

RESEARCH WORKS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE VOLUME 1

Yushiana Mansor
Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar



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Editors

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8. OPAC EVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

The penetration of online public access catalogue (OPAC) in libraries is prevalent in all libraries today. This chapter summarises the milestone of OPAC development and growth in libraries. OPAC has evolved from a just a computerised card-catalogue to a more sophisticated retrieval system.

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Online catalogue was established in the 1970's (Large and Baheshti, 1997) while some said in the early 1980's (Xu, 1996). Since its appearance OPAC's issues have been discussed, debated and researched among the library community.

Online catalogue can be defined as "a library catalogue consisting of a collection of bibliographic records in machine-readable format, maintained on a dedicated computer that provides uninterrupted interactive access via terminals or workstations in direct, continuous communication with the central computer" (Reitz, 2004).

Some people refer to the online catalogue as OPAC (Online Public AccessCatalogue). OPAC can be defined as "An acronym for online public access catalogue, a database composed of bibliographic records describing the books and other materials owned by a library system, accessible via