M-109: Information Literacy Applications in LIS

Unit-V: Trends in Information Literacy

OPAC Information Literacy

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Introduction

- Catalogues are the windows to the collection of a library, containing the bibliographic details of a particular document, which informs the user about the holdings of the library.

- The primary function of a library catalogue is to direct the patrons to the needed material. Catalogues of an increasing number of libraries can now be searched online, known as Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), which is of special importance to the library users.
Information Literacy

Information literacy is step ahead in that, it expects an information literate person to be aware of the importance of information, is aware of the information generation process, is able to locate and access, effectively use, communicate and add information to his knowledge base.
Acquaint the users with the IL philosophy

IL is a broad and comprehensive concept, which includes the followings:

- understanding of the features, forms and functions of OPAC,
- abilities of selecting a proper search technique for getting bibliographic information,
- application abilities of a selected technology to the problem solving, and
- understanding of social phenomena in an information-oriented society and honoring information ethics.
Objectives of the IL on OPAC

- to provide knowledge about OPAC and its forms: OPAC → Web OPAC → SOPAC → M-OPAC.
- to abreast the uses, advantages and functions of OPACs
- to help in formulating efficient search strategy to find relevant library materials using OPAC
- to help in comprehensive knowledge about different features of OPACs
- to help in compare different OPACs.
COURSE CONTENTS
Course contents

- What is OPAC?
- OPAC and its Terminology
- Advantages of using an OPAC
- Different Features/functions of OPAC: Searching Features and Methods, Search Limits and strategies, Access Points, Bibliographic Display, Output/Services/Facilities/External links, User Assistance, Page Layout, Labels, Text Display, Session Filters, General Features and OPAC 2.0 Features
Library Catalogue

- Catalogues are the windows to the collection of a library, containing the bibliographic details of a particular document, which informs the user about the holdings of the library.

- The primary function of a library catalogue is to direct the patrons to the needed material.
OPAC and its Terminology

- Catalogues of an increasing number of libraries can now be searched online, known as Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), which is of special importance to the library users.
- OPAC is an interactive search module of an automated Integrated Library Management System (ILMS)
- OPAC is a major retrieval tool in libraries that help the user to access machine-readable records for books, audio-visual material, with an indication of their circulation status.
- The OPAC has revolutionized library services for three reasons: (i) it offers up-to-date information; (ii) multi-access points to information held in the library; and (iii) it enables access to information in local, regional, or national networks.
OPAC Features

1. Searching Features & Methods
   - Search Limits

2. Access Points
   - Bibliographic Display

3. Output/External links
   - User Assistance

4. Page Layout
   - Labels

5. Text Display
   - Session Filters

6. OPAC 2.0
   - General Features
Features of OPAC

- Graphical user interface (GUI)
- Providing direct access to a library's bibliographic database;
- Providing instructional help;
- Display of search results in readily understandable form;
- Providing links to circulation files, reference help etc.;
- Providing search through a variety of access points.
- Ability to use hypertext links to facilitate navigation through bibliographic records.
- Linking to full text when available.
Advantages of using an OPAC

- offers a greater number of access points for a single record;
- provides access to a wide coverage of information quickly;
- provides information which is not available in printed form;
- connects to current information since online databases are updated speedily and more frequently;
- removes the irksome clerical work of typing and arranging catalogue cards; and
- offers faster search facilities and the capability of Boolean searching.
Functions of OPAC

- acts as a bibliographic database and acting as an index for the user in search
- functions as a ‘portal’, providing links to non-bibliographical data, either relating to users themselves or information about overdue books, fines etc. or to other library information such as opening hours.
- as a promotional artifact, advertising the presence of the library
- management of full text data and the management of bibliographic data coverage and the bibliographic function of the Web OPAC
Forms of OPAC

- Accessing OPAC via Website is called Web OPAC
- Accessing OPAC via SNS is called Social OPAC
- Accessing OPAC via Mobiles is called Mobile based OPAC

Web OPAC, SOPAC & MOPAC are similar to OPAC in searching and browsing from different tools and gadgets, but global usage searched from any corner of the globe.
S-OPAC

- Library 2.0 is the addition of a Social-OPAC, a term coined by John Blyberg.
- The S-OPAC gives library users some role in contributing to the catalog through rating and reviewing, tagging, creating shared lists.
- The S-OPAC’s architecture is no different than that of existing OPACs.
- The three-tier client/server model allows users to access the catalog database from any web browser without having to install any software.
M-OPAC

- M-OPAC is the online public access catalog which is accessible through mobile.
- The mobile optimized online public access catalogue should provide simple search facility against the author, title, and subject.
CASE STUDIES OF OPAC
To search an item available in Library, please fill up the form given below. You may search an item by entering a term in any one or all the fields. A term, word or phrase, may be truncated with '*'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>[e.g. computer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>[e.g. latz, w.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptor</td>
<td>[e.g. special librarians]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>[e.g. Elsevier]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Source</td>
<td>[e.g. ASLIB]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN</td>
<td>[e.g. 08-4028336-5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Of Publication</td>
<td>[e.g. 2000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession Number</td>
<td>[e.g. AC001]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Location</td>
<td>[e.g. Delhi University]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Number</td>
<td>[e.g. 891.421]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Type of Material | ALL [Select a Material] |
| Physical Medium  | ALL [Select a Medium]   |
| Library          | All Libraries [Select a Library] |
| Year             | [Select a Library] [Year Condition] |

Records viewed per page: 20  
Sorting Order: 

[Begin Search]  [Reset]
Keyword Search

Please enter any word you would like to search. You may restrict the search to a specific field by selecting a field and using Boolean operators like AND, OR, NOT, NEAR for combined search.

Example:
Author: Smith, Adam
Title: Political Landscape.
Searching features

- Refer to various types of retrieval techniques offered by OPAC.
- **Access Points**
  - Hypertext links in full bibliographic record display
  - Provision of browsing capabilities
  - Multimedia searching,
  - Meta-search functionality
  - Provision for a visual Map
  - Faceted navigation ability
- **Federated Searching**
Snapshot of Basic & Advanced search window
Search Limits and Strategies

- Displays search strategy
- Refining of initial search
- Entire previous queries could be combined
- Option for search history
- Search strategy can be saved
- Provision for comprehensive search limits: Specific year of publication, Year publication (before, after, between), Publication status, Library location, Publisher, Place of publication, Medium, Item type, Language, Serials /journals, Theses
Access Points

- Author
- Keyword in author
- Title
- Keyword in title
- Subject heading
- Keyword in subject heading
- Publisher
- Class number
- ISBN/ISSN
- LCCN
- Series
- Barcode number /Accession number

- Provides name authority control
- Provides subject authority control
- Supports cross-references
- Provision for the copy location
- Notes /Abstract
- Imprint
- Descriptor
- Corporate source
- Year of publication
- Conference location
- Place of publication
Snapshot of search Limits & Access Points

search limits and strategies

Access Points window

Field directed search window
### Type of Search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Search</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Title**      | a. It will find a specific book which a user needs  
                 b. It is used to find book titles that are recommended by lecturers  
                 c. It is easy to use and finds item quickly because it matches the exact item  
                 d. Users have prior knowledge of item being searched |
| **Author**     | a. Author’s name is easily remembered when compared to the title because the author’s name is usually shorter than the title  
                 b. “First preference for choice of search is the author” |
| **Subject**    | a. It is very simple and easy to know about the books which a user requires  
                 b. It is easier to keep track of new books available at the library on appropriate subjects |
Bibliographic Display

- Provision of Short display & Long display
- The display text use both upper and lower case
- Presenting bibliographic records with image files of book covers
- Limiting the number for the display of records
- Support for MARC formats
- Provision for MARC format and library structured format
- The number of hits retrieved is reported
- The circulation status is shown on the same screen with a call number
- Items in a set are numbered successively when there are more items than can be displayed on one screen
Output/Services/Facilities/

External links

- Output provision is usually a list of bibliographical records with some holding information, which may be listed alphabetically or by publication date, so that the user can determine the usefulness of individual items without consulting the items physically.

- Facility for sorting records

- Access to Z39.50, Results can be printed,

- Search results can be saved and emailed and also ILL.
User Assistance

- Online tutorial & Help messages
- Abbreviations avoided in textual information
- Instructional information free of jargon
- Display system messages (such as error messages) by using contrasting display features (such as, bolding, colour)
- The system indicates where the remote user can get additional help
- Spell check software is available to the user
- Provide options to the user listed near the top and bottom of the page and options clearly separated from the information related to them
Page Layout

- Instructions on the screen are simple, clear and inviting
- Less use of technical jargon and codes
- One blank line between the page title and the body
- Search strategy is displayed near the top of the page
- Is the search request always displayed on the screen.
- Related fields in the bibliographic data grouped together and separated from other data
- Highlighting techniques used (bolding, font size and underline)
- Labels, text and instructional information displayed in consistent locations, formats throughout the display
- Provision of next/previous
Labels

- Labels should be (i) in uppercase (ii) spelled out as words, not abbreviations (iii) used for all fields (iv) right-justified (v) separated from the text using a colon (:) with at least one blank space (vi) between 12 and 20 characters long, and (vii) displayed in columns.

- The objective of designing labels with the above guidelines is to ensure that the labels are distinguishable from the text.
Text Display (Contd.)

- The limits to the number of hits displayed
- Text arranged logically with related fields (author and added author)
- Text vertically aligned and left justified
- Redundant/repeated text avoided
- Circulation status information included in the full display
- Copies listed in recognizable order
- Provision of hypertext links in the record through Author, Title and Subject.
- The total number of items to be displayed is identified in the display of each item
- Call number display
- The text is in full words, not abbreviated
Session Filters

- Nature of content, e.g., catalogues, dictionaries
- Format filters, e.g., manuscript, music
- Language filters
- Place of publication filter
- Publication date
- Location filters (collection within library)
- Context date
General Features (Contd.)

- Show in every display the name of the catalogue and the owning library or other organization
- Customization of the features as per the library requirements
- Explains the contents and coverage in the OPAC
- Provides log in/log out instruction, if desired
- Remote access is unrestricted in terms of time of day
Information Literacy 2.0

- Information Literacy 2.0 is the understanding and set of abilities enabling individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the capacity to locate, evaluate and use information in effective and efficient way.
- These days, what you know is almost less important than what you can find out.
- Recognize need for Information, identify, locate, access, evaluate and apply Information whenever and wherever required in pinpointed and meaningful way through of Web 2.0.
- The mobile element will reinforce the trend toward information searching that uncontrolled and ‘on the fly’.
OPAC 2.0 Features

- Relevancy ranking (not just sort)
- Reviews (Professional)
- ‘More like this’ suggestions
- User-added tags (internal)
- Del.icio.us tagging
- Customer written reviews
- Email this link
- “Text this link”
- RSS feed from the search
- Citation creator
- Saved items/formats
- Built in open URL resolver
- Breadcrumb trail (alternative navigation)
- Incorporate outside content
IL IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS
IL Implementation Options

- IL as a stand-alone course
- IL integrated into an existing course,
- IL component added to a discipline specific course
Forms of Delivery

- Independent curricular courses
- Course related instruction
- Course integrated instruction
- ILP (Multimedia Programme) on OPAC
- Special Workshops/seminars/Training Program.
Conclusion

- OPAC is one of the most important and useful information retrieval tool and broadened access.

- The need for better understanding of the users and their searching behaviour of good OPAC systems to manipulate and filter the available information to locate useful material effectively and efficiently.

- But IL teach how information is created and communicated, help students to develop a sense of context when using information, encourage skepticism and the ability to evaluate, guide them toward assimilation, deep thinking, and reflection, and insist on the ethical use of material.

- ILP on OPAC helps in users ability, knowledge, reasons for effective use, as well as problems faced while using the Web-OPAC.


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