

Library Management Solution for Penang Allianze University College of Medical Sciences



Photograph courtesy of AUCMS

The Allianz University College of Medical Sciences (AUCMS) is a well-established university college that specializes in Medicine and Allied Health Sciences. With first rate facilities and partnerships with top national and international medical universities and teaching hospitals AUCMS aspires to be the foremost meducationist in the nation.

Since its inception in 2002, AUCMS has expanded rapidly and now boasts three campuses including the main campus, the nursing school and the school of Physiotherapy. To ensure that students at AUCMS benefit not only from an outstanding teaching faculty but are also able to avail themselves of the best facilities for learning, AUCMS engaged SAINS to assist it in its quest to become the top medical centre in the Asia Pacific region.

To manage their libraries, AUCMS was looking for a library system that would allow them to accurately and easily keep track of their literature, while allowing students and faculty to quickly and easily search for and borrow library materials. They found their answer in the Angkasa Library Management Solution and RfD'Scan RFID solution.

The screenshot shows the admin interface of the library management system. At the top left is the Allianz University College of Medical Sciences logo. The main heading reads "Welcome, admin". On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following categories and items:

- Tagging Module**
 - Write Tag
 - Read Tag
- Inter-Lending Module**
 - Borrow
 - Return
 - Renew
 - Payment
- RFID System Administration**
- Report Module**
 - Tagging Volume Report
 - Transaction Report
 - Transaction Volume Report
 - Payment Detailed Report
- System Administration Module**

The main content area displays the following modules and their sub-items:

- Tagging Module**
 - Write Tag
 - Read Tag
- Inter-Lending Module**
 - Borrow
 - Return
 - Renew
 - Payment
- Report Module**
 - Tagging Volume Report
 - Transaction Report
 - Transaction Volume Report
 - Payment Detailed Report
- System Administration Module**
 - Manage Access Rights
 - Manage User
 - Manage SIP2 Connection
 - Manage RFID Station

Integrated Library Management Solution

In AUCMS, the SAINS project implementation team has integrated the Angkasa Library Management solution with the RfD'Scan RFID solution and the student management system to create one holistic library management solution. Angkasa enables the sharing of the resources of multiple libraries by acting as a central resource centre. It allows the members of the connected libraries to access library resources from home and perform transactions online. Its modular architecture makes it highly configurable and allows libraries to choose and add modules to their library systems as needed.

SAINS' development of the u-Library Solution, which won the MSC Malaysia Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Award 2011, in the category of Best of e-Inclusion and e-Community, is a web-based library management solution that was developed based on the union catalog and Angkasa resource sharing concept.



u-Library Solution

Winner of MSC Malaysia Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Award 2011

Best of e-Inclusion and e-Community Category

The u-Library Solution outran 246 other "Made-in-Malaysia" ICT Solutions to take the award. u-Library won for being the most innovative in developing ICT solutions that support communities and bridge the digital divide.

Implementation for AUCMS

The library solution was implemented for all three of AUCMS' libraries. There are situated at the Waziria Medical Square, the School of Nursing at Sri Serdang and the School of Physiotherapy at Putra Villa in Penang.

The implementation included 4 core modules of the Angkasa solution which consist of the Cataloging module, Online Public Access Catalogue module, Member Management module, Circulation module and an additional custom module to integrate the library solution with AUCMS' student management system.

RfD'Scan utilizes RFID, an automatic identification technology, which allows libraries to efficiently keep track of their books.

The RFID facilities include RFID tags and RFID tagging stations for library inventory management. RFID counter stations are located at all 3 libraries for students to check-out or renew library materials. The counter stations also allow librarians to check-in library materials returned by the students. In addition, students may also pay fines and other library charges (printing and photocopy services) either by cash or cashless payment at the counter stations.

Benefits

The holistic, web-based library solution allows AUCMS librarians to carry out all facets of library management from cataloging to member management. Librarians can also manage all aspects of library material circulation including check-ins, reservations cancelations, bulk loans and red spot materials through the system. The bibliography records are also automatically migrated into the system. The solution also has a fast cat feature, which allows library materials to be quickly catalogued.

Librarians can also manage all the business pertaining to the library members including fines, reminder letters, and membership status. A special module written specifically for AUCMS integrates the library solution with the student management system and allows student information to be imported from the student management system, thus eliminating double data entry and reducing errors for student registration and information updates.

One of the strengths of the solution is the union catalog which allows librarians and students from the three separate libraries to access the collections in the other libraries. This feature facilitates inter-library lending and returns. Combined with the RFID tags and counter stations, this solution offers tremendous convenience to the patrons and maximizes usage of library materials.

The solution also provides members with a profile page which allows them to view their membership information and transaction history. Through the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), members may search for and browse library materials. As the solution is fully integrated and web based, the availability of materials is immediately updated to the system. In addition, members can perform online reservations and online transaction renewals.

The RFID system greatly speeds up the task of processing library materials. Unlike traditional barcode or magnetic stripe technology, RFID can read the information from multiple tags at once. In addition, line of sight is not needed. This will potentially allow librarians to greatly speed up the inventory taking process if AUCMS opts for further implementation of the library solution as librarians will be able to scan whole shelves at once without the need to go one book at a time or take the books off the shelves. The solution also has the potential to allow librarians to quickly locate library materials and discover if they have been mis-shelved.

More information on the library solution can be found at:
<http://www.sains.com.my/library>

BORROW


Member No : ACMS399

Member : MOHD FAIZAL BIN ABD RAZAK

Faculty :

Department : IT DEPARTMENT

Item ID :



Checkout
Print Receipt
Reset

Book checkout successfully.

Book(s) Borrowed			
Item Identifier	Title	Owner	Due Date
00056	3000 Solved Problems In Organic Chemistry / Meislich,E., Meislich,H. & Sharefkin,J. NEW	WMS	17-05-2012

Screen of Book borrowing status

Core Modules of Angkasa Library Management Solution

Modules	Special Features
Acquisition	<p>Manages purchasing, budget & fund allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customised Purchase Orders (PO) • Automatic migration of bibliography records to Catalogue • Replicates PO content to minimise data entry • Allows Purchase Requests by members or other librarians • Manages receipt of Gift & Exchange
Cataloging	<p>Union Catalogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilingual capability support (Chinese & Arabic) • Uses MARC21 standard with improved searching capability • Imports bibliographic records to speed up cataloging
OPAC	<p>Enhanced searching capability using combination of key words, titles, authors or publishers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports multilingual search • Browsing of records by subject headings and authors • Display of records in MARC21 format • Immediate update of availability of materials • On-line reservation of library materials that are on loan
Members management	<p>Handles member registration, member billings, member profile management and member blocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitors membership status and generates reminder letters and emails. Status is also viewable online • Provides Personal Pages for member profiles with photo • Allows sharing of membership info among participating libraries
Circulation	<p>Manages check-in, check-out and renewals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of reservations, cancellations and changing of reserve queues • Bulk loan management to enable bulk loans to other libraries • "Fast Cat" feature for materials that need to be checked-out but have not been catalogued • Management of "red spot" materials • Policies for better circulation control e.g. unlimited loan period, renewal limits, staff-only items, etc • Circulation reminders using emails and letters • Override feature for special cases such as due dates and bypassing member blocks • Online renewal by members
Serials management	<p>Manages subscriptions and tracks receipt of journals and magazines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages binding processes, including keeping profile of binders • Allows cataloging of serials using "Fast Cat" • New serials search method to present more organised and informative results • Manages late arrival of issues through Claims Management
RFID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFID Tagging Station for tagging library materials • RFID Counter Stations or Self service Kiosk for faster borrowing, returns and renewals • RFID Cards for cashless payment of fines and other library charges • RFID (Gantry) Security Detection System at Doorway • RFID Bookdrop for after-hours or book returns at remote site