Implementation of Koha for Web OPAC at University of Mysore

Ramesha A. N
Assistant librarian
Mysore University Library
Manasagangotri, Mysore -57006
Balappa.anrk@gmail.com

Jagadeesha B. M
Assistant Librarian,
Mysore University Library,
Manasagangotri, Mysore - 570006.
KARNATAKA, INDIA

Abstract
This paper discusses about the implementation of Koha software for the creation of WebOPAC at the University of Mysore. Highlights, various special features of Koha Library automation software and points out advantages of this open source software. Discusses aspects related to the use of software by the various libraries attached research centers and P. G. coins that come under the preview of the University of Mysore.

Keywords: OPAC, WebOPAC, Koha and Online catalogue

Introduction
Dr. S. R. Ranganathan’s fourth law (save the time of the reader) of library science recommends the provisions of appropriate measures to improve library management. Considering the advantages of Centralized access to the library collection in University as well as department libraries, Mysore University Library has opted for software to create WebOPAC and made its collection accessible from remote place across the globe.

Mysore University Library
Mysore University library is one of the oldest and largest University Libraries in the country and the mother library to all the other University Libraries in Karnataka. The Library started functioning in the year 1918. Currently, the Library has a collection of 6.2 lakhs documents including books, theses, rare books, reference works and back volumes journals etc. In addition, the constituent colleges and departments maintain their own book collections amounting to another 4 lakhs documents.

About Koha
Koha is the world’s best open source Library management system. It is used by many academic, public and special libraries across the world. As a fully functioning ILS, Koha provides all of the traditional modules such as circulation, cataloging, OPAC, patron management, serials management, acquisitions, reports, reserves and branch relationships. It offers several features that are more helpful for both staff members and patrons alike.

Implementation of Koha in Mysore University Library
Mysore University Library is one of the richest university libraries in Karnataka in terms of having both online and traditional resources. It has initiated the implementation of Koha for WebOPAC in the year 2011 and as of today about 3.0 Lakhs documents have been uploaded and they are accessible online to the public from remote locations.
The table depicts the collection of Mysore Library on WebOPAC. So far 293823 materials have been uploaded and made available online including Books, CDs, theses, serials and reference sources.

Table 2: Branch wise collection of books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNo</th>
<th>Branches of Mysore University</th>
<th>No of items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mysore University Main Library</td>
<td>201543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maharaja College Library</td>
<td>38010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>P. G. Center, Mandya</td>
<td>7164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>P. G. Center, Hemagangothri Hassan</td>
<td>9873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>P. G. Satellite Center, Chamarajanagar</td>
<td>2560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fine arts College</td>
<td>6454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Center for Science and Technology</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bahadur Institute of Management Science</td>
<td>1540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Academic Staff College</td>
<td>2427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>267530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 2 depicts the branch wise collection of books available on WebOPAC. This can also be considered as union catalogue of Mysore University.

Distinctive features of Mysore University’s WebOPAC

1. Simple search and advanced search option are provided: both simple search and advanced search option has been given in Mysore university’s WebOPAC to locate the items/materials kept in our library. The default search is a simple keyword search which will look for the occurrence of the search terms anywhere in a record. An advanced search allows for a more targeted search by using different indexes (author, title, subject, etc.) and limits such as date range, material type, language, and library’s braches.

2. Federated search: This is the best information retrieval technology adopted in our WebOPAC. It allows the user to search different documents in a single go.
Multilingual search option is offered: Koha’s Multilingual search option helps users in searching items in a specific language. This plays a great role in Mysore University’s WebOPAC since its collection has documents published in various languages. The languages search facilities provided in current WebOPAC are Kannada, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Urdu and Panjabi.

Figure 1: federated search

Figure 2: Multilingual search

1. **Browse by location**: since the Mysore University has separate library in its different constituent postgraduate centers viz Manasa Gangothri, Tubinakere, Mandya, Hemagangotri, Hassan and Satellite Centre at Chamarajanagar. It’s decided to put all the collection of different post graduate center’s library in a single platform and made them accessible using the option browse by location.
1. **Browse by subject collection:** Since books on different subjects are available user can restrict their search to a particular subject of interest.

2. **Browse by Special Collection:** many reference materials such as reports, government gazettes, archives, surveys, census reports and rare books are kept in Mysore University Library. This option facilitate user to search items by particular collection of interest.

3. **User Profile:** More than one user can log on to WebOPAC at a time and can have their own user profile to maintain the records searched or liked. Due date and fine of books borrowed will be informed time to time. User can place a hold on book.

4. **Cart:** searches or queries of user in Web Opac can be saved, printed or mailed using the cart option and the details of book searched or like can be exported in RIS, Bibtext and Marc format.
5. **Virtual shelf browsing:** interface has been created to allow users to view library collections as books displayed on racks in the library. Users can take advantage of the digital environment to re-order and re-organize the virtual shelves however they see fit.

6. **E-books are made accessible:** all purchased e-books from different publishers are made accessible on WebOPAC with permanent URLs. Users need not to spend much time in accessing e-books by visiting particular publisher’s Website. In a single go all books can be searched across the publisher.

7. **Social network share buttons:** Social network share buttons have been provided to share document with others.
8. **List of most checked out records**: most checked out items will be recorded and this will be helpful to know the demand of the books by patrons.

9. **List of recently procured documents**: as library is a growing organism procurement of books is a never ending work in library systems. In order to make patrons aware of newly procured book a list of recently procured documents is provided on WebOPAC.


11. **Google preview of books**: if any book of UOM Library’s collection is available in google books, koha will link to that book with ISBN and display the image of book on WebOPAC

12. **Usage statistics**: it will be helpful to generate usage statistics of Web Opac by users

**Conclusion**

Web Opac plays a great role in locating books and other material available at a library. User should get their information sooner than the necessary. In order to help the user of library to get their information faster without much effort Web Opac should be implemented in all libraries

**References**

http://kohais.wikispaces.com/Uses+of+Koha


8. **List of most checked out records**: most checked out items will be recorded and this will be helpful to know the demand of the books by patrons.

9. **List of recently procured documents**: as library is a growing organism procurement of books is a never ending work in library systems. In order to make patrons aware of newly procured book a list of recently procured documents is provided on WebOPAC.


11. **Google preview of books**: if any book of UOM Library's collection is available in google books, koha will link to that book with ISBN and display the image of book on WebOPAC.

12. **Usage statistics**: it will be helpful to generate usage statistics of Web Opac by users.

**Conclusion**

Web Opac plays a great role in locating books and other material available at a library. User should get their information sooner than the necessary. In order to help the user of library to get their information faster without much effort Web Opac should be implemented in all libraries.

**References**


---

- List of recently procured documents: as library is a growing organism procurement of books is a never ending work in library systems. In order to make patrons aware of newly procured book a list of recently procured documents is provided on WebOPAC.


- **Google preview of books**: if any book of UOM Library’s collection is available in google books, koha will link to that book with ISBN and display the image of book on WebOPAC.

- **Usage statistics**: it will be helpful to generate usage statistics of Web Opac by users.

**Conclusion**

Web Opac plays a great role in locating books and other material available at a library. User should get their information sooner than the necessary. In order to help the user of library to get their information faster without much effort Web Opac should be implemented in all libraries.

**References**