Ball State University Libraries’ computer and networking systems provide global access to digital collections and information resources. They allow students and faculty to find and retrieve scholarly content through the Internet. Today’s students, faculty, scholars, and citizens find themselves living in a technology rich environment with easy access to more valuable information than all of mankind in previous history.

Ball State University’s data network backbone offers 10 gigabit paths and 100 MB full-duplex connections to desktop workstations. The campus Ethernet is a switched, high-speed, reliable infrastructure that supports teaching, learning, and research.

Ball State’s Internet connection offers 245 megabits bandwidth, with the added ability to expand, when necessary.

The University Libraries offer top-speed wireless connectivity throughout. This means that students and faculty can use their laptops and mobile small-screen hand-held devices anywhere in the University Libraries for research and learning.

The systems identified below support academic achievement in the Ball State University Libraries.

Sirsidynix Unicorn Integrated Library System (v. GL3.0)
This information system provides the foundation for library operations, material management, and collection access. The University Libraries implemented Unicorn in 1998, replacing the NOTIS Library Management System.

CardCat, which means CardinalCatalog, is SirsiDynix’s most visible module for students and faculty. It provides powerful search and discovery tools for learning about and/or locating informational resources in the University Libraries’ deep and diverse collections. The SirsiDynix ILink Research Portal and the cost-effective subscription to enriched content provides added value for CardCat users, such as author biographies, book jacket images, book summaries and reviews, reading lists, and tables of contents. During the fiscal year 2005-2006 ending this past June, over one million searches were performed in CardCat.

Other Unicorn system modules include:
- Acquisitions Module
- Cataloging Module
- Circulation Module
- Classic WorkFlows Client
- Course Reserve Module
- Java WorkFlows Client
- Materials Booking Module
- Public Access Catalog Module
- Reporting Module
- Serials Module
- Z39.50 Module

TEST SirsiDynix Unicorn Integrated Library System (v. GL3.0)
The Unicorn test system provides a development platform that mirrors the Unicorn production system. This allows library developers and librarians to evaluate new releases of Unicorn and test local configuration changes without disrupting current operations and services.

OCLC’s ILLiad Interlibrary Loan System (v. 7.0)
The ILLiad interlibrary loan management system automates routines for students and faculty so that they can manage their interlibrary loan requests for books, articles, and other materials from other libraries in Indiana, across the United States, or around the world. PDFs of journal articles are delivered to the user’s desktop, often reducing by several days the delivery time compared with traditional interlibrary loan processes.

ILLiad was implemented in the University Libraries in 2003, and it was upgraded to an on-site server from a hosted solution in 2006.

CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management System (v. 4.1)
CONTENTdm is a digital collection management solution for organizing and accessing the University Libraries’ digital assets, documents, and media resources. It serves to bring together the University Libraries’ digital collections and activities into a single, cohesive, and accessible Web-based environment.

CONTENTdm is the foundation of the University Libraries’ Digital Media Repository (DMR), a project of the University Libraries. The DMR is a centralized, coordinated, and user-focused resource to serve the teaching, learning, and research needs of students, faculty, and other researchers at Ball State and beyond. CONTENTdm was implemented in 2004.

Ex Libris SFX (v. 3)
The SFX® link server, implemented as Find It @ BSU, delivers powerful linking services from citation and abstract records to multiple sources of scholarly full-text content for many licensed electronic information resources.

SFX, based on the OpenURL standard, is the key element that opens and provides access to the University Libraries’ e-journal article and e-book content. Link resolver technology was implemented in 2005.

Key features of Find It @ BSU include:
- Powerful links among major online academic resources
- Access to other helpful resources during the research process, including online interlibrary loan forms
- Citation Linker to locate available full-text using citation information http://sfx4.exlibrisgroup.com:3210/bsu/cgi/core/citation-lincker.cgi
K2 Key Auditor/Key Server (v. 6.0)
K2 is an integrated software asset management suite by Sassafras Software, Inc. for automated information technology asset auditing and software license management.

The University Libraries use this technology to provide students and faculty at any one of the 345 PCs or iMACs in the University Libraries access to the common software that is used on campus. The network software is transparent to users. It is user-friendly and provides useful reports about computer use. In addition to other advantages, it reduces the total cost of software ownership by allowing the University Libraries to buy only the number of licenses needed for the clientele base. The KeyServer was implemented in 2005.

VendPrint Print Management System (v. 3.0)
VendPrint is software used to manage public printing in the University Libraries. Because printing is managed with station and user IDs, data is available about printing activity. During fiscal year 2005-2006, for example, over 5,230,100 exposures were made by students and faculty. Data collected showed the number of pages from Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc. Waste from unclaimed jobs is reduced since the person must “trigger” printing at the computer release station. VendPrint was implemented in 2003.

Major Online Information Resources
- American Mathematical Society databases
- Association of Computing Machinery databases
- Chemical Abstracts Society databases
- Cambridge Scientific Abstracts databases
- EBSCOhost databases
- EBSCO Electronic Journal Service
- Gale Group Databases
- JSTOR collections databases
- Lexis-Nexis databases
- Newsbank databases
- OCLC FirstSearch databases
- Project Muse
- ProQuest databases
- Web of Science
- WilsonWeb database

Library Database List Updater
This web-based application manages user access to, and provides updates for, licensed electronic information resources available from the University Libraries. Information from this program is used to dynamically build the Database List on the University Libraries’ website. View, www.bsu.edu/libraries/electronicresources/databases.asp.

The Database List web pages are the primary access point both on and off-campus to licensed electronic resources available from the University Libraries.

Student Achievement Database
This web application contains metadata related to Ball State University student’s scholarly work and is available in electronic format. The content is from these programs:
- College of Architecture and Planning’s Undergraduate Theses
- Doctoral Dissertations and Master’s Thesis Collection
- Honors College Senior Honor’s Thesis Collections

Metadata is included for Author, Title, Creation Date, Academic Discipline, and Academic Advisor. Some of the records in this system include links to a PDF version of the document.

e-Journal Database
This web-based application contains information about the University Libraries’ e-journal subscriptions and options for accessing individual journal titles. It is used to dynamically produce the Libraries’ A to Z journal list, and it is listed on the University Libraries website: www.bsu.edu/libraries/ejournals/az_list.asp

Online Storage Solutions for the University Libraries
The University Libraries’ local computer storage requirements continue to increase. One contributing factor is the phenomenal growth from campus-wide acceptance of the Libraries’ Digital Media Repository Project (DMR).

With over 40,000 objects in over 20 digital collections, and with scanning activity continuing at a record pace, high availability storage for DMR access objects and persistent, reliable storage for archival objects are critical.

Growth projections suggest that the University Libraries must plan to have up to 7 terabytes of digital collection material online within the next three years. The challenge for DMR administrators is to find the best storage solution for many large, low use files that must be available on demand to digital librarians and developers.

Ball State University Libraries
A destination for research, learning, and friends
Muncie, IN 47306

www.bsu.edu/library (webpage)
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