion in entire North-East India. As an institution of higher education, to cope up with the growing demand of users (i.e. Students, Research Scholar, and Professor) the library has targeted to implement the Web OPAC technology.

Presently, it is using SOUL 2.0 for automating the library activities. However, the data entry of library collections has completed, and OPAC has opened to the users. Moreover, the process of manuscript digitization is also going on. It is important to say that, as soon as the KKH Library will be able to give the opportunity of Web OPAC after completion of updating and modifying process. The library is planning to purchase the dedicated server to implement the Web OPAC to provide access to all the information through internet.

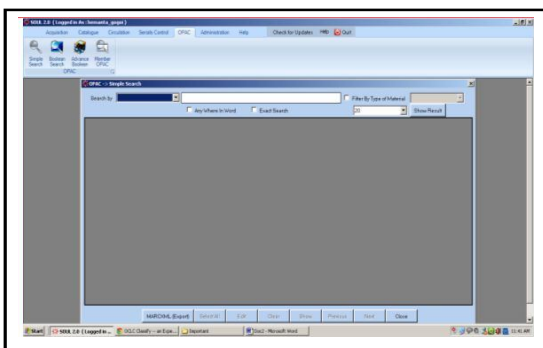


Figure 1: OPAC

Figure: 1 show the homepage of OPAC in SOUL 2.0. Gone through this homepage users can access the literature by entering “ Author”, “Title” , “Subject headings” or “ Keywords”.

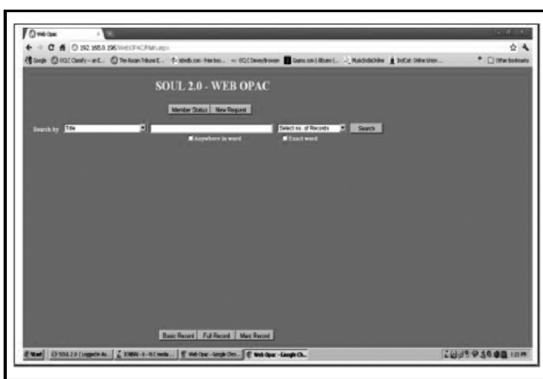


Figure 2: Web OPAC

Figure: 2 will be the homepage of Web OPAC, by which users will be able retrieved any information about the specified library from anywhere through Internet.

By using Web OPAC, users can access or retrieved the valuable collections of eminent literate Krishna Kanta Handiqui and all the collections available in the library from anywhere of the world. It improves the quality, speed and performance of the services offered by the library. Inter Library Loan (ILL) becomes easier with the use of email and web.

6. Conclusion

Web OPAC is not just exploitation of information technology (IT), but it is a systematic application to cope up with the growing demand of information seekers. To overcome the problems arising out of information explosion Web OPAC is only the solution to state of the art technology, and professional attitudes work converts their dreams to reality. Depending on the needs of user community, library authority along with the professional staffs should take full initiatives to immediate implementation of Web OPAC.

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