Digital initiatives at the Central Library of Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, India (Poster)

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Description:
The poster describes the digital services provided by the Central Library of the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee which is one of the oldest technical educational libraries in the world.

Abstract:
Established in 1847 as College of Civil Engineering at Roorkee (India) the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IITR) ranks among the first engineering educational institutions of the world. The Central Library of the Institute was established as College Library in 1848 with a few hundred books and now has a collection of over 300,000 documents in practically every field of knowledge. Its collection of civil engineering is unmatched in India. This year’s library budget is approximately 60 million Indian Rupees (1.3 million US dollars). The Central Library is a rare amalgamation of the old and the new. While on one hand it has got an excellent archival collection on the other it uses latest information technologies in its services. The library has its own Local Area Network with fifty nodes, three network servers, two CD-ROM pre-caching servers and a number of printers. It is connected to the fiber optic network (FON) of the Institute enabling access by all Institute users to library resources. The library has embarked on creation of digital resources in a big way by (i) acquiring digital resources available online such as e-journals, e-books etc. (ii) acquiring databases available in CD-ROMs and (iii) by converting its own holdings of dissertations and archival collection into digital formats. The archival collection of the library has attracted special attention as most of the part belongs to late eighteenth and nineteenth century. It has been a real challenge to digitize this collection as it greatly varies in forms and size. Special care has been taken while digitizing this material as most of the collection has become fragile. The paper aims to describe the all the above services in detail. It will provide the details of networked environment as IIT Roorkee, linking of the library LAN with Institute FON. It will provide details of the services made available on intranet as well as on Internet Process and technology of digitization of archival collection as well as theses are discussed in detail. Concludes with the future digitization plans of the Library.