

**INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEMS – DISCOVERY INTERFACE (ILS-DI):
A STANDARD FRAMEWORK FOR REAL TIME CONNECTIVITY WITH
INFORMATION DISCOVERY APPLICATIONS**

M.Jayakanathan

Library, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

E Mail: jeyakanathanm@esn.ac.lk

The primary purpose of a library service is to meet the information needs of library users, facilitation of their research, and making them more educated and empowered. As a discovery tool, a union catalog allows end-users to discover items suitable for a given subject and to find out the availability and location. In a way, it ensures rapid retrieval of source materials. They also provide multiple source search interfaces. To date, most of the national and international union catalogs are only able to perform the functions of a traditional catalog and lacks a number of other useful features such as the indication of real-time availability status, reservations, renewal, request for articles, and the use of ILS authentication credentials. They are also not provided with expanded search features such as full-text search, faceted navigation, and resource grouping. The purpose of this study is to provide a solution for this problem through the standard protocol- Integrated Library System–Discovery Interface (ILS–DI) by using Koha ILS at the backend and VuFind discovery system at the front end. The developed framework is based on three-layer architecture with Koha ILS as the data provider, Open Archives Metadata Harvesting Protocol (OAI-PMH) as the data collection protocol and VuFind as the discovery layer. A Koha ILS-DI protocol designed particular for multi-backend driver to interlink Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and ILS functionalities with VuFind discovery layer. The study suggests that the framework can act as an information discovery prototype to help entire library community to access the information quickly and comprehensively. Based on the outcome of this study, implementation of ILS-DI based discovery applications in universities and academic libraries could be strongly recommended. It will also increase the realization of the parent organizations' expectations, attract more users and enable libraries to offer better quality services.

Keywords: Koha; VuFind; ILS-DI; OAI-PMH; Union catalogue; Integrated library systems.