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ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG THROUGH LIBSYS: AN EXPERIENCE

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With the advent of Online Public Access Catalogs, librarians and their staff have been freed from the labor-intensive processes involved in the creation and maintenance of card catalogue. At the Indian statistical Institute library, this new system has been devoted to enhancing access to the library collections. Libsys, a commercially available integrated house keeping software, is being used at ISI BC library. The experience of author in using modules of Libsys is discussed.

1.   INTRODUCTION

The introduction of OPACs has created enormous changes in our library practices. Further more, it has made the library files easily accessible to every one by breaking the physical boundaries of the library. Historically, Computer catalogue appeared in the seventies , but it was in the eighties that OPACs found wide spread acceptance and were developed.

2.   ISIBC-A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY

Indian Statistical Institute Bangalore Centre was started in 1978 . The Bangalore Centre Library focuses on Mathematical Statistics, Quality Management, Economic Analysis, Documentation and Information Science. The Library has academic users of national and international repute and the collection of the library is highly specialised in these areas. The library has a collection 50,000 books and 9000 bound volumes. The library subscribes to 300 journal titles. Computerisation at ISIBC library started with the use of CDS/ISIS software in 1997. Later, ISIBC acquired Windows NT version of Libsys in 1998. Since then Libsys (verison)3.1 is being used for all housekeeping activities of the library.

The first and the foremost job in library automation is the development of a database on library resources. The first stage of ISIBC library automation process was database development and bar coding. The areas of automation undertaken in the ISI BC library are Circulation, Serial Control, Acquisition ,Cataloguing and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

3.   LIBSYS

Libsys is developed and marketed by Libsys Corporation, New Delhi. It is an integrated multi user library information management system. Libsys is built around its own bibliographic database following ANSI Z-39 format. It supports variable field lengths for different types of documents in the databases.
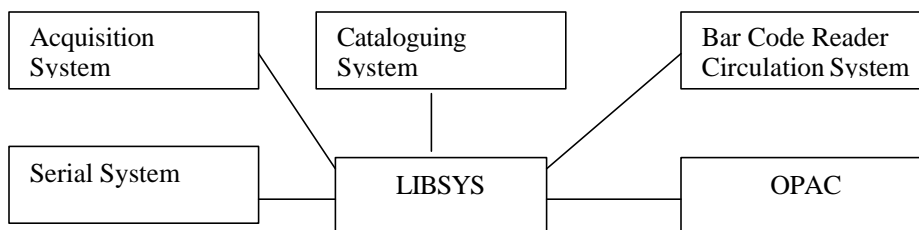
3.1 System Requirement

LIBSYS supports Windows/DOS on the following platform.

♦ Standalone Intel 386/486/pentium based system under windows 3.1
♦ Intel 386/486/pentium based system under Novell 3.1 with 386/486 based nodes under Windows 3.1
♦ Intel 386/486/pentium based system under Windows NT server with 386/486-based nodes under Windows 3.1 or Windows NT workstations.

ISIBC library has seven computers including two Pentium II and one multimedia system. All the computers have been connected to LAN under Windows NT Platform. In library LIBSYS is installed on Windows NT Platform

The following modules are being used in the library for operational purpose.

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┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────────┐
│ Acquisition  │   │ Cataloguing  │   │ Bar Code Reader  │
│ System       │   │ System       │   │ Circulation System│
└──────────────┘   └──────────────┘   └──────────────────┘

┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────────┐
│ Serial System│   │   LIBSYS     │   │      OPAC        │
└──────────────┘   └──────────────┘   └──────────────────┘
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4.   OPAC

For the purpose of discussion in this article the term 'OPAC' refers to online access to the complete bibliographical record of all the library's holdings with minimal access points being the same as those in a card catalogue.

5.   RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION

Retrospective conversion of catalogues is currently being under taken by increasing number of libraries. Retrospective catalogue conversion often referred to as retro conversion , deals with changing already existing catalogues from a traditional into a machine-readable format.

First Phase: The retrospective conversion project began in two phases. In the first phase nearly 5000 documents were entered in CDS/ISIS database. After switch over to the Libsys software these data base were converted to Libsys using the retrospective option.

Second Phase: In the second phase, which started in 1998, new online records were created for circulating library materials. All the documents were taken from the shelves and the bibliographic details entered in to the computer. We did not use any accession register for this purpose.

6.   CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PUBLIC ACCESS ONLINE CATALOGUE

a.   Data base: The ISI library online catalogue now has over 50,000 records. On an average 200 books were entered per day. It took 9 months to enter these documents in to the computer. (On an average Five days per week as working days or 20 working days per month).

b.   Access Points: The online public access catalogue has more access points than the card catalogue, namely, author, title, subject classification, and call Number.

c.   Boolean Operator: Libsys has an added searching capability of Boolean combination of saved documents list. Boolean search logic is used in most public access systems to specify combinations of terms to be linked to synonyms and related terms in controlled vocabulary and with spelling variants and in natural language searches. Those documents can be combined using a boolean operator 'AND' 'OR' 'NOT' to retrieve documents.

d.   Authority Control : Maintenance of the access point files comprise a) duplicating catalogues cards b)preparation of authority files subject heading c) Sorting, checking , and filing of catalogue cards d)automatic generation of added entries e)generating the monthly accession lists and f)developing centralised catalogue system.   The format used for entering bibliographical detail is of AACR-11(Anglo American Cataloguing Rules,ed but the main entry is rendered according to CCC(Classified catalogue Code)format. Since the software provides any sort of searching the title coming as main entry is omitted, instead of the collaborator has got a prominent role.

e.   Backup System: Parallel to the online catalogue, the conventional card catalogue is being maintained. Card catalogue will continue until we get a back up system to online, for use on those occasions when the computer system is down due to regular maintenance, or to some technical problem.

From the readers point of view, the facility to search the various resources of library determines the quality of OPAC.   Libsys it support wide range of searches including author, title, subject, keywords in title, etc. The online catalogue will proveide readers with access to records for most of the stock held in the ISIBC library. It is essential to use the online catalogue to discover what material we have. The libsys display makes significant use of color and graphics and is intended to make the system attractive as well as easy to use. The online

catalogue has been constructed in three separate parts. These are a) Data server b)user server c)PC client.

Data server is large NT server with local Area Network connection to the systems. All the databases are loaded into libsys and data server is the responsible of doing all the searching for records. The user server is also in the NT server. There are about 25 terminals connected to OPAC. Two computers are kept in the library reading room for OPAC search purpose. To search a particular author user should type the few initial letters of the author name. The system automatically list all the names beginning with that letters.   From there users can select the required one and see the complete bibliographical details.

OPAC details	
Author	Series
Title	Notes
Edition No	ISBN
Place of Publisher	Call Number
Publisher Name	Subject Key words
Year of Publisher	Accession number
Collatiion(Preliminary page,s no of pages size)	

After entering the bibliographical information 'Holding data' screen will appear. In order to carry out the work through Libsys in any of the option, the required option needs to be highlighted and selected with striking the enter key.

Single Author:

If the book is authored by a single author the entry would be like this;

Theory of Complex function/by Reinhold Remmert

Two Author:

In the case of two authors, both authors name were rendered by combining using the word "and" Complex Variables: An Introduction/by Carlos (A) Berenstein and Roger (G)

More than two author

In the case of more than two authors the first author name was rendered and the others role was indicated by "others"

Ex: Bensoussan (A) Klenfefor(PR) and Tapiero(CS)

If the book has no author, but it has editors(s) only, then. the role indicated along with the name of the editors

Ex: Gordon, D Ed (Single editor)

Taher, M and Gordon D ed (Two editors)

Bensoussan, A and others Eds (More than two editors)

7.   CONCLUSION

Libsys is a comprehensive, user friendly and well designed system. The experience at ISIBC widely reveals that the adoption of Libsys has helped us to increase the efficiency and speed of all house keeping operations in general and OPAC in particular.

8.   REFERENCE

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