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8. Library Automation using SOUL 3.0 Software

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Abstract

In this paper researcher discuss about library automation using SOUL 3.0 software. Library automation refers to the use of computer to automate the typical procedures of libraries such as cataloging and circulation. Library automation in the broadest sense can be taken to mean the employment of machines for library processes. Library automation offers many opportunities to improve service to library patrons. Software for University Libraries (SOUL) is an state-of-the-art integrated library management software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET Centre based on requirements of college and university libraries. It is a user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment. The software is compliant to international standards for bibliographic formats, networking and circulation protocols.

Keywords:-Library automation, SOUL 3.0 software, SOUL modules

Library Automation

Library automation refers to the use of computer to automate the typical procedures of The word automation has been derived from a Greek word "Automose" which means something which has the power of spontaneous motion or self-movement. Automation, when used in a library context, refers to the computerization or mechanization of all library activities. ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science defines automation as "the performance of an operation, a series of operations or a process by self-activating, self-controlling, or automatic means. Automation implies the use of automatic data processing equipment such as a computer or other labor-saving devices". The term automation was first introduced by D. S. Harder in 1936 but the word library automation has been used in literature for the last five decades. According to the International Encyclopedia of Information Technology and Library Science, it is the technology concerned with the design and development of process and system that minimize the necessity of human intervention in their operation. Library automation has been defined as 'integrated systems' that computerize an array of traditional library functions using a common

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database. While this is still generally true, rapid technological change is forcing a reexamination of what it means to "automate the library." In general, however, library automation has come to mean the application of computers and related data processing equipment to libraries. In the context of computerization, a library information system may be defined as a set of library transactions, processing systems designed to provide information to library members and to support the operational, managerial and decision-making information needs of library staff. It includes computer as one of its components. Thus, a computerized library and information system is a set of functional system encompass

Advantages of Library Automation

- Easy & Efficient Management
- Proper & Updated Information to the Patrons
- Keep a check on the obsolete and less useful resource
- Motivate Patrons
- Increase usage of the available resource
- Source the right resource
- Right Information at the Right Place and at the Right Time
- Changing Roles of Librarian
- Speedily disposal of library work
- Establishment of a well storage and retrieval system
- Time and human power saving with qualitative services
- Suitability for library cooperation and coordination development
- Simplicity in library management to meet the objectives
- Proper use of human resources
- Development of the new library services
- Preparation of reports and correspondence
- Suitability for resource sharing and networking
- Development of human resources

Step of Library Automation

Preparing for an automated library system needs system evaluation and planning before implementation.

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Appraisal of Current Status

Statistics regarding total number of stock, accession of materials, daily issue and return, time taken for routine activities, services given, its effectiveness, etc. were studied to find a true picture of the current status of the library and identified the problems facing by the users.

Need Assessment

Routine library activities such as issue and return of the books take a lion's share of the total time of the library. The librarians were not getting enough time to do added services. So, for acquiring required time for a functional library, automation was necessary. Control over the stock was not adequate. Annual stock verification and generation of monthly library statistics were not up to the standards. An automated system will make the things better. Finding a book from the stack room was time taken. There were no standard classifications or cataloguing schemes. Books were arranged unscientifically. Card catalogues were absent and the users had to go through all the collection to find the wanted one. There was no system to find whether the book was present, issued, if yes, to whom it was issued or when will it return.

Cost Evaluation

The cost contained in every library activity was higher in the case of a manual system. The human cost was many times greater than an automated environment. In the long run, the cost of work done by a librarian in manual system for routine activities will become less and that can be utilized in giving programmed or individualized information services.

Budget Allocation

Library automation needs a huge initial investment. Administrators should be informed about the urgency and usefulness of the process. The fund for the process was earmarked in the annual budget and extracted from the library allotment. Since it was a onetime investment, it will not hamper the routine book and periodical accession in coming years.

Administrative Support

Strong administrative backing is essential for the process.

Overview of SOUL 3.0 Software

- Soul 3.0 is compliant to international Standards such as MARC 21 Bibliographic format, Unicode based Universal Character Sets for multilingual bibliographic records and NCIP 2.0 and SIP 2 Based protocols for electronic surveillance and control.

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- Compliant to NCIP 2.0 protocol for RFID and other related application especially for electronic surveillance and self check-out & check-in.
- Supports data exchange through ISO-2709 standard.
- Compliant to International Standards such as MARC21, AACR-2, MARCXML

SOUL Training Programmer

The Centre is organizing intensive five days training programmer on "Installation and Operations of SOUL 3.0 Software" every month at Gandhinagar for those who have purchased SOUL 3.0 Software free of cost for one person and for additional person on payment basis. The training programmer provides focus on the operational techniques of SOUL 3.0 with theory and hands on practice. The existing old SOUL user can also take part in the training on SOUL 3.0 by paying Rs. 9000/- (it includes Boarding, Lodging & Course Materials etc.) in favor of INFLIBNET Centre payable at Gandhinagar through Demand Draft (Cash/Cheque payment will not be accepted). Advance payment and prior intimation is required to enable us to make necessary arrangement.

The software comprises following **modules**.

- Acquisition
- Catalogue
- Circulation
- On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
- Serial Control
- Administration

Conclusion

With the development of ICT, number of sophisticated software are developed and concepts likeLibrary2.0, Web2.0, Learning 2.0, and many more are coming up, which will be very useful to satisfy not only theend users but also to make the library operations fast, easy and transparent. Library automation is very much needed in any library. Librarians must aim for integrated software for library automation for their respective libraries. Because there is a strong need to provide web based library and information support services to end users by integrated library software.

Library profession is very important in the current era. Users, management of institution, government authority, NAAC, Staff, etc. anybody can ask information of library day to day

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work. All types of information like acquisition of books, cataloguing of reading materials, circulation of reading materials, serial control, etc. is essential for the future development. In the SOUL3.0 integrated library management software various reports are available in each module. In the software customization of reports is good option is available for the libraries for their requirements. So, SOUL 3.0 software is useful college and university libraries.

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