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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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IIUM
The Many Functions of the Online Catalogue

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Life is about making choices. Goods or products are normally presented to target customers in catalogue. Take for instance AVON and COSWAY. These well known brands regularly release their colourful and attractive catalogue to market their products to enable potential buyers to choose from. The same goes to a library. Catalogue is very important to attract users to come and take benefit from a library. This article is about the IIUM library's online catalogue or better known as OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) and how it can satisfy your desire to choose the best out of some 800,000 items in the collection to suit your working or learning needs.

For a large academic library like IIUM, a catalogue is mandatory because the collection is simply too large for a librarians to manage. Traditionally, library catalogue are for the purpose of finding books and help users in making choices. From the management perspective, library catalogue serves as an inventory of assets acquired using the University's budget. However, library catalogue of today have evolved tremendously from its card catalogue days to the online version that requires a sophisticated system of data storage and retrieval.

The IIUM library catalogue is accessible at http://eps.lib.ium.edu.my:8088/rooms/portal/page/ Sini_HOME or you can go the library's website at http://www.lib.ium.edu.my/ and select Library Catalogue. Gone were the days where you need to physically come to the library to search for library items and use the card catalogue where there were only four approaches: author, title, subject or call number. Today's OPAC has gone through so many changes with increased functionality and accessibility. Now you can search for items/books, check your account details and also do renewal and reservation of borrowed books, even from the comfort of your home or office.

IIUM library users have a myriad of ways to access materials from the library. The OPAC system, for an example, allows users quick and efficient catalogue search to find library items. Quick search simply means general or keyword search. More search options are available in advance search. You can also limit your search by language, item format, item type or year of publication. On top of that the images of your identified books, you can also get link to table of contents (TOC) and summary of the books. It also supports the link to full text images of over ten thousands titles of electronic books. In the near future, if budget permits, users would be able to flip open the book image itself to check the TOC, the front and back Information for that particular item.

Then there is the checking of borrowers account. If you want to know the status of your loan, just login to your account using Library Barcode and PIN to get the status of your library account. You can view loans due date, check fines, update PIN and many more including editing your account and updating your address.

Lastly, there's the renewal and reservation of borrowed books. Through this important feature, the library has empowered users to do these on their own, hassle free. However, online renewal is possible only as long as the items are not yet overdue. As for reservation, you can reserve a book that is out on loan to ensure you will get the item when it is returned.

Some other things that you can get on the OPAC are "New book list" and "Check your shelf number." New book list tells users of new titles added into the collection. The list is available in the Gomak, Kuantan (STAC, IBBP, CPS PJ and Nilai) campuses. The "Check your shelf number" shows the directory of shelf where an identified call number is located on a specific shelf.

Indeed the online library catalogue is very user friendly and easy to use. However, should you need to conduct more efficient and effective searches, the IIUM library staff are always ready to assist you.

Rector Welcomes New SRC

By Rusli Rahid

IIUM Rector Prof. Dato’ Sri Dr. Syed Arabi Idid welcomed the new Students’ Representative Council (SRC) during the ba’ash (swearing-in) ceremony recently.

At the ceremony, the Rector met the newly-appointed SRC and congratulated them on their appointments. The SRC is an IIUM student body elected to represent the voices of all students. This is to ensure that the welfare and grievances of all students be heard and communicated to the management in a proper and professional manner.

In the ceremony headed by the newly appointed SRC President Muhammad Izriat Abd Wahab from Kuliyyah of Economics and Management Sciences, students recited their student university pledge. The new SRC line-up was formed after the completion of the students’ Election Day on 22 February 2011.

Also present was Deputy Rector Prof. Dr. Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood.