A User Friendly OPAC for the School Libraries through Google Services

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to present a web OPAC model for the school libraries in Sri Lanka through Google services. Due to the lack of funds, equipped facilities and little attention of educational authorities', the school libraries are still using the traditional methods to operate the library functions and services. This paper focusses the process of creating a web OPAC through Google services and the way of using the web OPAC in the school to acquire the maximum benefit to the library.

Keywords: OPAC, Web OPAC, Google, Automation, School libraries, Information services

Introduction

In the current era, modern libraries tend to automate the library functions and services to offer the maximum services to the community and to operate the library activities properly. Free and open source library automation software and commercial library automation software are used in this process. This automation software consists with set of modules such as Cataloguing, Patron, Circulation, On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) etc. Among these modules, OPAC is an attractive service module, which is used to connect the user community with the library consistently.

OPAC is an electronic catalogue, which provides the collection of library resources and the library users can search their information interactively through computer terminals such as laptop, tablet, smart phone and personal computer. The library resources can be accessed faster and easier through the OPAC than through the manual catalogue. Web OPAC is also an OPAC, which is available on the web, and with the help of Internet, anybody can access it remotely. While the automated libraries provide the OPAC and Web OPAC services to the library users to fulfill their bibliographic needs easily using library automation software, the non-automated libraries are still using the manual catalog for searching the bibliographic information (Aghauche & Chima , 2016).

The library automation has been a novel tendency in the library system in Sri Lanka. All university libraries have been automated their libraries using free and open source software like Koha and Commercial software like Alice for windows and Libsys. (Capterra Inc., 2019), and they provide OPAC/Web OPAC facilities properly. In the public library sector, many libraries are automated with the support from the different organizations, but the school