

**SMART BOOK LOCATOR SYSTEM BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
SYSTEM AT PERPUSTAKAAN TUN ABDUL RAZAK 1, UiTM SHAH ALAM  
MALAYSIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Implementation of virtual library on Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak 1 (PTAR 1), which used to be packed with students most of the time has led to less frequent visitors to the physical library. Although the online database, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), eases the burden of users to inquire the availability and location of desired references, library users still have to go to the library and search through the endless cabinets to locate and retrieve the materials. This study proposes a system called Smart Book Locator System (SBLS), which incorporates Geographic Information System (GIS) to assist users in visualising and navigating them to the location of the materials.

**Keywords:** OPAC; GIS; SLBS; virtual library.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Virtual Library and OPAC

A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing [1]. Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak 1 (PTAR 1) is a library, which is located at level 4 and 5 of faculty of engineering at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Malaysia, offering variety of facilities to its users. Prior to implementation of virtual library at UiTM, PTAR 1 used to be packed with students and visitors most of the time, particularly during study week and examination period. The success of virtual library on PTAR 1 has led to less users visiting the library.

According to [2], open source system presents new opportunity for libraries to engage in the technology that they offer and to deliver functionally rich solutions. This new generation of open source system provide layers of open services to support an increasingly digital, mobile, client community of the libraries.

One of the features of virtual library at UiTM is the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), which is an online database system, developed to provide standalone catalogue of books and other reference materials within its network for public access. Its ultimate goal is to deliver comfort and confidence to all level of users when navigating through the system for information [3]. In education sector, amongst the first few large-scale online catalogues developed were for Ohio State University in 1975 and Dallas Public Library in 1978. The OPAC system developed for UiTM's network of libraries has interface as illustrated in Fig. 1. The catalogue is designed in a way such that each query in the database would return the basic reference information of desired material, namely author, published year, availability and call number. Call number is the reference number used to indicate storage of the material at the library.

Eventually, users will have to visit the library and wander through the cabinets to retrieve the desired material based on call number displayed in OPAC system. For experience visitors, who are already familiar with the layout of the library, the search for materials would be relatively easy, compared to new visitors. Novice users would take longer time to find the materials and to some, the experience may hinder them from using OPAC in the future.



**Fig.1.**Interface of Unit Web OPAC system for UiTM

This limitation of OPAC system encourages opportunities for further enhancement of the system particularly in the area of facilitating users to find the exact location of the material [4]. In other areas, in [5-6] proposed to unfold the potential achievable by using artificial neural networks, in profiling the user, in terms of competences and preferences, development of educational pathways desired and professional skills to achieve. Similar approach can be applied in the area of expediting time consumption to retrieve material in the library.

## **1.2. Geographical Information System**

Geographical Information System (GIS) is a framework intended to catch, store, control, break down, oversee and present a wide range of spatial or land information. It has been widely used as management tool in many fields. Applying GIS in the current virtual library system would allow digitally mapping the library [7], and therefore further utilised as inventory management and navigation tools. Mapping of participating libraries throughout the state of that served as virtual “entry portals”, as their network to gather the information regarding the details of inventory [8-9].

This paper proposes to develop an online portal, which integrates OPAC and GIS, enabling visualisation of the library and providing navigation path to the location of materials in addition of material search query. The proposed portal is called Smart Book Locator System (SBLS) and its main objective is to assist library users locating reading materials with less time consumption hence improving library management system.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Material**

For this study, software Adobe Dreamweaver, ArcGIS 10.1, ArcGIS Server and ArcGIS

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Viewer for Flex are used to design, visualise the architecture of the library and ultimately create the proposed SBSL. PTAR 1 is the chosen as target library amongst UiTM's network of libraries.

## **2.2.Method**

The study involves seven stages as outlined in flowchart shown in Fig. 2. The first two stages are preliminary study and data collection. Data with regard to the architecture and arrangement of target library, in this case PTAR 1 is collected. Information of reference materials available at PTAR 1 as in OPAC is also retrieved during this stage. Fig. 3 and 4 present the floor plan of PTAR 1 library on level 4 and 5 respectively.

The third stage is digitization, which is a process of converting raster data into vector form. The floor plan of PTAR 1 is digitized using ARCGIS software. In this stage, spatial data is extracted and converted into shape files. Accurate digitization is essential to represent the shape and architecture of the building. In this process, 'cut polygons' and 'auto complete polygon' tools are used to minimize and prevent errors such as overlap and gap between borders. The 'cut polygons' tool allows shape, in this study circle shape, cutting from one or more selected polygons.

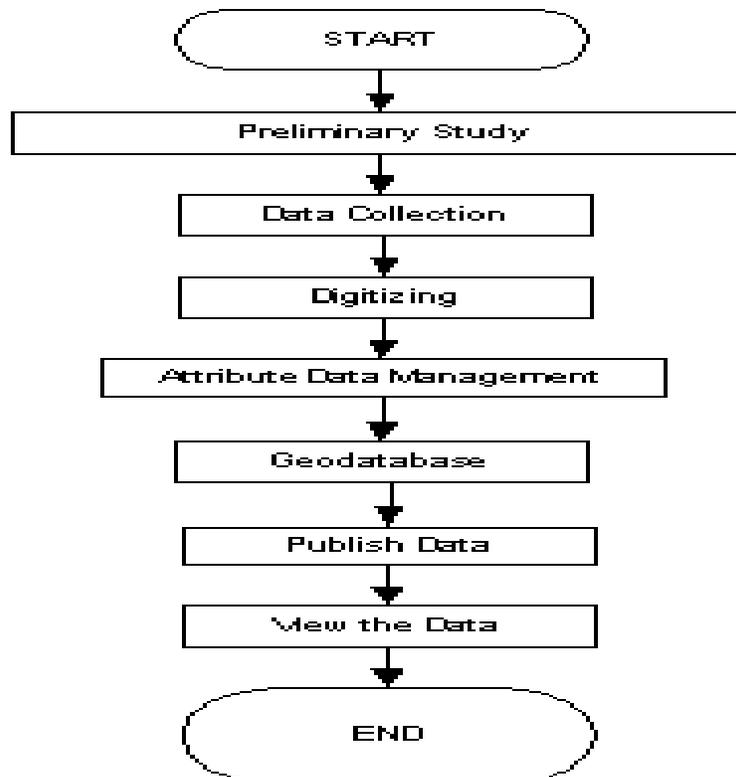


Fig.2. Outline methodology flowchart

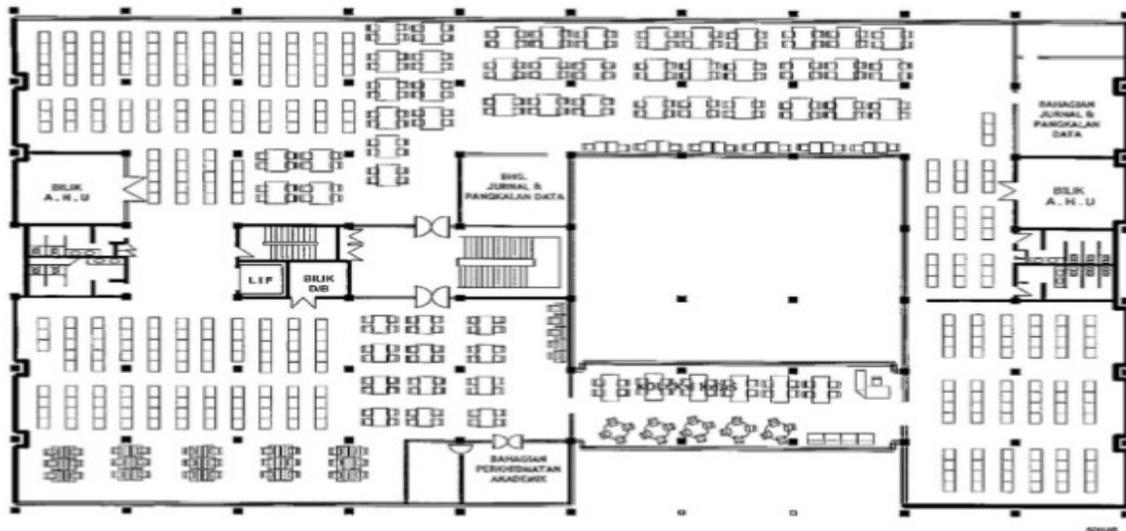
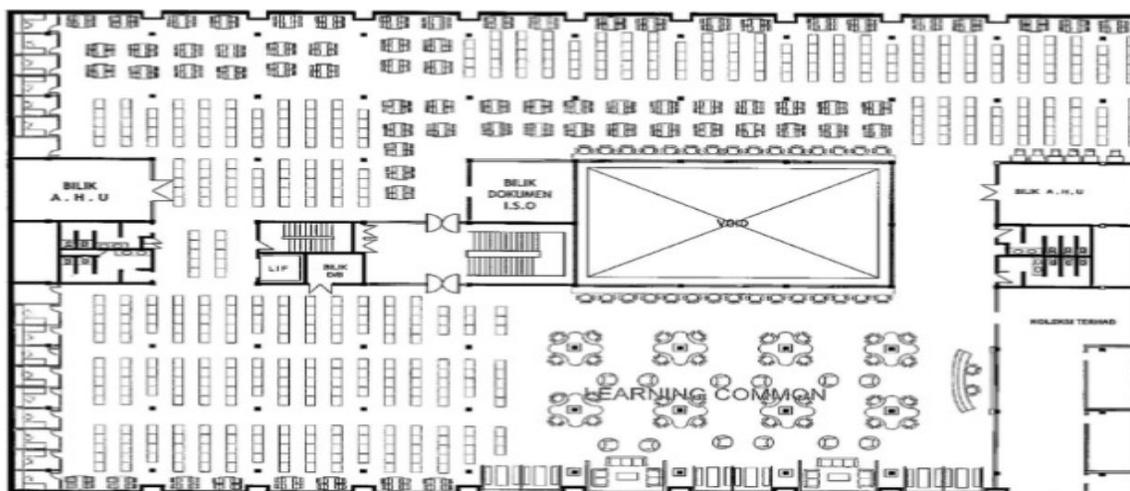


Fig.3. Floor plan-scanned copy of Level 4 PTAR 1



**Fig.4.**Floor plan-scanned copy of Level 5 PTAR 1

Attribute data management is a process to insert information of materials. In this stage, the information of reference materials available in PTAR 1 retrieved in stage 2 is compiled and arranged in a database. Each reference material is then linked to respective cabinets based on its call number. Navigation route is then created to start from a PC, which is designated for OPAC usage at PTAR 1 to each reference materials. The shortest path to retrieve a material from the PC is automatically determined by the software. Upon completion, this process will form a geodatabase.

When the integration process is complete, the integrated database is published into a local server, ArcGIS Server. Prior to that, minor amendments are performed in the attribute table since some of the information retrieved such as cover book is not complete for every reference material. In addition to that, some of the symbols are not readable by ArcGIS.

ArcGIS Viewer for Flex is then used to view the published data. In this stage, SBSL system is created whereby the interface of the system is designed to include search function.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This section discusses the results obtained from the study. Fig. 5 and 6 show the complete digitized floor plan of PTAR 1 on level 4 and 5 respectively.

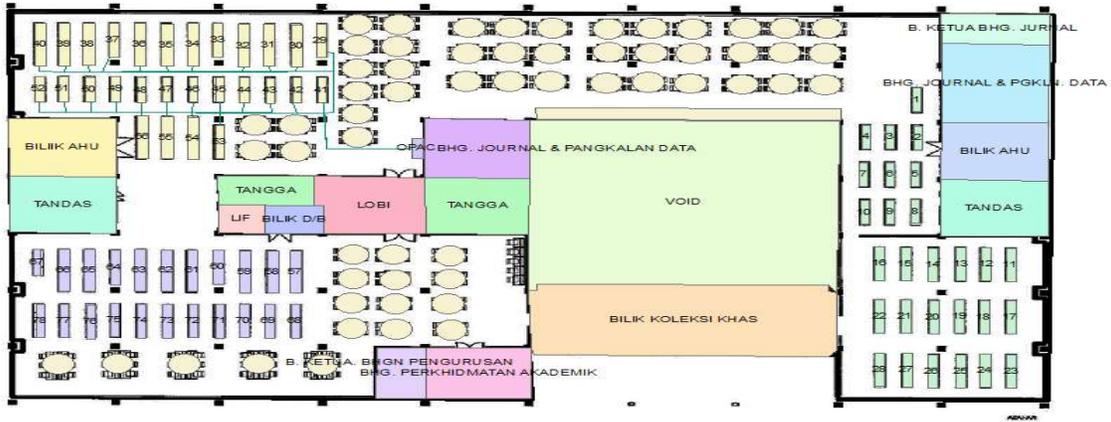


Fig.5. Result of digitizing the floor plan of PTAR 1 at level 4

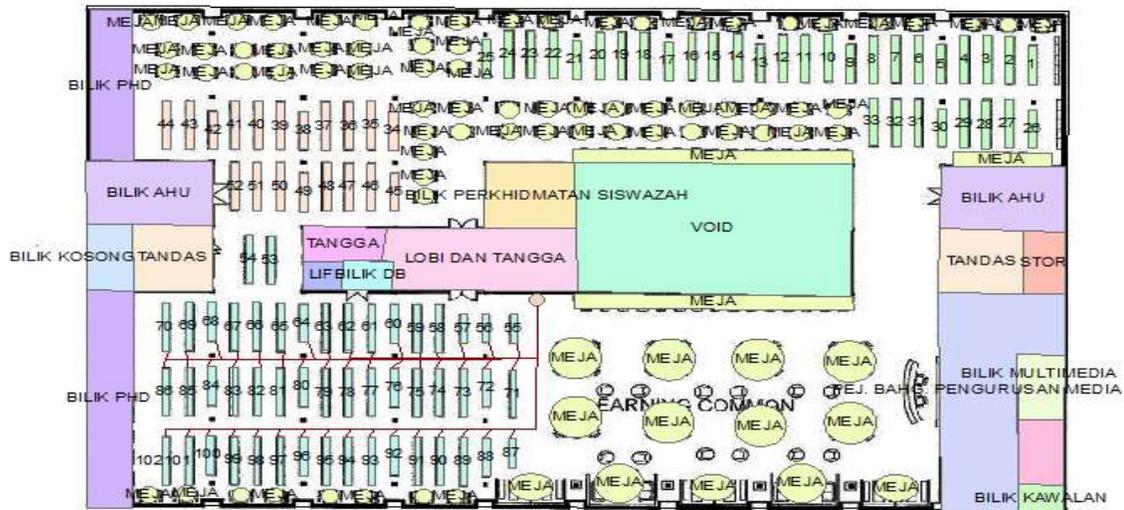


Fig.6. Result of digitizing the floor plan of PTAR 1 at level 5

A screen shot of attribution table developed in ArcGIS 10.1 is illustrated in Fig. 7. The table contains information of reference materials available at PTAR 1 such as title of book, name of author, book availability, category and many more.

OBJECTID *	rack_no *	title	catagorie	author	zone
1	1	soal jawab undang-undang syarikat	sains sosial	ahmad awang	B1
2	6	beyond the bottom line	sains sosial	jack berlin	B1
3	9	Excel 2007	sains sosial	albert tan	B1
8	2	Engineering Electromagnetic	sains sosial	William H. Hayt	B1
9	3	Information To HUMAN Nutriet	sains sosial	Michel J.Gibney	B1
10	4	Dictionary Of Pesticides	sains sosial	Pratek Mittal	B1
11	4	General Ecology	sains sosial	David T. Krohne	B1
12	4	Concept of Genetic	sains sosial	William S. Klug	B1
13	5	Physical Chemistry	sains sosial	Robert G.Mortimer	B1
14	6	Cracking Creativity	sains sosial	Michel Michako	B1
15	4	Motivation and Leadership at Work	sains sosial	Richard M.Steer_Layman	B1
16	4	Fundamental Of selling	sains sosial	Charles M. Futrel	B1
17	6	International Marketing	sains sosial	Philip R.Cateora	B1
18	4	Auditing An Assertion Approach	sains sosial	Donald H.Taylor	B1
19	3	Business Marketing	sains sosial	Edward G.Briety	B1
20	5	Accounting Principle	sains sosial	Weygandi	B1
21	4	Management Control System	sains sosial	Robert N. Anthony	B1
22	3	Excellence in Business Communication s	sains sosial	Jhon Y Thil	B1
4	19	construction and development	sains dan teknologi	Bernard H.Wang	B2
5	22	Gps satellite and surveying	sains dan teknologi	Alfred Lieck	B2
6	26	Design GUI Application	sains dan teknologi	Alex Leanen	B2
7	27	XML Beginners	sains dan teknologi	Mc Grow Hill	B2

Fig.7. Attribution table created in ArcGIS

An example of navigation path to a reference material from a designated OPAC PC created by the software following the linkage is shown in Fig. 8.



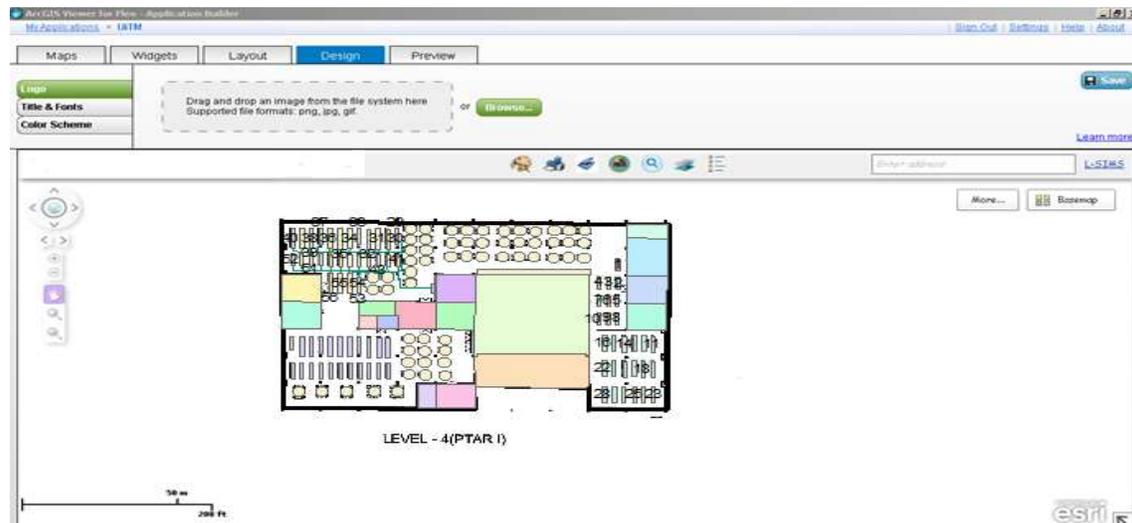
Fig.8. Accurate route from OPAC PC to desired reference material

The developed geodatabase named Library Management appears on ArcGIS Server upon successful publishment as indicated in Fig. 9.



**Fig.9.** Data Library Management on ArcGIS Server

The published database is viewed using ArcGIS Viewer for Flex and the interface is designed to include search function.



**Fig.10.** Interface published onto the server

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the proposed SBLS has been successfully designed and developed for PTAR 1. SBLS is not only useful to visitors of the library; it is also a convenient tool for librarian. The 2-D map visualisation of desired reference material's location through SBLS eases the process of retrieving, hence minimizing the possibility of not finding it. In the future, the system can be further proposed to be applied at all UiTM's network of libraries.

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