ACCESS OPAC

YOUR LIBRARY VISITS, SIMPLIFIED

If virtual access to the records of hundreds of resources managed by the OUR's Information Centre (OURIC) is what you are looking for, then you've come to the right place. The Koha Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is a powerful tool designed to transform your library experience into a simple and easy one. The system is hosted by the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) and was launched by the OUR in 2022 January. Come with me and discover why you should start using your OPAC.

First, what is Koha OPAC?

The Koha Online Public Access Catalogue or OPAC for short, is an open-source library management system with a user-friendly interface that was acquired by OURIC to make accessing and browsing OUR's extensive collection of materials and resources easy. Using OPAC, you can search the OUR's catalogue of both physical and digital resources, check item availability, place holds on materials needed, and manage your account at any time and from anywhere.

OPAC's intuitive design makes it easy to find exactly what you're looking for, so you can spend less time searching and more time enjoying your materials. Here are some of Koha's other features:

Advanced Search Capabilities

Anyone who has done a regular Google search knows that sometimes it may not yield desired results. Issues like vague or incorrect keywords, lack of specificity in using terms and phrases, and complex entries can lead to search results that are misrepresentative. So it is, with your library catalogue. That is why Koha has included advanced search capabilities in its OPAC system.

With these features you can find resources of all types - books, eBooks, and articles, to name a few. Here's how:

Specify the author, title, subject, or keyword - whatever is known, to narrow down your search
Use exact titles or keywords in quotation marks for increased precision
Apply filters as available. Koha filters include "Item types" such as books, journals, magazines and more.

Koha's search engine ensures quick, precise and reliable results.

WHAT'S INSIDE

OURIC GETS DIGITAL!!

WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES - UWI, AND THE

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL - SRC

The OURIC Coordinator/Information Officer visited the Science Resource Centre at the Scientific Research Council (SRC) on 2024 June 21 and the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona on 2024 June 26 to examine their digitisation methods. The visit aimed to gather ideas for phase II of OURIC's digitisation project, focusing on the conversion of physical materials and other resources. Yvonne Nicholson, Director of Consumer and Public Affairs (DCPA), joined the UWI site visit. During conversations with Mr. Kevin Bushay, Systems Librarian and Head of the Digitisation Unit, various models and approaches to the project were identified in furtherance of a proposed partnership with the university library.

Mr. Chavez Creary, Library Technical Assistant at the Scientific Research Science Resource Centre, Information Services Division, expounded on the in-house model being utilized at that facility.

With digitisation the OUR Information Centre hopes to achieve:

The continuous development of a technology-enhanced facility providing access to both digitized resources and digitalized work processes.

L– R - Image 1 – Kevin Bushay, Systems Librarian at the UWI, Mona and Head of the Digitisation Unit explains the digitisation process
Image 2 – Chavez Creary, Library Technical Assistant at the Science Resource Centre, SRC
Image 3 – Yvonne Nicholson, DCPA engages the Systems Librarian at the UWI, during OURIC's visit to the Digitisation Unit

Ebook PICKS

OUR DIGITAL LIBRARY

AI-Driven Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence: Cyber Automation, Intelligent Decision-Making and Explainability by Iqbal H. Sarker
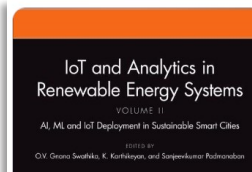
This book explores the dynamics of how AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology intersects with cybersecurity challenges and threat intelligence as they evolve. Integrating AI into cybersecurity not only offers enhanced defense mechanisms, but this book introduces a paradigm shift illustrating how one conceptualizes, detects and mitigates cyber threats. An in-depth exploration of AI-driven solutions is presented, including machine learning algorithms, data science modeling, generative AI modeling, threat intelligence frameworks and Explainable AI (XAI) models. As a roadmap or comprehensive guide to leveraging AI/XAI to defend digital ecosystems against evolving cyber threats, this book provides insights, modeling, real-world applications and research issues. Throughout this journey, the authors discover innovation, challenges, and opportunities. It provides a holistic perspective on the transformative role of AI in securing the digital world. AI-driven cybersecurity systems excel at analyzing vast datasets rapidly, identifying patterns that indicate malicious activities, detecting threats in real time as well as conducting predictive analytics for proactive solution. Moreover, AI enhances the ability to detect anomalies, predict potential threats, and respond swiftly, preventing risks from escalated. As cyber threats become increasingly diverse and relentless, incorporating AI/XAI into cybersecurity is not just a choice, but a necessity for improving resilience and staying ahead of ever-changing threats. This book targets researchers and industry professionals.
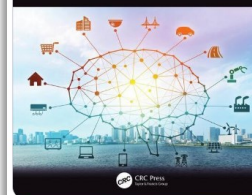
Everyday Project Management by Jeff Davidson

"Everyday Project Management is a practical guide for anyone new or needing to learn more about project management. Unlike many other books, it does not rely on arcane concepts and terms, and simply tells it like it is." - *Todd C. Williams, President of eCameron, Inc., and author of Filling Execution Gaps and Rescue the Problem Project.* Everyday Project Management provides the direction you need to apply project management's time-tested tools for keeping things on time and under budget. It introduces the wide variety of tasks you will have to tackle, including assembling a team, mapping out a plan, monitoring progress, keeping your team motivated, and using appropriate planning tools.

IoT and analytics in Renewable Energy Systems by O. V. Gnana Swathika, et. al

Digital technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), automation, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) significantly contribute to the two-way communication between utilities and customers in smart cities. Five salient features of this book are: 1. Smart grid to the smart customer, 2. Intelligent computing for smart grid applications. 3. Novel designs of IoT systems such as smart transportation, smart home, smart manufacturing, smart grid, and smart government, 4. Innovations in using IoT and 5. AI in improving resilience of smart energy infrastructure, challenges, and future research directions of smart city applications.

Have you heard the term

DIGITALISATION?

Digitalisation refers to the use of digital technologies and data to improve business, replace/transform business processes and create an environment for digital business, whereby digital information is at the core. It is the phenomenon of transforming analogue data into digital language (or digitising), that in turn can improve business and bring added value to the relationships between customers and companies.

Source: from Research Gate Digitalization: A Literature Review and Research Agenda

ACCESS OPAC - CONT'D FROM PG. 1

PERSONALISED EXPERIENCE

Given the choice between detachment and a personalised library system, it is clear what any discerning user would choose. With Koha the true benefits of a personalised experience are unquestionable. OPAC users can view their borrowing history, renew items, place holds and customise their experiences.

IT'S EASY TO LOGON TO OPAC

Use your assigned user credentials.

- Your username is your first initial followed by your last name. e.g. John Brown would be JBrown.
- Use your previously assigned password //W******01// or simply change your password using the "**change your password**" function in the left-hand menu.
- Press /**Enter**/ on your keyboard or Click /**Log In**/ YOUR'E IN!

Your full user information and activity transaction history, if any, will appear with a *Welcome* message.

REAL TIME UPDATES

Real-time updates anyone? We've got you! OPAC provides information on items available for loan. You can know instantly if an item is checked out, on hold, or available for immediate use.
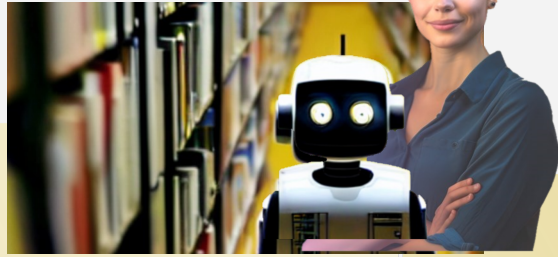
Access Anytime, Anywhere

How about our "*Discover OURIC, Anytime, Anywhere*" mantra which suggests that with OURIC there are **no barriers** to information retrieval!

The online catalogue can be accessed in just the same way - from any device with internet access, at home, at work, or on the go! So **START USING OPAC TODAY!**

Access the platform through:

- Φ The OURIC webpage,
- Φ SharePoint page or
- Φ Via a link in the librarian's email signature.

On the webpage click on the <browse the library> link OR search using the <search the catalogue> form.

FIRST TIME USER? Not to worry! On the OURIC webpage, we provide helpful guides and support to ensure that you get the most out of your online catalogue. Hit the links to our easy-to-use e-catalogue manual which takes you through the basic steps to using OPAC.

Who knew there were so many ways to OPAC? Get involved with the Koha Community! OPAC users are part of a vibrant network of library users who enjoy easy and convenient access to information resources. **Explore the OURIC collection, enjoy personalised services, and stay connected with 24/7 access, through OPAC.**

Simplify your library visits! Start your OPAC journey today and Discover OURIC! Anytime, Anywhere.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AN EXCITING OOCUR-*ENCE* - 2024 OCT 29 - 31

The OUR Information Centre is going international! OURIC will be one of the presenters at the 19th Annual Conference for the **Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators** (OOCUR), from 2024 October 29 to 31 in Paramaribo, Suriname. We'll give you the details in our upcoming edition

LIBRARY WEEK - 2024 OCT 27 - Nov 1

Look out for another OURIC-coordinated AI event dubbed "*BURNING QUESTIONS*", our 2024 (delayed) major event for the Library & Information Association of Jamaica's (LIAJA) National Library and Information Week. This one's for our internal experts! Get the highlights - next time!

The " *SMART* " LIBRARIAN

NEW TRENDS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

By - Colleen Mignott - Coordinator (OURIC)/ Information Officer Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)

The shift to digital services and delivery models has enhanced access but created new challenges for libraries.

The pandemic of 2020 served to fast-track what was hitherto, visions and plans for digital transformation in libraries. In fact, libraries were transitioning their collections to digital formats long before COVID-19 ever struck. Today's library patrons expect more personalized and immediate service than ever before.

This shift to digital services and models is one way that libraries are responding to changing expectations among patrons. But they are also exploring other ways to improve user experience. Developing database platforms that allow users to find the contents of a library's collections in one place or easily request a copy of a resource, becomes critical.

Users want to be able to find what they need quickly and easily using any device, but they also want to receive services in the formats of their choice. The digital platforms that 21st century libraries use to manage operations must be able to support these capabilities.

Online presence

Establishing an online presence via social networking sites, websites and other platforms has now become essential for librarians in this new dispensation, as is the need to acquire digital assets and digitize existing materials. In this regard, the challenge is to administer different licensing agreements and lending policies of various publishers, resulting in restrictions in the lending of digital materials according to best practices employed in controlled digital lending (CDL). This is important however to prevent users from running afoul of copyright restrictions. The modern library is able to manage these complex processes effectively using digital rights management technologies.

Streamlining workflows via Automation

In the face of new technologies and developments also, librarians are increasingly taking on additional roles and responsibilities made possible and achievable through automation, streamlining workflows to remove unnecessary steps while improving efficiency and effectiveness. Routine operations such as, cataloging and classification via online cataloguing systems, circulation (lending process), via integrated library management systems, reference consultations and research, via virtual reference services and digital forms, and report generating, through automated reporting tools.

Analytics

The use of platforms with built-in analytics is also useful, helping librarians to evaluate purchases and make smart and informed decisions about acquisitions. It also helps in assessing the impact of programmes and services, in order to serve the needs of stakeholders more effectively.

Marketing and promotion

Being a marketer is one of the evolving roles of the modern librarian. It involves the use of various tools such as social media, to promote library resources and services as well as deliver training via platforms such as ZOOM to engage a wider audience.

> " *In the face of new technologies and developments also, librarians are increasingly taking on additional roles and responsibilities made possible and achievable through automation, streamlining workflows to remove unnecessary steps while improving efficiency and effectiveness.* "

The Google to ChatGPT age

The changing landscape for how people get information has forced librarians to justify their value in the age of the Internet.

Once Google now Chat GPT is the latest challenge for the 21st Century librarian.

The librarian must refocus, retool and retrain. New research shows the capabilities of ChatGPT in libraries, including its capacity to assist with Virtual reference services, catalogue searches, collection development, book recommendations, promotion and outreach among others. Rather than supplanting the traditional, the technology is instead enhancing the roles of librarians (Holland, 2015), putting a new spin on traditional responsibilities of acquiring, processing, and disseminating information

Conclusion

Libraries are emerging stronger, more resilient and more pivotal than ever before. We must continue to demonstrate our value and prove how essential we are to the communities we serve. The right digital platform can accelerate innovation and keep libraries one step ahead of whatever challenges the future might hold.

- Three Trends Shaping the Future of Libraries | Library Journal
- How Can AI Be Used in Libraries? - The Digital Librarian (the-digital-librarian.com)
- (PDF) USE OF CHAT GPT IN LIBRARY SERVICES (researchgate.net)
- Trends Archives - The Digital Librarian (the-digital-librarian.com)

QUIZ TIME

1) What is the meaning of the acronym OPAC?
2) What are the three (3) steps to accessing your OPAC account at the OUR?
3) Name two (2) OPAC filters.
4) TRUE or FALSE - OPAC provides records of titles in the physical library rather than full-text.

BE THE NEXT TO WIN PRIZES IN **OUR OURIC FACTOR QUIZ**
Email your answers to
ouric@our.org.jm

CONGRATS *Nicole*

#WINNING RIGHT NOW!

WIN PRIZES

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Drop us a line at:
The Office of Utilities Regulation Information Centre **(OURIC)**
3rd Floor, PCJ Resource Centre
36 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10

RESEARCH questions? Hit this **ASK YOUR LIBRARIAN** link 👉

We're on the Web!
https://bit.ly/OURIC

OR Call: 876-968-6053 **I Email**: ouric@our.org.jm **I Browse**: https://bit.ly/OURIC

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