

Use And Implementation Of Automation In Selected College Libraries Of Karnataka

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Abstract - The purpose of this paper is to find out the level of use and implementation of Information Communication Technology in College Libraries. The study is based on some of the selected College of Karnataka that has used DELPLUS, Easylib, EERPMS, e-Granthalaya, ICMS, Libsoft, Libsys, NTLIB, SOUL, TCS for Library automation. The study also shows how the user is connected through ICT. This Paper discusses changing dynamics of user community approach to information seeking, and their dynamic behavior to information needs and search, which invariably point towards emerging technologies like social media tools and other open source software to make library services responsive. This paper also shows that college library are providing Web-OPAC or Mobile OPAC for data sharing and whether they have used union catalogue system for data entry or not and that what kinds of problems librarian faces while utilizing the Library management software i.e. Koha & SOUL.

Key Words: ICT, Open Source Software, Commercial Software, Koha, SOUL.

1. INTRODUCTION

Library is a fast growing organism. The ancient methods of maintaining it are no longer dynamic and efficient. For expeditious retrieval and dissemination of information and better service for the clientele, application of modern techniques has become absolutely indispensable. Library automation is the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in library operations and services. The automation has undergone rapid expansions, particularly over the past few decades. Web 2.0 is the recent adaptation in automation, which permits the users to interact and collaborate with others. There are number of modern commercial and open/free source software's available integrating various features to automate the operation of library and information Centre. Depending on software quality and infrastructure availability, the libraries use their desired software for automation. ICT provides wide range of opportunities for libraries. It has given rise to serious efforts by the library community towards solving its economic and technical problems with mutual

understanding between themselves by forming consortia. The main objective of this paper is to study the extent of use of Library Management Software in Karnataka.

2. LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Libraries utilize software's designed to manage different library routines and processes. Most of these software's are integrated and have modules for the different activities or tasks carried out in the library like cataloguing, statistics, acquisition processes, serials control etc. Some examples of such software are CDS/ISIS, GLAS, ALICE for Windows, X-Lib and SLAM. SLAM (Strategic Library Automation Management) is used in the University Library, FUTA, Koha, SOUL, Libsys, Libsoft and E- Granthalaya. In this study we're going to present the usage and implementation of two Library Management software which are Koha (Open source) and Soul. (Commercial)

2.1. Commercial Software

Commercial software typically provides solutions to particular application problems. Since they are developed on a commercial scale in a competitive market for use by a variety of customers, a great amount of skill and effort is put in their development. Therefore they are reliable, easy to use and in many instances, well-documented (Malwad, 1995). In the context of developing countries, LIBSYS, Alice, SLIM, EASYLIB, SOUL are few examples of the most popular commercial library automation software. Some software are expensive and some have reasonable price. It is beyond expectation to use commercial software for some libraries, due to the lack of budget to buy and sustain the software package as the recurring cost involved by way of maintenance and newer versions. But the library which is financially strong can purchase and use commercial software to automate their library.

2.2. Open Source Software & Library Automation

Library Automation:-Library automation mainly refers to use of computers, to mechanise the overall functions and operations of the library. It is utilization of computer and related tools and technologies to make the provision for providing the right information to right user at the right time in a right format in a most preferred and personal way. Automation of library activities enables the library staff to provide the user with efficient, rapid, effective, and economical service rendering. The automation is more feasible for both economically as well as timely delivery of services. Various activities and functions subjected to automation includes acquisition, technical processing (cataloguing, classification, indexing and so on), circulation, serials control, Documentation and allied services, Information retrieval, OAPC, administration and reports (metrics) in a typical library environment. There are many library automation software tools are available in the information science market today. There are two types of library software premium (paid) and open source (OSS) software.

Open-source software (OSS) is a computer software with its source code made available with a license in which the copyright holder provides the rights to study, change, and distribute the software to anyone and for any purpose. Open-source software may be developed in a collaborative public manner. Open-source software is the most prominent example of open-

source development. The open-source model, or collaborative development from multiple independent sources, generates an increasingly more diverse scope of design perspective than any one company is capable of developing and sustaining long term. Vimal Kumar (2012) has mentioned various aspects regarding this like no restriction of use; free of costs; community involvement in development and maintenance of software; competence of software compared with other commercial software; and the legal aspects in his article. The obvious formal reason for the organization like libraries to choose open source software for automation purpose is the cost of software, which is free.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- ✓ To know about the Automation being used and determine the problems arising in its usage in the college libraries.
- ✓ To know about the application of various modules in the college libraries.
- ✓ To find out the uses of OPAC in the college libraries.
- ✓ To propose some measures for effective use of LMS in the college libraries.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

With the development of library automation software packages, access to information and retrieval has become more convenient and efficient. There are hundreds of different Library automation packages available for library system developed by several vendors. It is of utmost importance for the library and information professionals to acquire knowledge on feature and functionality of these packages. This is a dire necessity at present since there is a great demand for librarians to develop library database, which is the first step in the automation projects. Therefore, provision of better understanding of library automation packages, will guide in the selection or development of appropriate software in the future. Guidelines on the evaluation of library automation packages play vital role. Therefore, studies and guidelines on the evaluation of these packages will definitely enable librarian to make the best decision when designing, acquiring and managing integrated library automation packages for the provision of online access to library resources to their users.

5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study covers library automation software packages that are being used in college libraries of Karnataka. It identifies all the possible functions and requirements of a computerized library. It does not aim at in-depth knowledge of the software packages. Most of the libraries have started database creation of their holdings using SOUL software package but few of the libraries are using proprietary/commercially available software packages and some library are using open source software. The study is focused only on college libraries in Karnataka where library automation is in use. For these matter 15 colleges has been selected for the study out of 126 accredited colleges in Karnataka. These are as follows:-

1. Krupanidhi Group of Institutions
2. ADVS First Grade College
3. Ramaiah Institute of Technology
4. BMS College of Engineering
5. RV College of Engineering
6. Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering
7. The National Institute of Engineering
8. PES College of Engineering
9. Malnad College
10. Tontadaraya College
11. Maratha Mandal Engineering College
12. Anjuman Engineering College
13. KLS Gogte Institute of Tech.
14. NMAM Institute of Technology
15. KVG College of Engineering

6. DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis of Data is a process of inspecting, transforming and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision-making. Data analysis has multiple facets and approaches, encompassing diverse techniques under a variety of names, in different business, science and social science domains.

6.1. Availability of LAN Facility in Library

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	115	91
No	11	9
Total	126	100

Availability of LAN facility in the library Response Frequency Percentage Available 115 (91%) Not Available 11 (9%) Total 126 (100) The investigation in the way of understanding the IT infrastructure facilities available in the Karnataka colleges posed to assess the availability of LAN connectivity, majority of 91% respondents have said that they have

LAN access in the library and only 9% opined that they don't have LAN facility extended to the library.

6.2. Status of Library Automation

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Non Automated	3	2
Partially	13	10
Fully	110	87
Total	126	100

Data from the above table shows the responses on the status of library automation. Out of 126 respondents, majority of 110 (87) libraries are fully automated, 13 (10) are Partially Automated and 12 (8.17) libraries are Not Automated at all. The reason for not automating the engineering may be attributed to the new Status of Library Automation in College Libraries in Karnataka institution.

6.3. Use of Library Automation Software

S.No	Software Name	Response	Percentage
1	DELPLUS	2	13.33
2	Easylib	1	6.67
3	EERPMS	1	6.67
4	e- Granthalaya	1	6.67
5	ICMS	1	6.67
6	TCS	2	13.33
7	Libsoft	1	6.67
8	Libsys	1	6.67
9	NTLIB	1	6.67
10	SOUL	1	6.67
11	Others	3	20
	Total	15	100

The question was posed to assess the use of Various Library Automation Software in the Karnataka college libraries as the data shown in the table above, DELPLUS and TCS with each 2 Colleges apiece use the most, incidentally both the software is proprietary with good number of features aiding the libraries. Other colleges used Koha and LibGen open source software's being the oldest and most comprehensive software the reasons may be that of free of cost with poor customer support.

7. USE OF OPEN SOURCE LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE

S.No	Software Name	Response	Percentage
1	DELPLUS	2	40
2	Koha	1	20
3	New Genlib	2	40
	Total	5	100

Among the open source software used for automation of library activities, out of 15 responses, DELPLUS and New Genlib both software's are equal takes the first with 2 (40) New GenLib stands second with 2 (40) respondents have used to automate their library activities respectively. The main objective of the study is to identify the awareness and subsequent use of the OSS, the data in the above table doesn't reflect the awareness levels in comparison to the use levels.

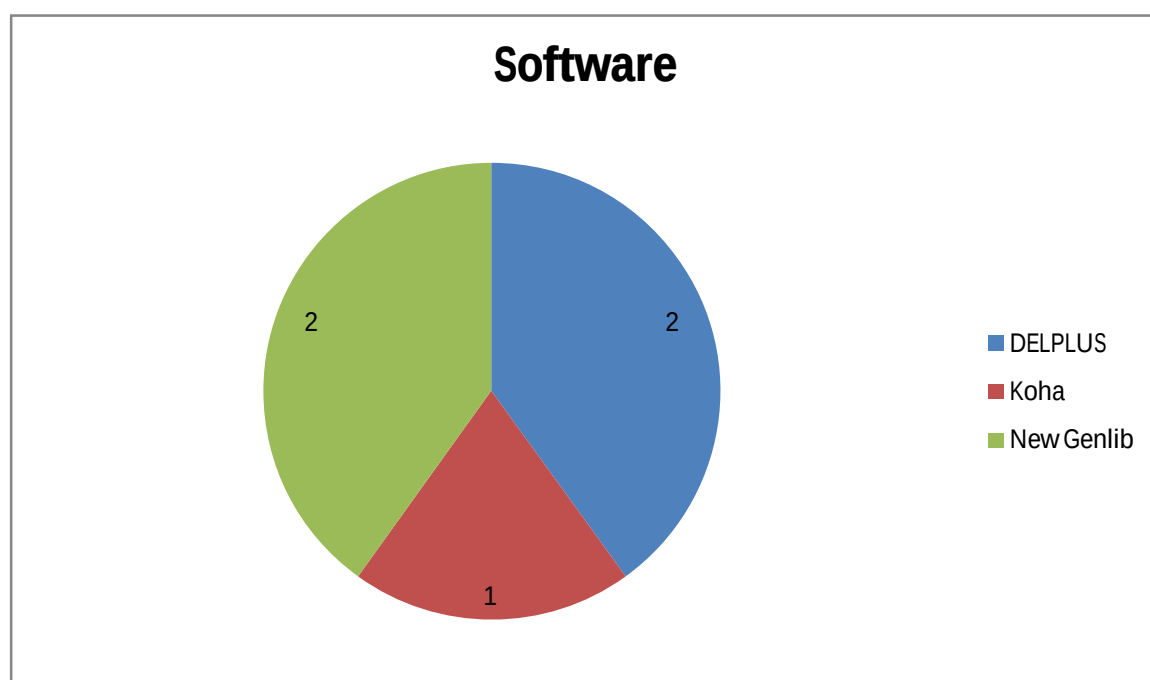


Fig 1 Use of Open Source Library Automation Software

8. LIBRARY SERVICE THROUGH LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE

All the selected libraries has OPAC/ Web- OPAC/ Mobile OPAC for Users, all the selected libraries provide orientation programme to the users, all the selected libraries use the Automation for obtaining suggestion request, all the selected libraries use the LMS to make payment to Vendors, all the selected libraries import catalogue entries from bibliographic database like OCLC, LOC, INDCAT etc. to prepare catalogue:-

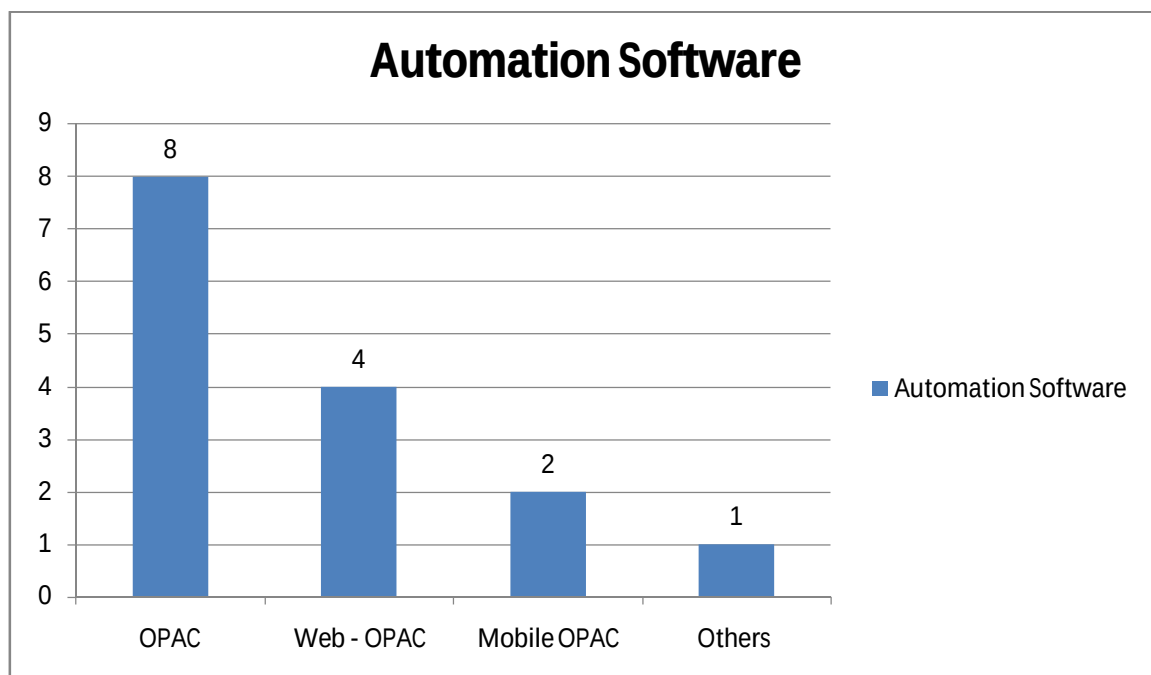


Fig 2 Library service through Library Automation Software

From the above figure 2 it is seen that a majority of 8 college libraries has online public access catalog and only 1 college library do not have online public access catalog for the users. One of the unique facilities which we have noticed first time is “Mobile OPAC”. Arya College Library for the first time provided the facility of Mobile OPAC. By using Mobile phone OPAC user can access their information through mobile. They can re-issue their book by using mobile phone.

9. MODULE OF THE AUTOMATION USED IN THE LIBRARY:

From this fig 3 it is seen that both the cataloguing and circulation modules are used equally in all the libraries which have been surveyed. Out of 15 College Libraries, only few College uses acquisition module. Through using acquisition module they order books, also make payment, receive books, purchase other important study material. Thus from the above table it is seen the maximum of College Libraries does not know how to use acquisition module. Only 15 % college libraries are using all modules for Library Automation. It is also seen that only 5 % college library using Serial module for controlling journal, Magazine etc

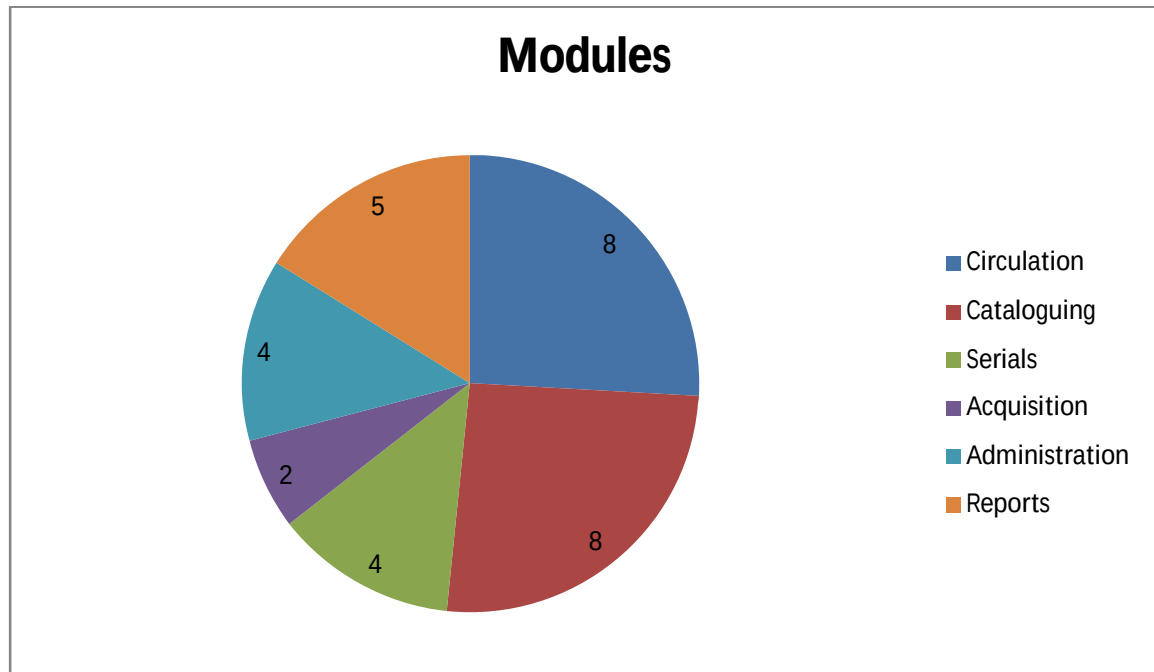


Fig 3 Module of the Automation used in the Library

10. SATISFACTION BY USING OPEN SOURCE LIBRARY SOFTWARE

Levels of Satisfaction

S.No	Response	Levels	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfied	4	26.67
2	Just Satisfied	4	26.67
3	Not Satisfied	2	13.33
4	Partially Satisfied	2	13.33
5	Others	3	20
	Total	15	100

When posed with the satisfaction levels by the use of Open Source Library Software, only 58 responses were obtained, out of which majority of 4 respondents opined that they are fully satisfied by the use of Library Software. There were 2 said that they are partially satisfied by the use of Library Software. There were 2 opined that they are Just satisfied and Not satisfied by the sue of Library Software respectively. There was a strange response from 3 respondents have opined that they „Don“t know which is confusing on part of the respondents that even after the use of Library Software, they are still uncertain about the use of Library Software.

11. CONCLUSIONS

Moreover, during the visit to many of the libraries of Karnataka, it has been observed that Librarians are aware of many professional activities related to library management - library software, library automation, digital library software and their use and also they are interested to digitize their important materials for preservation and remote access. All are interested to build digital library to access everything at one place and 24*7. But there is lack of IT infrastructure, technically skilled professionals, IT staff, and administrative support. Therefore, library professionals are not interested to apply new technology immediately. Most of the libraries want to migrate data Open source software integrated library management software. This study found that some librarians lack knowledge about Automation hence, they are facing problems during utilization of Library Management Software. Library Automation software as well as movement has come a long way and still has a lot to cover in making the modern day libraries as well as librarians adopting the OSS tools in making their job easier and faster in service delivery. Today, almost all library activities can be automated or mechanized; in this direction one can find absolute support from the initiatives across the globe for plugging the needs of the libraries and information centers.

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