

**OPAC USAGE AMONG STUDENTS IN TUN ABDUL RAZAK LIBRARY (PTAR 1)
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM) SHAH ALAM**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Bachelor of
Science in Information Management (Hons.)
(Resource Center Management)**

FACULTY OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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DECEMBER 2013

Abstract

Describes a study, which investigates the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) usage among students at Tun Abdul Razak Library (PTARI) UiTM Shah Alam. This involves their awareness about OPAC, their problem while using OPAC and the satisfaction on it. The result indicate that student are aware about OPAC and also having difficulty to use it due to lack of skill. However, some of the students are know how to use OPAC but not frequently use.. Students using the PTARI indicate that the OPAC is relatively easy to use but students are moderately successful in locating items. Students selftrained themselves when using the OPAC. Most did not receive any training or learnt it from the Library and for those who attended the training programme, the majority of them noted that it has been successful.

Keyword: OPAC; Online Public Access Catalogue; PTAR 1

Aknowledgement

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful
Alhamdulillah, all praises to Allah for the strengths and His blessing in completing this
academic writing.

I would like to express my appreciation to my family for their constant encouragement
and support.

Additionally, I would like to give thanks to my supervisor, Puan Nordibradini Binti Haji
Selamat, for her support and advice.

I would also like to thank all the staff from Tun Abdul Razak Library (PTAR 1) and all
my friends especially my practical partners;

Nur Hartini Mohd Nawi, Wan Nurul Natrah Binti Md. Nor, Nurul Shahida Binti

Maznam, Nurul Nadiah Binti Mohd Khidzir and Farah Diana Binti Azman

for their interest in and contribution to this study.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

The introduction of ICT in the field of Libraries and Information Centers has brought a sea change in the techniques of access, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information resources that a library acquired to serve its users. It has also changed the ways of providing services offered to user's community. OPAC is one of these technologies provide access to any of the information contained in the record for an item in the library. It may define as a database of bibliographic records describing the holdings of a library. It allows users to search a document by authors, titles, subject and keywords from a terminal and also allows printing, downloading or exporting records via different electronics means. OPAC thus provided users a means of searching and accessing information. Users can see the collections and issue status of each document of the library and can reserve and renew a document of their interest when needed. Here multiple users can query the database simultaneously unlike the traditional card catalogue. Bibliographic records are stored in a database and can be quickly retrieved for display on computer terminals. The development of OPAC has made users as well as library professionals to locate and access library resources easily without wastage of time energy and times.

The online catalogue attracted a great deal of attention in the field of library science after research studies on its use began to appear in the literature in the 1980s (Chen, 1991) and grew in the early 1990's (Efthimiadis, 1990). Dale's (1989) review focused on subject access; Elsberned, Campbell, and Wesley (1990) provided a bibliography of OPAC instruction, and Pask (1990) compiled a bibliography on patron education for online systems covering the years from 1970 to 1988. The Council on Academic Writing (IMC690)[Type text]