Proceedings of the IATUL Conferences   2015 IATUL Proceedings

Jul 7th, 12:00 AM

Mahidol University Libraries network and involvement in the collaboration on electronic resources development of University libraries in Thailand

Chaweewan Swasdee
Mahidol University

Mahidol University Libraries Network and Involvement in the Collaboration on Electronic Resources Development of University Libraries in Thailand

Ms. Chaweewan Swasdee

Director, Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center, Thailand

directli@mahidol.ac.th; chaweewan.swa@mahidol.ac.th

Ms. Chaweewan Suwannarat

Deputy Director, Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center, Thailand

chaweewan.suw@mahidol.ac.th

Abstract

The success of the University depends on information resources, services and technologies to support the core functions of learning, teaching, research and innovation, engagement, and internationalization strategies. Hence, the Library has an important role to play in supporting the full range of these institutional strategies. One of Mahidol University's main strength lies in its research excellence with high performance ranking of scientific papers on microbiology and immunology disciplines. As a resource of information and data for research, Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center system have to acquire scientific information resources supporting the university research needs. For more than a decade, to prepare for the budget risk, Mahidol University Library and knowledge system has set up a policy in line with the University sharing resources policy. By developing effective partnerships with librarians across the University and Colleges in order to provide seamless library and information services for the research and education communities as well as hospital services. Seeking source of funds through collaboration with faculties is one of strategies to continue to deliver high-quality core services while exploring new ways of adding value to these services. A committee from various faculties executive has been set up to consider the cost benefit factors as well as the appropriate electronic databases to share for research needs. To promote accessibility and diversity in all our services, efforts to work with external partners as consortium at national and international level to reduce costs and share resources are additional methods.

Keywords: Resource Sharing; University Libraries Network; Collection Development Policy; Electronic Resources Development; Internal Collaboration

Introduction

The mission of the library is to play role in the full range of the institutional strategies on information resources, services and technologies to support the core functions of learning, teaching, research and innovation, engagement, and internationalization.

Background

Mahidol University (MU) is one of Thailand research Universities founded from medical school at Thailand first hospital - Siriraj Hospital. It became the University of Medical Sciences in 1943 and later in 1969 was renamed Mahidol University by H.M. King in memory of his father H.R. Prince Mahidol of Songkla who was widely known as " Father of Modern Medicine and Public Health in Thailand". Since then, Mahidol University expand into multi-disciplinary university offering expertise a wide-range of subjects included science, medicine and health science, social sciences and humanities. Since the establishment, Mahidol University continue to expand and now encompasses six campuses, three of which are located in Greater Bangkok. Three provincial campuses are established in Western, Central-Northern, North-Eastern of Thailand.

With strong emphasis on research excellence, one of the university strategies, interdisciplinary research initiatives tend to have collaboration with public and private sectors as well as institutions and agencies. One of Mahidol University's main strength lies in its research excellence with high performance ranking of scientific papers on the main subject of medicine and allied health sciences such as microbiology and immunology disciplines [Mahidol University, 2013].

Fact and Figures

Mahidol University now home to 17 faculties (responsible for both research and teaching): 2 Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Environmental and Resource Studies, Graduate Studies, Information and Communication Technology, Liberal Arts, Medical Technology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Public Health, Science, Social Sciences and Humanities, Tropical Medicine, and Veterinary Science - 7 institutes (mainly focusing on research) - 6 colleges (mainly focusing on teaching) - 9 centers plus several centers of excellence - 5 hospitals (two of which are the most prestigious hospitals) [Mahidol University, 2014].

20,312	Undergraduate student
9,151	Graduate student
3,975	Academic staff
29,690	Support staff (including hospital staff)

University Strategies

- Research excellent
- Transformative education
- Services excellent
- Social engagement
- Internationalization

Libraries

The University libraries home to 25 libraries linked by a library automated system across all campuses providing access to over one million books, theses, research reports and bound journals. More than one hundred thousands of e-Books, e-Journals, e-Theses plus more than 90 e-Databases are accessible anytime anywhere [Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center, 2015].

Collection

The total collection consists of about 583,874 volumes of books and monographs, 1,041 printed journals, 55,768 electronic journals, 791,238 electronic books and a numbers of non-printed materials.

Internal Collection Development Policy

In connection to the origin of the university, Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center (MULKC) has its foundation from the medical school library at Siriraj Hospital. The library had its origin in 1925 and served as the central library of the university located at Siriraj Medical Library Building, Bangkok Noi Campus while each faculties had their own libraries house special subject collections supported by their own faculties budgets. As a result, many duplicate acquisition on books and journals occurred in between libraries.

In order to organize all libraries for improving standardization of library operation and services as well as sharing library resources, in 1986, the University reorganized the library management into centralized budget and man power of all libraries under the Mahidol University Library and Information Center (MULIC) of which the Office of the Director and the Central library move to locate at the MULIC building at the Salaya Campus. The MULIC then comprised of 16 faculty

libraries located at Bangkok Noi, Phayathai and Salaya campuses and were central supported for resources and services through the application of the Innovative Integrated System for library automation in 1990 [Mahidol University Library and Information Center, 2008]. The advantages of centralized administration was able to reduce the duplicate subscription to almost 400 journal titles so the budget during that 2-3 years of MULIC had been 40% cut. Nevertheless, later due to the increase price of journals subscription, the inadequacy of budget became the major constraint of libraries budgeting. As a result, the new policy on library administration was implemented again.

In 2009, two decades after the Mahidol University Library and Information Center system established, four major faculty libraries were re-organized to be autonomous and fully supported by the faculties as well as new nine colleges and institutions established their own libraries. At the same time, MULIC was renamed MULKC (Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center). However, MULKC still be host of library technical services while the library automation integrated system and MUC-Net or Mahidol University Campus Network are still the main linkage of all these libraries to provide services and access all resources available and acquired by all libraries of MU.

Sharing Resources

Due to the separate geographical environment of MU campuses and some similar curriculums among faculties of the university, along with the library organization structure, a large amount of budget are required for the collection development in order to provide seamless library and information services for the research and education communities as well as hospital services.

Refer to our previous library management system when every library depends on the faculty budget, many special subject core collections had been built. These core collections become the assets of many renowned Faculties i.e. the 2 Faculties of Medicine, the Faculty of Science. Strategic partnerships with key libraries need to be developed to ensure long-term sustainability of critical resources and services for our users.

Cooperation and collaboration among MULKC and faculty librarians are the important methodology to cope with students and researchers demands. The close relationship between the University library, the Faculty and Departmental libraries to offer a comprehensive and coherent approach to pedagogical support services are another effort to maintain our service excellence.

Meeting among librarians periodically along with communication informally sometimes via social media are used to enhance our mutual beneficiary for our users. Since all libraries, regardless of faculty, share the same integrated library automation system so they can search the OPAC to find resources location and make transaction on reservation, reviewing and borrowing services for printed material across campuses which will be delivered via daily book delivery cross campuses. Apart from these physical services, electronic document delivery service (EDDS) is also provided among libraries especially in the strong collection libraries such as the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Science libraries.

By this strategy, we can continue to conserve and develop our world class collections of unique and highly specialized material, at the same time providing wider access, increasingly via digitization and networking.

By means of sharing resources policy, no matter what sources of fund to support e-Books, e-Journals and e-Databases subscription, every authorized users of every library are enable the accessibility to all electronics materials available by the libraries. Apart from the collection development and the infrastructure development, the promotion of usage is another team player activity. Specialists from various Faculties perform the training for all kind of library materials both formal schedule and individually.

University Network

At this 21st century, rapid advances in technology offer exciting opportunities and previously unimaginable ways of working. At the center is the user, with individual requiring customized

support and services i.e.Today's undergraduates have an expectation of "anything, anytime, anywhere" and mobile technologies are an essential part of systems that meet their expectations.

There is a growing trend towards electronic information provision, especially in our life sciences and allied health sciences users communities. The libraries have to be responsible for providing e-Books, e-Journals, e-Databases, multimedia, interactive learning programs, etc. to include procuring content from external sources or digitizing local content. It is known that life sciences and allied health sciences are the most libraries budget consumption. Seeking source of funds through collaboration with faculties is one of strategies to continue to deliver high-quality core services. Mahidol University Library and knowledge Center has set up a deduplication policy in line with the University sharing resources policy. By developing effective partnerships with librarians across the University and Colleges in order to seek the special fund from the Faculties to complement the scholarly needs. To implement the strategy, MULKC proposed the University to nominate "E-Journals and Databases Approval Committee" of which comprises representatives from the executives of major support faculties as well as their librarians. The University provost presides as Chairman and the University Library Director performs the Vice Chairman of this committee. The main purpose of the committee is to consider the appropriate electronic databases to share for research needs as well as the cost benefit factors before proposing to the University for budget allocation [Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center, 2011]. The yields of this process are that our collection enriched with essential world class databases for our researchers and students.

In addition, the cooperation with our partnership, MU Division of Information Technology, to provide facilitation on the accessibility to 90 e-Databases subscribed by MULKC and faculties support is another library mission.

Resources Sharing at National Level

In order to establish and develop partnerships with other universities and institutions in Thailand to deliver ways of sharing costs and resources for sustainable library collections and services for current and future users, MULKC also joins in the 3 projects of The Office of Higher Education Commission (**OHEC**) or formerly The Bureau of University Affairs. One of the objectives is to establish and develop partnerships among institutions of similar mission to deliver ways of sharing costs and resources to sustain and improve high-quality library collections and services.

Cooperative cataloging effort has been discussed and trial for a long time in Thailand. Sharing the catalogued materials now means more than deduplicate work efforts but also sharing the investment cost through shared collections from virtual access of libraries throughout the country. **OHEC** by the Information Technology for Education Promotion Division, has initiated a project to incorporate the university library catalogs - OPAC into a single, national bibliographic databases. All the public universities can search the resources, books and journals as well as audio-visual materials from a single search. Planning for the operational project involves the integration of the various types of computer technology, the universal intellectual property rights, and the methods of delivery service and suitable payment schemes as well as professional training. All activities are enable by the **UniNet** (University Network for Educational promotion) and **ThaiLIS** (Thai Libraries Integrated System) which were established in 1997 by merging Thai Library Network-Metropolitan (**Thailinet**) and Provincial University Library Network (**PULINET**).

Three projects of ThaiLIS are related to resources and services sharing:

> (1) Union Catalog + ILL (**UC**),
>
> (2) Institutional repositories in academic libraries : Digital Collection (**DC**),
>
> (3) Consortia : Reference Databases (**RD**) or e-Databases subscription.

1. Union Catalog (UC)

UC is a project under Thai Libraries Integrated System (ThaiLIS) which is a network among 24 public universities, 41 college universities and 9 clusters of technological universities to share library resources efficiently. The objective is to develop a central bibliographic database, reduce duplication of cataloguing and facilitate both users to locate library resources and librarians to provide ILL service. The bibliographic database is regarded as the national bibliographic database. Now UC has enriched with almost 5 million bibliographic records of books, journals and other materials and provide to university libraries by nation-wide resource sharing network. MU has provided almost 600,000 records to the database.

To further use of Union Catalog database, UC committee also initiates the integrated Inter Library Loan system which is under developing by applying ISO ILL standardization.

Service Sharing Protocol at present

1. Users can search for books and journals available in the ThaiLIS member libraries via web browser at URL http://uc.thailis.or.th or through Z39.50 and facilitate research activities connecting to bibliographic tools i.e. EndNote, BookWhere etc.

2. Users of ThaiLIS members can request to borrow the books via e-mail and the materials will be physically sent to the borrowers or via electronic document delivery services (EDDS).

Via UC database, MULKC has provided interlibrary loan services to other universities around 2,000 items per year and requested from other universities around 1,500 items per year.
[Union Catalog of Thai Academic Libraries, 2015]

2. Institutional Repositories: Digital Collection (DC)

Another initiative to share services among ThaiLIS members is to create Digital Collection (DC). The objective is to develop, store the full text of searchable local theses/dissertations and researches for providing to the members. Hardware and software were provided to library members. To register as members, they have to sign the agreement of the DC project i.e. members must provide full-text accessibility of their resources. All members update periodically their collection on the DC server and enjoy the search results of the entire databases. Now, more than 200,000 records of local theses/dissertations and articles from 97 universities are added [University Network for Educational promotion, 2015].

MULKC joins this project and provide around 10,500 full text of theses records.

3. Consortia: Reference Databases (RD) or e-Databases

ThaiLIS also arrange consortium subscription to databases aims to enable 78 universities access to the full text of 14 e-Journal databases. The project is to subscribe to electronic databases of high priority requested from ThaiLIS members. **RD** committee performs as coordinator for consortia as well as fully financially support by **OHEC**. MULKC is one of the major sharing to print subscription of some databases i.e. ScienceDirect which requires maintaining core print or e-only subscription. MULKC collection development supports almost 50 e-Databases which are valuable to provide ILL services to the scholar communities [University Network for Educational promotion, 2015].

Resources Sharing at Regional Level

MULKC was designated to be National Focal Point of WHO/SEARO: Health Literature, Library and Information Service (HELLIS) in Thailand. Providing EDDS is the main activities along with creating local health literature databases (IMSEAR). The objectives of HELLIS Network is to make better use of the existing resources in the countries, the information resources in other countries of

the region and in other regions. The network covers the countries of WHO Southeast Asia Region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. [IMSEAR, 2014]

AUNILO (ASEAN University Network Inter-Library Online)

ASEAN University Network (AUN) include 10 countries in ASEAN region: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Mahidol University has become a member of AUN since 2007, so the University Library has been added in to the network automatically. Resources sharing is one of the main purpose of the network for collaboration among member libraries. Regulation and standard of the sharing resources including in strategic planning of AUNILO and will be the issues to develop the operation further [ASEAN University Network, 2015].

Conclusion

Through developing effective partnerships with all stakeholders across the University and Colleges of Mahidol University, MULKC and alliances can acquire quality library materials in all formats to provide seamless library and information services for the researcher and student communities. As well as establishing and developing partnerships with both internal and external universities and institutions to deliver ways of sharing costs and resources to maintain and enhance high-quality library collections and services for our users. We will continue to have responsibility to conserve and develop our world class collections of unique and highly specialized material, at the same time providing wider access, increasingly via collaboration and networking. Hence, MU Library system would grew substantially with established and strong collections on health sciences and life sciences resources and become one of Thailand's major academic libraries.

References

QS. (2014). *QS Ranking*. Retrieved from http://www.topuniversities.com/universities/mahidol-university/undergrad

AUN (ASEAN University Network). (2015). *AUNILO Background*. Retrieved from http://aunilosec.org/

Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region (IMSEAR). (2014). *HELLIS*. Retrieved from http://imsear.li.mahidol.ac.th/

Mahidol University. (2014). *Faculty*. Retrieved Mar. 20, 2015, from http://www.mahidol.ac.th/en/faculties.htm

Mahidol University Library and Information Center. (2008). *History*. Retrieved Mar.10, 2015, from http://www.li.mahidol.ac.th/about/history.php

Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center. (2011). *Annual report*. Nakhon Pathom: Mahidol University.

---------. (2015). *Library Statistics*. Retrieved Mar.10, 2015, from http://www.li.mahidol.ac.th/about/statlib.php

Union Catalog of Thai Academic Libraries. (2015). *UCTAL Membership*. Retrieved from http://uc.thailis.or.th/main/Membership.aspx

University Network for Educational promotion. (2015). *Reference Database.* Retrieved from http://www.uni.net.th/UniNet/referenceDB/2558.php

--------. (2015)*. Thai Digital Collection.* Retrieved from http://www.uni.net.th/UniNet/tdc_info.php