

ABC District Library Web Site

General Features:

The current ABC District Library website was developed in the late 1990s for the purpose of providing the staff and general public access to information about the library, as well as all electronic reference tools, including the computer catalog. It also has the capability to search locally-developed databases and serves as a forum to display bibliographies, departmental information and library-related news. In short, it is the informational gateway to most of the Library's services and collections.

The complete web site, created primarily with Microsoft FrontPage, consists of roughly 32,800 files, including 26,000 graphic images, with the remainder being made up of configuration, executable, HTML, ColdFusion, etc. files.

The general structure is based on a departmental outline, although there are exceptions. These departments or sub-departments are as follows:

1. Administration (21 html files)
2. Audiovisual Services (5 html files)
3. Fiction Services (8 html files)
4. Local History (35 html files)
5. Periodicals (33 html files)
6. Reference Services (26 html files)
7. Youth Services (6 html files)

General categories have been developed which may also incorporate information regarding the above-listed departments. These include the following:

1. Community Links (1 html file)
2. Indexes and Databases (18 html files)
3. Library Information (10 html files)
4. Materials and Services (7 html files)
5. Online Catalogs (1 html file)

It should be noted that many of these categories contain links to internal pages and external sites. The exact number has not been determined, but a reasonable estimate would be several thousand.

A site index is available, as is the facility to conduct keyword searches on the site content.

Patrons have the ability to remotely contact the Library Director or a reference librarian via email. This is accomplished through use of the "Ask the

Director” and the “Ask a Librarian” features. Patrons fill in specifically-requested information, along with their questions or comments. The appropriate staff provides the necessary responses.

In-House Databases:

The Library has made the effort to create searchable collections of local information for use by researchers. A secondary goal was also to provide a simple, straight-forward means conducting a query on the data using a front-end appropriate for the information contained in a given database. To this end, ColdFusion, v. 4.5 has been utilized to search the data and display the results in a logical and printable format. The means of searching is determined by the content of the database table... sometimes lists from which to choose; other times keywords may be input.

A single database of 300,000+ items, incorporating 20 tables, has been created using Microsoft Access. Subject matter includes literary criticism, automotive repair manuals, newspaper indexes, obituaries, music, government publications, genealogy, photographs, web sites, music, and locally-published brochures.

Subscription Databases:

The Library subscribes to approximately 20 proprietary research databases which are available via our web site. All logins and passwords are loaded automatically through the vendors' use of our ip address range. With only a few exceptions, patrons must be onsite to use the products. Examples include titles such as Alldata Automotive Repair, Ancestry, EhscoHost Periodical Index, Chicago Tribune, FirstSearch, etc.

Hardware:

The web server is a Dell PE 2650/Intel XEO with a 2.8 ghrz processor and 1 gigabyte of ram. Software includes Windows 2000 with Service Pack 4, Internet Information Services v. 5.0, and ColdFusion v. 4.5.