

Case Study on Computerization of Multi-location Library for a leading IT company.



This company is one of the largest IT companies in India and employs more than 2000 resources and has offices at Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune and Chennai.

There are six libraries in these locations catering to various user related services.

Situation before LiBSUITE - An attempt was made with a software solution to computerize the library. But due to very demanding needs and client server architecture very soon either the usage of package was restricted to some very minor functionalities and most of the work was carried out with Excel worksheets and similar tools.

Before choosing Libsuite they evaluated various packages available in the market with following selection criteria (partial).

Selection criteria (partial) -

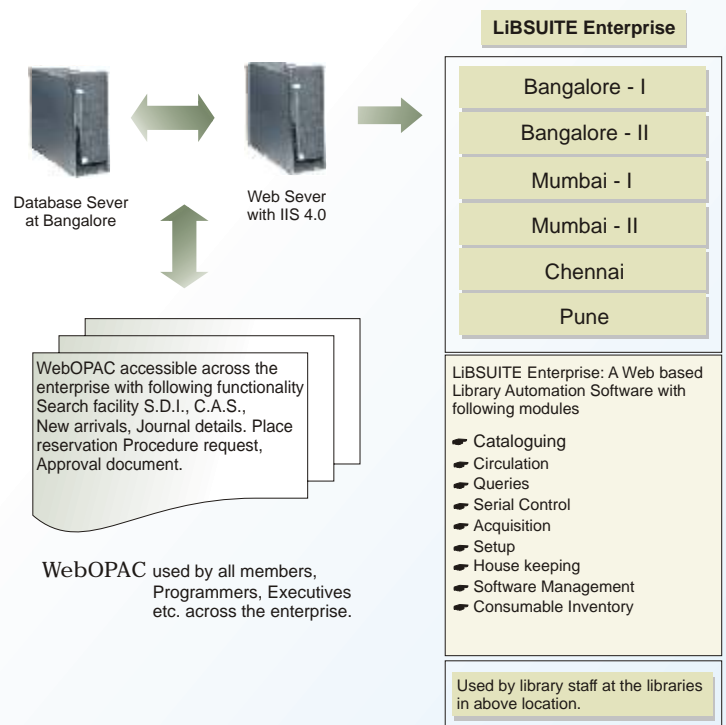
- The package should be technically very advance and preferably web enabled.
- It should use a standard RDBMS available like Oracle or SQL Server and should not use a proprietary database and hence reduce the dependence on the vendor.
- It should be able to handle multiple locations seamlessly and hence users are not restricted to access the information in their local libraries.
- It should integrate with Exchange Server based enterprise email network and use the same for various transactions.
- It should be able to handle the software licenses data and also the consumable blank media like CDs , Tapes etc.

Data Conversion Issues -

Lot of data especially for software was available in Excel worksheets. Lot of normalization was required so that at an organization level the software names are referred uniformly.

Architecture of LiBSUITE :

Architecture of LiBSUITE





Training issues -

Geographically the locations of the Library were at four different cities and due to logistics problem a centralized training was not possible. Hence the training plan had to worked out in a systematic manner so that uniformity was maintained.

After rounds of discussions and negotiations finally LiBSUITE was selected as a product and was successfully implemented with following architecture.

Functions of an Administrator :

Administrator controls the entire software and can login from anywhere through intranet for setting up the Libraries. He/She would setup various locations of libraries, media, users and members. Also, he can assign access rights to various user, setup circulation policies etc.

Software and Consumables maintenance :

Apart from usual Cataloguing, Management of the Software Products can be handled efficiently. License management can be done even at a PID (Project) or Department level. Media received with the Softwares like Manuals, CDs, floppies etc can be maintained effectively. Retention dates for different media can be assigned automatically. Expired Media can be traced and replaced easily. Software Audit Reports along with Freeware, Evaluation Software Lists can be generated through LiBSUITE. Transfer of member from one location to the other can be made possible. Inventory for blank media can be maintained effectively. Bulk Issues of blank media is also facilitated.

Web OPAC Users:-

A union catalogue is maintained which enables the user to search for required document across location. The user is able to reserve and renew documents from their desktop and also request for Inter Library document transfer. Software License Availability can be checked at other locations. New Arrivals, Current Awareness Services, Profile Information, Latest Issues can also be viewed through WebOPAC.

Platform and Technology:

Back-end: Oracle 8i
Web Server: IIS 4.0
Application Platform: ASP 3.0

Project Team and Time Required.

The total team size for implementing the team was four. Due to the web-centric nature of the software no matter where you are physically located the information could be accessed.



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