From card catalogue to web OPACs

Search

From Card Catalogue to Web OPACs

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Abstract

The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) changed the traditional card catalogue system. In the new system, data can be spread within computer and then the required entry can be retrieved immediately through OPAC system in any format. Now, user can search for information via OPAC and most recently, the internet. This paper describes what is OPAC, discusses about the OPACs & Web OPACs technology in libraries and explains various features, applications and advantages of Web OPACs.

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Use of OPAC; Use of card catalogue; User behaviour. Use of card catalogue or even OPAC within library (i.e., unless OPAC is made accessible from outside library premises) is by a subset of user population which visits the library. As such user behaviour as far as library visit and movement within the library are concerned is closely related to the study of use of card catalogue or OPAC. An observation-based use behaviour study of card catalogue of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) library was carried out during 1985 (Sridhar, 1986). Even if the campus wide LAN is resumed for OPAC (as web OPAC is expected in mid 2003), comparing the use data of OPAC from outside library premises with use data of card catalogue within the library may not be reasonable. Take in Table I and Figure 1. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) changed the traditional card catalogue system. In the new system, data can be spread within computer and then the required entry can be retrieved immediately through OPAC system in any format. Now, user can search for information via OPAC and most recently, the internet. This paper describes what is OPAC, discusses about the OPACs & Web OPACs technology in libraries and explains various features, applications and advantages of Web OPACs.http://dx.doi.org/10.14429/dbit.26.2.3679. OPAC developed as stand alone catalogues often form VT100 terminals to main-frame. Library catalogue with arrival of the interest most libraries have made their OPAC accessible from a server to users all over the world". Library OPACs are the primary key to the resources of a computerized library. It has many advantages over the traditional card and other forms of catalogue and is extensively being made use in modern computerized libraries. Apart from providing several access points for search, OPAC has provisions to entertain several complex search queries. Online catalogue is one of the first areas of services provided by computerized libraries.