

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE IN AGRICULTURE COLLEGES IN MAHARASHTRA

Dinesh Bahusaheb Tribhan

Librarian, Rajarshi Shahu Mahavidyalaya, Deolali Pravara,
Tal. Rahuri Dist. Ahmednagar

Dr. Pravin Tukaram Borse

Research Guide, Shri Jaykumar Rawal Institute of Technology
Donadaicha, Dist. Dhule

Abstract

This study aims to present a comparative study of library automation software special reference of SOUL and TLSS, Computer and communication technologies have brought revolutionary changes in the information acquisition, Processing, storage retrieval and dissemination keeping in view the latest friends information technology. There are so many software developed the field in management of Library. Which provides a total solution for Library Automation like SOUL, CDS/ISIS, LIBSYS, D Space, TLSS etc. which software can use in Library according to needs? Present study based on the comparison between SOUL and TLSS.

Keywords: Library Software; SOUL, TLSS; Impact of IT; Library Automation; Resource Sharing.

Introduction of IT

IT (Information Technology) is electronic technologies used for collecting storing processing and communicating information. There are two main categories those which process information (such as computer system); and those which disseminate information (such as telecommunication system). IT has a wider connotation for librarians who include in addition technologies like, repro micrographic Technology, technical communication technologies and database creation and use. The accelerating pace of technological developments has tremendously increased the ability to access, store, and process, communicate and deliver information services in libraries. Worldwide libraries have been exploring new technologies as a means of providing better and faster access to vast array of information resources and efficient information services to their users. IT has a huge potential for providing wide range of new opportunities and offering better solutions to achieve greater levels of efficiency, productivity and higher standards of quality services in libraries.

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management of Library. Which provides a total solution for Library Automation like SOUL, CDS/ISIS, LIBSYS, DSpace, TLSS and etc. which software can use in Library according to needs?

Importance of IT in Libraries

It provides need based browsing and retrospective research services to the users

- It help large number of databases on CD-ROM is inevitable.
- In order to avoid routine and redundant activities, the IT will come to help.
- It encourage networking and resource sharing at local level, IT is very useful.
- It help access to a number of national and International Journals which are being published only machine readable form, one has two switch over to new technology.
- It retrieve and disseminate the Information in user defined format IT is necessary.
- Users access Library catalogues database of other Libraries through Library network using IT components. IT place an important role to improve the cost effectiveness of library operations. The modern technology helps a lot thus the adaptation of IT. Using IT Traditional Libraries save their time, space and labor providing good library services to the users.

Impact of IT in Libraries

In the present era IT biased every area of knowledge. The libraries are also influenced by the information technology .The present sinerio Library has adopted new technologies for information services not only in library services but in the variety of other catalogues, indexes, databases, CD-ROMs, manuscript collections from other libraries. Potentially, the electronic revolution makes even smaller libraries the equivalent of libraries in major research universities and scholarly institutions. Various library and information experts, the benefits of using IT in LICs may be consolidated as

1. Improved efficiency of library operations,
2. Improved quality of existing services,
3. Introduction new services,
4. Improved collection Management,
5. Improved accuracy and control,
6. Increased ability to share resources,
7. Improved management information,
8. Improved image,
9. Rapid communication,
10. Eliminate duplication of efforts,
11. Improved uniformity and standardization,
12. Improved users satisfaction,
13. Facilitate effective utilization of funds, and
14. Facilitate to market library services.

Needs on the Study

SOUL (software For Agriculture Colleges Libraries) developed by INFLIBNET. It is Library management software and TLSS (Total Library Software system) developed by Total IT solution Pvt. Ltd. It is also Library Management software. Both are library management software. The SOUL and TLSS comparison is the need of present study. Utility, advantages and disadvantages of both software's also search by the study Objectives of the Study SOUL and TLSS both are library management software. The objectives of the study are given below

1. To know the special features of SOUL and TLSS
2. Difference between SOUL and TLSS
3. Flexibility of both soft wares
4. Usefulness of both soft wares in university libraries.
5. To know about the services provided by the SOUL and TLSS

Scope and Limitations of the study

The scope of present study is limited to SOUL and TLSS modules available in central library DAVV. SOUL software and TLSS software both are Library management software and different modules are available in these software. Some different qualities have in SOUL software and TLSS software. I have been Compared among some points.

Introduction of SOUL

The abbreviation of Software of University Libraries is SOUL. The SOUL is state-of-the-art library automation software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET. It is user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment. Although looking at the name of the software, one may think that it is meant for University libraries only, but in fact it is flexible enough to be used for automating any type or size of library in India. While designing this software, the international standards, bibliographic formats, networking protocols, and typical functions of all types and sizes of libraries, particularly at university level, have been taken into account. The functions have been grouped into six categories, looking into the functional divisions of Indian University libraries. At present SOUL uses RDBMS on Windows N.T. operating system as back end to store and retrieve the data. However, keeping in view the trends in IT towards Linux operating system, efforts are under way also to provide SOUL to work on Linux platform. The inputs received from expert team consisting of practicing librarians and the feed backs received from users of our earlier software, ILMS, have given a strong base for designing this software. SOUL is near total solution offered by INFLIBNET to Indian libraries. It puts library staff at ease in exploring all the functions to their advantages with the help of professionally prepared manual.

Hardware and Software Requirement

The minimum hardware and software configuration required to use the SOUL is given below

Hardware Requirement

Server

- Pentium @233 MHz with 64 MB RAM
- GB HDD
- 32 x CDROM Drive
- 1.44" Floppy Drive
- Color Monitor (SVGA)
- Ethernet card 10/100 Mbps
- Windows-NT Operating System
- MS-SQL Server 6.

Software Requirements

Client

- Pentium @233 MHz with 32 MB RAM
- 1.2GB HDD with 10MB Free space
- 1.44" Floppy Drive
- Color Monitor (SVGA)
- Ethernet card 10/100 Mbps
- Windows-95 Operating System.

Modules

The SOUL has been divided into following six broad modules as shown in the Figure. These modules have further been divided into sub-modules looking at the nature of functions handled by various functional divisions in University libraries. Brief descriptions of the same along with first screens have been given in the following pages.

Acquisition Module

This particular module provides facilities to handle work relating to acquisition of reading materials of all types except serials, starting from suggestion / recommendation by faculty till accessioning, invoice processing. Acquisition module comprises following six broad sub-modules as given below-

Cataloguing Module

Catalogue module function begins with selecting the items that have already been accessioned in the previous module and furnishing rest of the information as per AACR-II rules. Providing user services such as recent addition services, CAS, creation and updating of authority files etc. Are other major functions supported by SOUL? A comprehensive worksheet covering almost every field facilitates data entry of all types of books, conference proceedings, theses etc. Facility to create database in the regional languages, using respective scripts is also provided. This module allows the library staff to conduct comprehensive searches for existing items before cataloguing new items and has provision of import and export of records and retrospective conversion.

Conclusion

Rapid advances in the past two decades have brought revolutionary changes in the concept, organization, functioning and management of Library and information system, through out the world. The impact of these changes is pervasive and affecting all the aspects of Library operations, information resources and services, staff skill requirements and users expectations. Worldwide Libraries have been exploring new technologies as a means of providing better and faster access to vast array information resources and efficient information services to their user. It has hung potential for providing wide range of new opportunities and offering better solutions to achieve greater levels of efficiency, productivity and higher standard of quality services in Library. Library automation is one of the major applications of IT implies the change from manual system to the application of computers and other modern equipment to library operation and services. In this, present era Libraries have computerization and digitalization. However, digitalization is the more important than computerization. I have compared SOUL and TLSS Library software. SOUL software is the total library management software and it helps in computerization of Library, but with the help of TLSS we can fully digitalization of Library. This is necessary of Library. Because we can easily access any documents and other information material, and save the time of users and staff. Therefore TLSS is the better than SOUL.

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