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Re-Building of Library and Information Services through Web Technology at Bharathidasan University: A Case Study

Dr. R. Balasubramani **M. Jayaprakash** **S. Raja**
Assistant Librarian, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli – 24
Librarian Mahendra Engineering College Namakkal.
Librarian, Indus College of Engineering, Coimbatore – 101

This paper discusses various aspects and approaches that Bharathidasan University Library is employing to provide the web resources and services available to users, and its also discusses way to improve and strengthen provision of such services through web technology, including effective method of creating awareness and delivering the orientation necessary to create a positive environment for change.

Introduction

Technology has impacted libraries significantly, whether it is decreased door counts or increased use of virtual resources and especially academic libraries have faced a great deal of change in recent years. Users have more options than ever for filling their information needs. LIS Professionals must be creative and innovative in order to serve their users to the fullest. Professionals have to reach more users in a variety of ways, as their collections and services move into an increasingly virtual environment, they have to provide their users greater access to in-house as well external resources which is exactly what they want.

1. BHARATHILIBNET

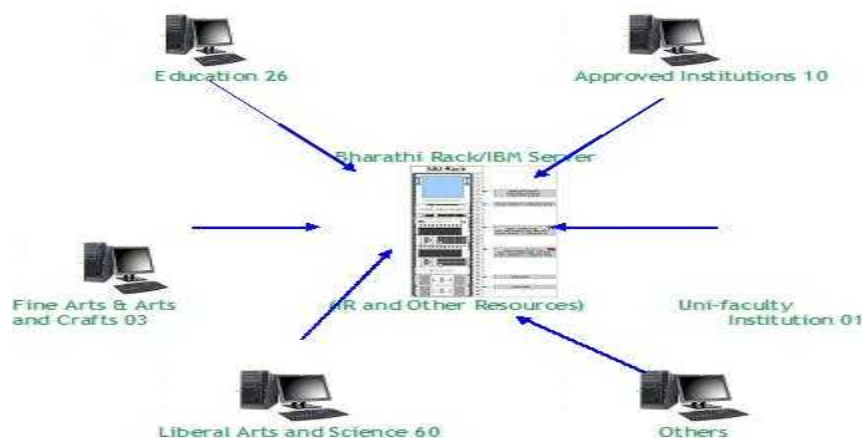


Figure 1: BHARATHILIBNET

The Project is to be called as “**Bharathi Library Network (BHARATHI LIBNET)**”. This project will connecting all Libraries and provide the base for promoting resource sharing services to user among the Institutions (To connectivity of 100 Institutions (Liberal Arts and Science 60, Education 26, Fine Arts & Arts and Crafts 03, Uni-faculty institution 01, Approved Institutions 10). On successful functioning of this project can be extended to all affiliated colleges of Bharathidasan University.

2. Re-building of Digital Library Initiatives.

To make the Bhrathidasan University Library a 21st Century Knowledge Centre to facilitate the transition of today’s engineering society to a knowledge base society of tomorrow. It is necessary that the knowledge generated by the faculty and students of Bharathidsan University is digitized and made accessible through Intranet or Internet. The practice of digitalization of resources will be a continuing process in the library and all students, research scholars and faculty members are contributing their publications. The resources i.e. books/ research papers /articles / thesis and dissertations may be provided along with their copy right, proforma for copy right permission to BARD is availableonline.

2.1 Setting up Electronic Resources Centre. (ERC)

To manage the electronic needs and resources available within the library as well external resources, library has set up an Electronic Resource Centre having the target to develop Hybrid / Digital library. The main aim of resource centre to provide desktop accessibility, real-time access with time less usage. The centre acquires the electronic resources i.e. e-books, e-journals, e-databases, digitization of library resources, development of library webpage and membership of consortia’s i.e. UGC Info-net.

2.2 Installation of Dspace



Figure 2: Dspace Home Page

To move one step ahead towards digital library, digital repository software named Dspace is installed in the Library to cater the digital repository needs of the institute. We have customized the software to keep in mind the needs of the users and accordingly communities, sub communities and collections were created for building the database. The Library uses DSpace -digital repository system which stores, indexes, preserves the resources and distributes full text material. The collection of the documents in library are Faculty publications, E-theses and dissertations of research scholars, BARD Publications i.e Convocations, Annual Reports, Annual Magazines, Old exam papers, Prospects, BARD in News and Images / Photographs etc in PDF format in Dspace. User can have the access of these institutional repositories through intranet via Wi-Fi / Internet. Many Communities, Sub-communities and Collections have been created which found suitable arrangements.

2.3 Installation of Greenstone

Greenstone is a tool designed for creating and managing digital library collections. We have customized the software to keep in mind the needs of the users and accordingly title wise, author wise and subject wise collections were created for building the database The collections of the documents in library are more than 2000 E-Books in PDF format.

2.4 Procurement of Electronic Resources and CD Storage Systems

Digital library activities were initiated with the procurement of some index databases. Library has been the member of UGC-INFONET Consortia for last four year. Being an UGC-INFONET supported institution the facility of online journals like Springer link, Emerald, etc. are extended to us. For effective and efficient management of CD-ROMs, a CD Storage system is being under process at BARD library.

2.5 Formation of UGC-INFO-NET User Group.

To maximize the utilization of online journals, and database etc. and speeding up the awareness among students and faculty members, UGC-INFONET Users Group of voluntary students and faculty members in the college under the Librarian have been set up and all interested students and faculty members have joined the this group.

3. Re-building of Library Webpage:

The web is an easy place to reach users in their own interest since they can access content while sitting at computers in their offices or dorms. While they are navigating to the content they came for, we need to unobtrusively replicate the accidental learning and exposure to resources and services they could get by coming into the library.

3.1 Modeling of Home Page

Designing of home page was a very tedious and challenging task. 800x600 resolutions has been kept for the best view of the page, for the better reading at the long time a sober, and eye friendly colors i.e. off white, gray, and black for fonts, tables and background have been used. An obvious way to reach our users is through our central

home

page.

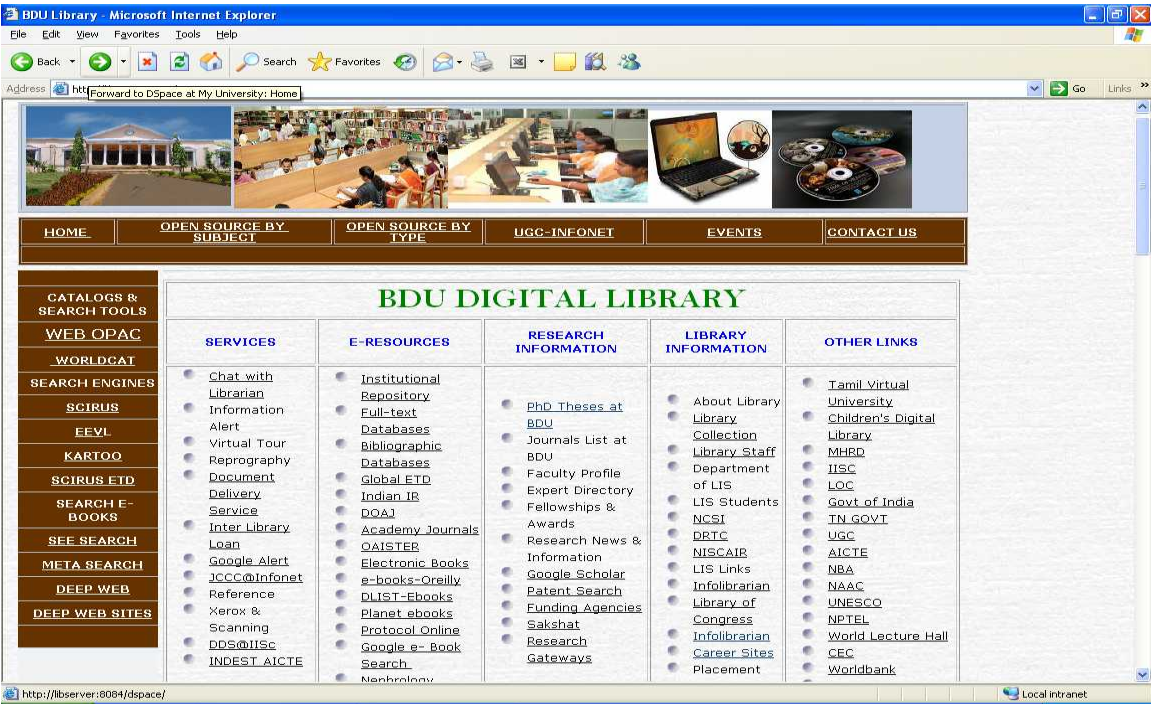


Figure 3: BARD Library Home Page

There were many resources and services that we would like our users to know about but we can not highlight them all on the top page. In addition to the regular navigation and links, we have created a few features on our home page that allow us to promote new or existing resources and services.

In the top of the page at left side, space is provide the for the new Announcements which is RSS optimized and at the right side Search option for the website search. The links provided in the top line are Home, Services, Forum, Notice Board, DDS, Think Tank, FAQ, and Feedback. In the left middle, the links are in the tabular format which is General Information, Library OPAC, E-Journals, E-databases, E-References, E-Books, and standards. In the right middle, News and Events, and Suggestion box is kept. On the middle of the page a brief details of the library have been provided which can be seen under point no 2 “BARD at a Glance”. In the below middle page, Virtual Tour and Ask the Librarian links are provided. At the bottom of the page :- Projects (library), Dspace (institutional repository which includes thesis and dissertations , BARD publications and BARD in news etc.) ,OPAC (online public access catalogue), Computerization,

Digitization and Web Management Team and at the lowest bottom a link of Site Map has also been provided to know the overall areas covered in the site.

3.2 Introducing RSS feed

Really Simple Syndication (RSS) technology uses XML and allows a user to subscribe to websites that have provided RSS feeds. Feeds typically are provided on web content that changes regularly. We have introduced RSS as its utilities was very much appreciated and are in demand by the users, because after all we are providing the services to mass and they have the right to know the latest up-dated and changes when ever is made in the website. To read the announcement, a user can put the cursor on the box, or can drag the text up and down and by clicking can view the linked file.

3.3 Chat With Librarian:

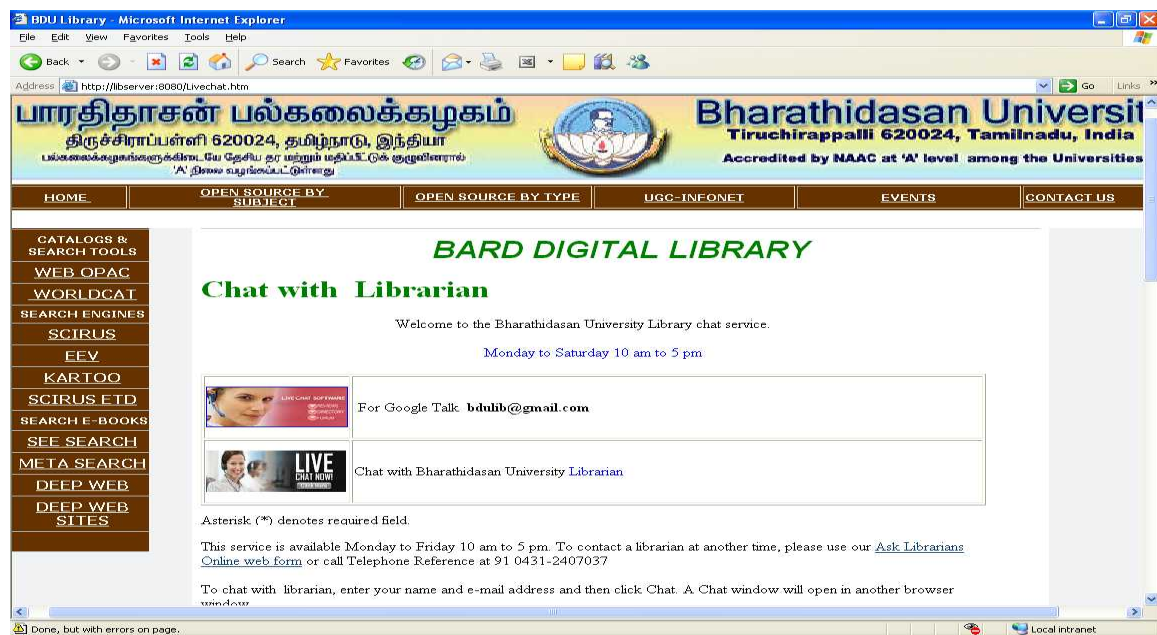


Figure 4: Chat With Librarian Home Page

Through this option students and faculty members can send their queries and question to the library online. The reply is sent through e-mail in brief. The box is available in this menu which contains the name of users, e -mail id and question.

3.4 Introducing DDS: - (Documents Delivery Service)

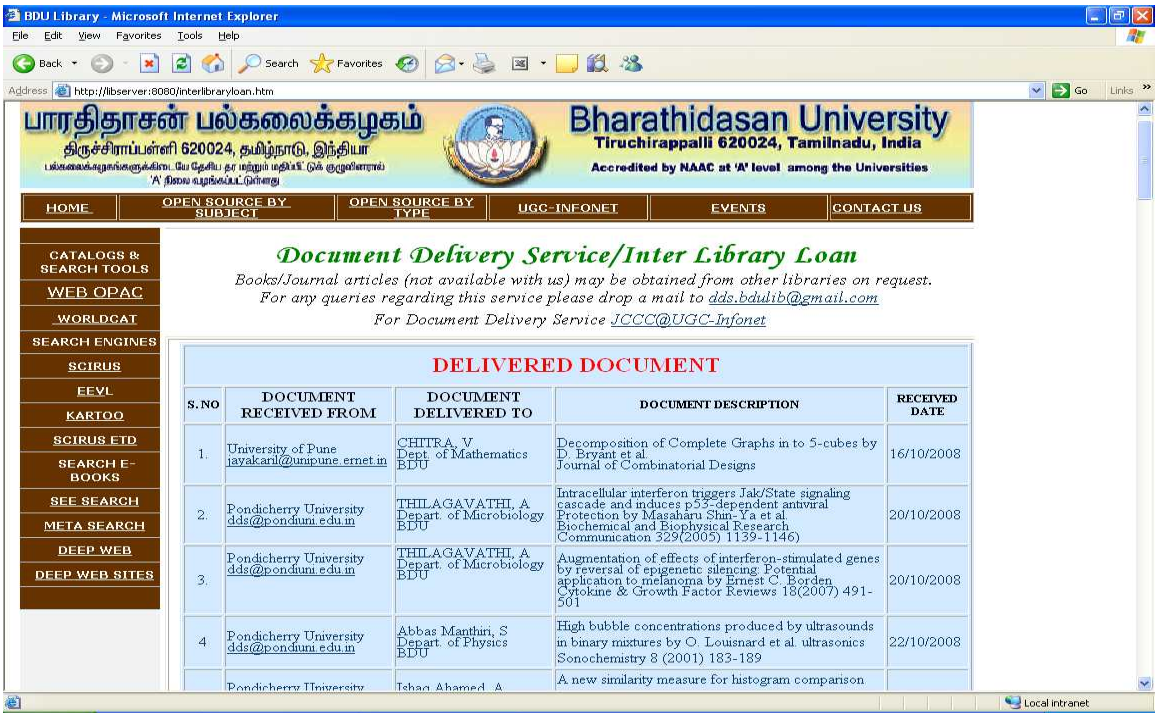


Figure 5: Document Deliver Service

Library has the different type of holdings such as reading and reference materials for the use of its members which can be supplied through e-mail or personal delivery basis on the request of users. The form for the purpose is available in this menu, users can submit their request for the resource which they want along with their name, and e-mail.

3.5 Introducing Think Tank

If users have any idea and problems related to any specialized area of science, engineering and technology, then they can ask any question. Their queries will be forwarded to the expert concerned and replies will be sent to their requested e-mail directly by the experts. They can browse and submit there questions through this facility and can get the answers by the experts Users may share their own documents with each other through this page or they may also submit the documents which seems to be useful to the entire community of the students, research scholars and faculty members, after proper scrutinizing, the document may be granted to include in the Institutional Repository. There is three columns name, e-mail ID and file.

3.6 Library Web OPAC

Library has installed library software named NIRMAL for managing the library affairs which is web enabled OPAC for providing bibliographical information of the library

holdings and other additional facility to the users. Installation of web-enabled OPAC is one more step in this direction. Through the Internet / Intranet, access of library resources has been extended to the user's desk. Apart from the OPAC, a list of books with bibliographic records has also been displayed annually or monthly which has been added in the library collection.

3.7 News and Events

The latest news and events going on in library and to keep in mind the interest of the students, other relevant information is also displayed and further links to another page have been provided to view the detailed. Like many other libraries, we have news headlines on our home page to alert our users to new resources and events. These headlines link to our news page for the complete details of particular event. This change has given us many more options for promoting our news stories to our users.

4. Conclusion

There are many ways to engage our users through new technologies, workshops offerings, orientation activities, and invite them to use the Library library services. We have designed the Library webpage in such a way to offer the maximum Library services online and tried our best to satisfy the needs of our users. The most important things here are making funds available and converting LIS personnel's into technological think tank for the development of hybrid libraries. By developing the hybrid Library, we may reduce the Library "paper work" and adjust staff numbers involved in those processes which are in top priority.

Ideally digital Library should continue to work at the long-term goal because the digital world would change the information and knowledge age into a wisdom age.

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About the author

	Dr. R. Balasubramaniis present working as a Assistant Librarian at Bhjarathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. He has completed M.L.I.S., M.Phil., Ph.D at Annamalai University. He has been guided around 20 M.Phil., dissertations and guiding for Ph. D in LIS. He has presented more than 40 papers in various national and International conferences. He has published 7 research papers in journals.
	M. Jayaprakash presently working as a Librarian Mahendra Engineering College Namakkal. He has completed M.L.I.S., at Annamalai University and currently pursuing Ph.D in LIS in Anna University, Coim batore. He has presented more than 10 papers in various national and International Conferences.
	S. Raja presently working as a Librarian Librarian, Indus College of Engineering, Coimbatore – 101. He has completed M.L.I.S., M.Phil., at Annamalai University and currently pursuing Ph.D in LIS in Anna University, Coimbatore. He has presented more than 15 papers in various national and International Conferences.