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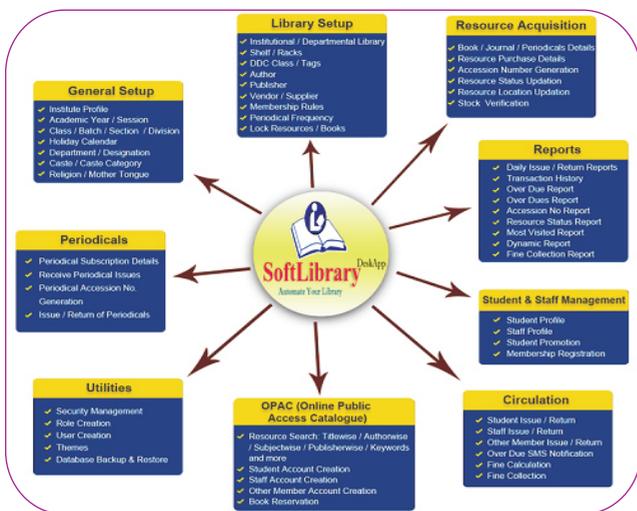
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## INTEGRATED LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARES: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW



### ABSTRACT: -

There are many integrated library management softwares available in India and many also available in multi-user network versions. A brief account of some of the well known library management software packages is discussed hereunder.

**KEY NOTES:** Integrated library management softwares, Library Management Softwares (LMSs), relational database architecture.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Library Management Softwares (LMSs) are now established as an essential tool in the support of effective customer service, stock management and management of services offered by libraries. These are based on knowledge and experience of library professionals over the centuries. The rapid growth in utility of hardware, software & connectivity and reduced costs gives the development of LMS a vital breakthrough to achieve a remarkable height. Current LMSs are integrated systems, based on relational database architecture. In such systems files are interlinked so that deletion, additions and other changes in one file automatically activate appropriate changes in related files. The market place for LMSs is

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now a nature one in India. Almost all special libraries and larger academic libraries in India have adopted a computer-based system.

There are many integrated library management software available in India and many also available in multi-user network versions. A brief account of some of the well known software packages is discussed hereunder.

### 2. ALICE FOR WINDOWS

Soft link's (Brisbane based Australian Company) Alice (Windows version) is a fully integrated library management solution. The DOS version is known as OASIS. Alice for windows is the complete library automation toolkit, which incorporated the latest information technology, and functional depth, provides a complete range of library functions using discrete modules that suit the individual library need. It has four versions, viz., Academic Library, Special Library, Public Library, and school Library version. It supports Z39.50 client-server architecture, export-import of data in MARC format and it is multilingual software. Alice for Windows has the following modules:

- Acquisition
- Management
- Circulation
- Periodicals
- Journal Indexing
- Multimedia
- Subject Authority
- Web enquiry
- Book hire
- Multilingual
- Patron self checking (Husain and Mehtab, 2007).

### 3. LIBSYS

LibSys is the most popular library software India. It is a fully integrated library management software developed in C and C++ by LibSys Corporation, New Delhi. It is a multi-user system capable of running on DOS, Unix, Linux, VMS, and Windows platforms. It can be customized to suit the user needs and can be operated with other RDBMS software such as Ingress and Oracle (Moorthy, 2004). LibSys provides full graphic user interface front end for the Windows client. It is built around its own centralized bibliographic database based on MARK format supporting various types of materials in print as well as non-print form.

#### The various modules of LibSys are as follows:

- Acquisition
- Cataloguing
- Circulation
- Serial control
- Article Indexing
- Online public access Catalogue (OPAC) (Husain and Mehtab, 2007)

### 4. SLIM++

System for Library Information Management (SLIM) is a library software package from Algorithms, Pune. SLIM++ is an integrated, multi-user, multitasking library information software for the windows environment. It helps the librarian to catalogue books, films, sound recordings, drawings, clippings, articles, reports, letters, pamphlets, serial publication, etc. SLIM++ cataloguing adheres to popular international standards. One can share data with others effectively. Retrieval of the data is simple, fast and efficient. It has Cataloguing, Circulation, OPAC, Acquisition, serials Control, Web based OPAC, Bulletin Printing (CAS), Statistical Analysis, Export/Import in CCF/MARC, D Bridge, Z39.50 server modules.

#### The general features of SLIM++ are as follows:

- Minimal data entry, pick-up list during data entry, validation and integrity checks
- Bar code support with multimedia links
- Browsing library information through the internet/internet
- Multi-script/multi-fronts
- Variable length fields/ records, Packing records
- Existing data conversion to SLIM++
- Optional customized retrospective data entry and data capture
- Multiple selection criteria for reports (Moorthy, 2004).

### 5. SOUL

University libraries are complex entities, having large collections and serving a huge clientele. To carry out various operations in a university library effectively, there is a need for automation. Keeping in view the latest trends in information technology, INFLIBNET (INformation and LIBrary NETwork) centre has developed a windows-based library management software SOUL (SOFTWARE for University Libraries), which provides total solution for library automation. SOUL is designed using client-server architecture, which imparts extra strength to storage capacity, multiple access to single database, various levels of security, back up, and storage facilities, etc. the software comprises acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, OPAC, Serial Control, and Administration modules. The software follows the standard formats such as CCF, AACR2, and LCSH (Moorthy, 2004).

### 6. Virtua ILS

Virginia-Tech Library System (VTLS) Inc specializes in library automation and information management solutions with corporate office located at Blacksburg (Virginia), USA and having vendor that has received ISO certification in 1997. VTLS Inc has developed an integrated library system known as 'Virtua' with more than one

thousands libraries as its user covering 35 countries of the globe. Virtua Library Software package is a windows based Client-Server application. The Virtua soft is based on six key technologies: Relational Database Management Systems, Rapid Development Tools, three tiers Client-Server architecture, Database Warehousing, Unicode support and ATM Network optimized applications. It supports Unicode, multilingual dialogue, and it has access to external tools such as OCLC, RLIN, etc.

**The various modules of Virtua are as follows:**

- Acquisitions and fund accounting
- Cataloguing
- Circulation
- Serials Control
- OPAC
- Statistics and reporting
- Chameleon Gateway (Husain and Mehtab, 2007)

### **7. KOHA**

Koha is an integrated library management system that was originally developed by Katipo Communication Limited of Wellington, New Zealand for the Horowhenua Library Trust (HLT), a regional library system located in Levin near Wellington. Koha is important based on LAMP architecture. Here L stands for Unix-like OS (different types of Linux); A stands for Apache Web server, M stands for MySQL RDBMS and P stands for PERL programming environment. Koha is established in a number of technological achievements. Such as use of Web 2.0 tools, integration of authority format and bibliographic data format, availability of OPAC interface in 25 different languages, implementation of Z 39.50 server and OAI/PMH compatibility, in built support for social networking tools, Web-based self issue, use of open standards for different modules and granular system administration facilities.

### **8. E-GRANTHALAYA**

E-Granthalaya is library software developed by National Information Centre (NIC). As title shows that it is a digital agenda for library automation and Networking. It has the following modules:

- Administration Module
- Book Acquisition Module
- Cataloguing Module
- Circulation Module
- Serials Module
- Budget Module
- Article Indexing
- OPAC

**Table 1: Comparative study of Library Management Software**

Core Services	Alice for Window	Koha	Libsys	Soul	Slim++	E-Granthalaya	Virtua ILS
Aquisition	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cataloguing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Circulation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
OPAC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Serial Controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bibliographic Format Support	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Data Exchange Format Support	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Information	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Retroconversion	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Administration	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**CONCLUSIONS :**

Library Management Software should be so simple that the library staffs use the software in a methodical way after having a proper training. Library Management Software should be standard, large system. Any person or small institution that can develop the library software but that cannot fulfill everyone's demands, on the other hand it is impossible to maintain the library. It is necessary to maintain the library automation system by the help of large software system. By using this kind of software any work can be done very smoothly and easily.

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