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A Comparative Study of College Library Software: Preliminary Findings

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Abstract:

Library software that unifies all of the library's operations. Libraries cannot function without library software. Numerous integrated library packages that fit both needs and budgets are on the market. This article provides an overview of library software, including its idea, goals, and software requirements.

Keywords: Software, Library.

Introduction:

One of the pillars of the modern era is technology. The library industry is changing dramatically. High-priced technology is a challenge for libraries. Two words that have fundamentally altered our world are computers and the internet. Periodically, incalculable amounts of information are being produced. According to Swami Vivekananda, "education is the manifestation of Divine Perfection, which already exists in man." Every person's life is impacted by this idea of education, which causes changes in their socioeconomic, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical quotients. Acquiring the information and skills necessary to meet life's problems and lead a happy existence is the fundamental goal of education. It identifies the issues and challenges librarians confront as well as the staff's level of satisfaction with the software's daily use. After that, it addresses compatibility concerns to meet all of the libraries' current needs.

Need of Library Software The following uses for library software are necessary: a. Retrospective conversion. b. Automate services and activities at libraries. c. Preserve and archive library materials.

Types of Library Software:

a) Application software: - Application software may be a software developed or written to enable

the pc to hold out specific functions required by particular group of users. eg. SOUL, LIBMAN, etc. (Vasanth&Mudhol 2000)

b) System software:- The term system software are taken to mean all the programmes used within a computer installation which are neither assemblers or compilers although some definitions include this group nor application programs. I.e. those who produce directly useful output for the user of the pc.

c) Open Source Software: - this can be the term that represents virtually the identical thing as "Free software". Only it's newer, more popular and doesn't have the anomaly problem. It amplifies the liberty to change software because it points resolute the very fact that this software has the open ASCII text file, which allows it to be freely modified by everyone. However, many believe that it doesn't emphasize the importance of freedom enough, because it says nothing normally about other important freedoms. Open source refers to any program whose ASCII text file is created available to be used or modification as users or other developers.(Ex. Koha, E-Granthalaya, etc.) a) Database.

Criteria for Selection: Peggy Johnson (1991) claims that a survey determined the top ten criteria for selecting library software. 1) Customers' ease of usage 2) Application modules and subsystems are available 3) Module and subsystem completeness 4) System costs 5) Hardware costs 6) Requirement for local programming personnel 7) Vendor service reputation 8) Staff usability 9) Similar installed site: and 10) Prior encounters with the supplier.

Advantages of Library Software: There are multiple advantages in library Software. Some important advantages are the following.

• It Increases productivity in terms of both collection as well as services.

• It extends of library services beyond the library peripherals.

• It allows participation in outside networking system for resource sharing between libraries

• It results in economy in expenditure.

• It enables proper and optimum utility of library materials.

Library Software Packages:-

Library and information centers are making use of software packages as per requirements. To operate library tasks and services various software are in use at 16 University Libraries of India. Descriptions of few library automation and digitization software packages are as following:

a) KOHA: Koha is software that may run both in Linux and windows platform. it's an easy web based and simply customizable interface for patrons and librarians. It incorporates all the essential modules of an Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) including acquisition, circulation, and online public access catalogue (OPAC) and serial management. It ensures conformity to international standards like MARC 21 and Z39.50. Since the first implementation in 1999, KOHA's functionality has been adopted by thousands of libraries worldwide, each adding features and

functions, deepening the potential of the system. With the 3.0 release in 2005, and therefore the integration of the powerful Zebra indexing engine, Koha became a viable, scalable solution for libraries of every kind. Koha is intended to figure on Linux, but will work on Windows with the installation of a series of additional modules. it's operable in English, Spanish, Arabic and French, with other languages being developed and translated by the community members. it's released under a GNU General Public License (GPL). KOHA community has been providing support through its address and IRC rooms. Many commercial vendors provide support for KOHA. OSS Labs Mumbai, Open LX, Anant corporation, Mumbai are the most commercial supporters of this software in India. The features of the software include web based online public access catalogue, web based circulation interface, user records management, online renewals and reservations of item by users, borrower history, comments, and tags, customizable search, multilingual OPAC support, reports and statistics. Koha may be a well-established FOSS ILS and maybe one in all the foremost successful library FOSS tools currently, and in and of itself the case for FOSS advocacy around Koha is stronger than it's going to be for software that's less well-known

b) New Gen Lib: It is integrated library automation software and network solution developed by Verus solutions Pvt. Ltd and Kesavan Institute of data and Knowledge Management India. it's an internet based software and encompasses a multitier architecture using Java and Jboss. it's a mark editor and allows bibliographic authority data import into cataloguing templates. The software runs 17 on Windows or Linux and is intended to figure equally well in one single library because it does across a dispersed network of libraries. It complies with the international standards. Extensive use of founded parameters enables a straightforward configuration of the software to suit specific needs and allows digital attachments to Meta data

c) Evergreen: It is developed by Equinox Software. The Evergreen Project develops an open source ILS (Integrated Library System) employed by approximately 1,800 libraries round the world. . it's standards compliant and uses OPAC interface and offers many features including flexible administration, workflow customization and adaptable programming interface. it's a lively development and user community, similarly as several companies offering migration, support, hosting, and development.

d) PhpMyLibrary: PhpMyLibrary could be a web based library automation meant for smaller libraries. The system consists of cataloguing, circulation and also the OPAC module. The system also has an import export feature. Online renewals and reservation is out there within the software. Though the initial release was made 2001 as shown at Sourceforge.net, the ultimate code has been exhausted 2003 and was released as open source library system following Koha, because the first open source Perl-based library system.

The PhpMyLibrary is now a part of the three popular open source library systems worldwide

which include Koha, OpenBiblio, and PhpMyLibrary.

e) Openbiblio: Openbiblio is an easy to use, open source automated library system written in PHP containing OPAC, circulation, cataloguing and staff administration functionality. The Software is capable of user editing and contribution of information. Openbiblio is a project of open knowledge foundation and purpose of this project is to provide a cost effective library automation solution. The latest version 0.7.1 has been released on 18 March 2012.Openbilio runs under Linux or Windows, any webserver, PHP, and MySQL.22

Objectives of the Study:

1. To evaluate the various features of college library software including the managerial aspects of the software.

2. To measure the effectiveness and usefulness of the different management features in the well-known library software in college library affiliated to SantGadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.

3. To examine the problem faced by the librarian due to lack of managerial aspects in the various college library software if any, in their respective library software

Hypotheses of the Study:-

The hypothesis of the present study entitled A Comparative study of College Library Software and its use in colleges affiliated to SantGadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. Were as follows Null Hypothesis (H0): The library software does not significantly improve the efficiency and usefulness of library management in the college library affiliated with SantGadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. Null Hypothesis (H0): Librarians do not face significant problems due to a lack of managerial aspects in their respective library software. Null Hypothesis (H0): The perception of usefulness and effectiveness of management features in library software does not depend on the level of management and the level of qualification. Null Hypothesis (H0): Users of college Library software are highly satisfied compared to non-automated libraries user.

Research Methodology of the Study The primary data will be collected using the standard questionnaire consisting of many items in a definite order. The questionnaire will be distributed among all the Librarians.

1. Research Design: A descriptive method will be used as the survey approach proposed in the present study. The survey is based on interviews, questionnaire and personal visits. Opinions of the librarians and users regarding library software. Primary data will be collected Questionnaire Method. Secondary data will be collected from existing literature.

2. Sampling Method: A simple random method will be used in the proposed study.

3. Sampling Frame: Library software in all college libraries and its user affiliated to SantGadage Baba Amaravati University, Amaravati.

4. Sampling Size: In the proposed study, sufficient data will be collected from College librarian and Library Staff and user of the library in all college libraries affiliated to SantGadage Baba Amaravati University, Amaravati 5. Tools for Data Collection: A descriptive method will be used as the survey approach proposed in the present study. .The survey is based on interviews; questionnaire and personal visits. Opinions of the librarians regarding library software. Mixed approach (primary data and secondary data) will be followed to collect the data

Scope of the Study:

1. Present study focused on College library software's which is affiliated to amravatiUniversity . 2. For identifying, evaluating packaged software for library the following criteria.

a) Capabilities b) Maintenance support c) User friendliness d) Documentation.

Analysis of the data:-

1. To evaluate National level Library Management Software,

2. To collect and compile information necessary to describe library software and its operations,

3. To find out best library management software and to set priorities for software selection ,

4. To search mostly used software for library functioning and

5. To pointout views of librarians about software this is used for library;

Conclusion:

1. High Overall User Satisfaction The data indicates a generally positive perception of the software among users, with a majority rating various aspects as "Satisfactory" 203 or "Very Satisfactory." This reflects the software's effectiveness in meeting user needs across different functions.

2. Areas for Improvement Despite the overall satisfaction, there are specific areas where improvements are needed, particularly in terms of system reliability, customization options, and user support. These areas received lower satisfaction ratings, suggesting that addressing them could enhance the overall user experience.

3. Importance of Continuous Updates The software's update and maintenance processes are crucial to maintaining user satisfaction. Regular updates, clear communication, and ongoing support are essential to keeping users engaged and satisfied with the software.

4. Need for Enhanced Training the findings highlight the importance of comprehensive training programs. Users require more in-depth training to fully utilize the software's features and integrations, which could lead to higher satisfaction levels.

5. Integration and Flexibility There is a need for better integration capabilities and increased flexibility to cater to the diverse needs of users. Improving these aspects would allow the software to adapt more effectively to different organizational contexts.

6. User Involvement Encouraging greater user involvement in the development process can lead to more user-centered features and improvements, ensuring the software continues to evolve in line

with user expectations.

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