

NCL Electronic Database Catalog System

The NCL Electronic Database Catalog System was established to provide an efficient and easy way for public libraries and users in Taiwan to locate resources in the various electronic databases available at the NCL. The system adopts a web-based architecture using Microsoft Internet Information Server, MS SQL server 7.0, and Active Server Pages, as well as a system execution plan using SQL server storage procedures and T-SQL. All database statistics are automatically updated daily.

The system currently provides information on 122 individual databases established using mirror, cache and Archie methods on WinNT/2000, Linux and Unix platforms. These frameworks enable users to search for information by database title, category, topic or type through a simple web-based interface. The system can also return statistics on the number of times that each database is used.

With regards to system management, the database is maintained according to database category, topic, type and parent file, and includes such functions as addition, revision and deletion of information. The browsing history of each user is also recorded to prevent both the downloading of unduly large amounts of information and unauthorized access. The number of visitors to various sites is also recorded to help the library plan its database budget for the upcoming year and identify popular sites.

One of the current drawbacks to the current system is that while it allows users to locate resources, it does not provide direct access to the information itself. Users still need to log onto the individual databases to get to the source material, which can be problematic since each database differs in design, interface, access method, data arrangement and other aspects. Consequently, one of

the most pressing tasks in this regard is to develop a common interface for accessing each database.

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