Mobile OPAC

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Best Practice

1**. Title of the Practice**: Mobile OPAC

2. **Objectives of the Practice:** Being a university in rural India, it is quiet unexpected that all students will have their own desktop or laptop to browse the catalogue through online i.e. WebOPAC. To facilitate the catalogue search easily and simply by using android cell phone or smart phone the App namely LSearch mobile has been procured from the LibSys corporation, as library is using LibSys as an Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS). With this any one may surf library catalogue in anywhere any time.

3. **The Context:** Due to the proliferation of mobile phones, providing library services through mobile phones a mandatory service in libraries, at present society. For any library its catalogue is the primary focus for search of its resource collections for its patrons. With the mobile revolution the provision of OPAC services for mobile phones have started. **LSearch** offered by LIBSYS gives users unique experience of using and accessing library catalogues available in library database. This will ensure friendly, easily, simply and quickly search of Library Resources. It is fact, this devise, also insist the users' community browse more and more and indirectly enhance the rate of library transaction.

4. **The Practice:** A Mobile Online Public Access Catalogue or **mOPAC** is a mobile version of a library's Online Public Access Catalogue that provides the same information as the OPAC. The mOPAC simply provides a mobile-friendly interface for accessing the library catalogue using smartphone.

Therefore, users' no longer need a computer to search books/journals or to check library account. Now it can be done through smartphone (Android) of the individual user. LSearch is an App providing access to Visva-Bharati library OPAC on the fly. The App directly connects the device to library server for real time information retrieval. The smartly designed interface gives a joyful library experience. LSearch App on mobile device provides a quick, efficient, portable and friendly way of remaining connected with the Visva-Bharati library. L-search mobile app is to be downloaded from Google Play Store and is available for searching Visva-Bharati library OPAC. The App is being developed by LibSys Corporation and functioning as an interface of LibSys software. It is easy to use the same through the following two steps only;

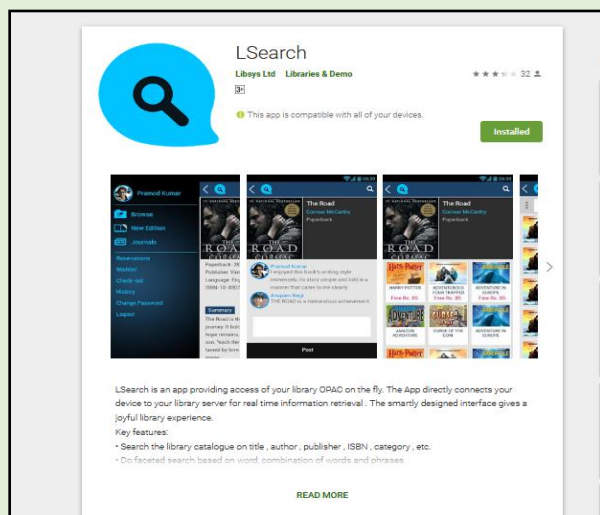a) Download LSearch App from 'Play Store' and install it in your mobile.

(Play Store → Apps → Search → lsearch → Install→ Accept. 'Open' will appear on your device)

b) Scan QR Code from http://172.16.2.2:8380/opac/

(Go to any machine within campus, click on http://172.16.2.2:8380/opac/, put mouse point on QR →keep the camera of your phone in line of sight of QR code → touch on 'Scan QR Code to get started' at bottom of mobile → see the QR code turning green which signifies activation (a one-time process).

5. **Evidence of Success:** With the mOPAC, students are searching catalogue very easy and comfortably. It is fact that after the introduction of

this App, the searching of catalogue is increasing gradually.

6. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** This App is not getting familiarity because of the following reasons;

- Campus Network and Server are not functioning in 24x7.

- All students are not attending library orientation program systematically, except a few. Therefore, all students are not aware about the service.

- Some of the library users, with their curiosity collects the information from library website, but they did not use the App properly.

To ensure the actual benefit of the App, Campus Network and Server are to be made functioning in 24x7. For this necessary power backup system and monitoring (either by human or by technology) is to be made ensure. Students' participation in the Library Orientation Program is to be made compulsory.

7. **Notes (Optional):** A small video tutorial on VB Library may also be uploaded in the library website and YouTube channel to attract/aware the students' community. Now a days, any library of any Higher Educational Institute of India and abroad may include the mobile App based on their ILMS to encourage the users more and more for using library resources for their academic, research and study purpose.