

Integrated Library Management System: Special Reference to Koha

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ABSTRACT

Information communication technology has rapidly changed the resource format and distribution system, which raised the user's expectations towards library service. Librarian need to provide effectively and efficiently services for satisfied the user's expectations. Along with this librarian have also careful about shrinking budget. In such a situation, the Open source software has given the opportunity to cut budgets on their software and spend budgets at other places. This paper discusses the Integrated Library Management System with special reference koha open source software.

Keywords: Library Management System, Open Source Software, Koha

INTRODUCTION

Information play a major role in any kind of research and development and it is a fundamental resource which is necessary for survival in present competitive era. Information revolution has changed the way of process, storage, organization and distribution of information. Due to this change, quantity, variety and complexity of information are increasing rapidly. Today's it is available in both form print as well as electronic. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan states that "Library is a growing organism", it always grows in the reading materials (print and electronic both), reader and personnel. Therefore, now library professionals need to seamless environment where information can be acquire, organize and distribute easily. Library automation is the best option to provide these environments that enable library professionals to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the operations and services of the library. Library automation refers to use of computer and telecommunication technologies in the up keeping of library operation and services.

OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

Software is a set of programs that is written for a particular work or activity; two types of software are available in the market - proprietary and free. Proprietary software is software that is published under a private license and the user has to pay a price to use them. But the Free software is published in General Public License and its name already shows that it has available free of cost for consumers. Both proprietary and free software again has a two categories namely closed source and open source. One major difference between these two categories is source code visibility. Closed source means user can't use source code for modification and redistribution, but open source user can do it.

Open source software has given freedom to user for modified it according their requirements.

(Kavanagh, 2004) define as, "software that must be distributed with source code included or easily available, such as by free download from the internet. The source code should be in the same form that a programmer would actually use to maintain it. The license of this software will not restrict others from distributions the code or modifications and derived works under the same terms." The freedom given by open source software has attracted libraries as the library can modify them according to their own work requirements and can improve their housekeeping operations and make effective services for their users. Increasing costs, the number of resources and shrinking budget has also led libraries to use open source software. (Payne & Singh, 2010) also highlight "Libraries are increasingly looking for methods to meet user demands while simultaneously providing less costly quality systems and resources". OSS license has given the opportunity to cut budgets on their software and spend budgets at other places. Libraries need minimal amount for implement this software; yes, it is

free, but if the librarian does not have familiar with software environment then the minimum price will be paid for the services support and maintenance.

INTEGRATED LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Integrated library management software, also known as library management system and library management system software, but meanings of all these terms are same. (David, 2001) define as, “An automated library system that is capable of managing the operations of more than one basic library functions by sharing the files in the server to perform them” and (Ebenezer, 2002) define as “ an interrelated group of computer programs that automates multiple library operations”. It has been developed to performing the key functions of a library. The key function of a library includes acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serials control, and reference service. “Integrated library systems (ILS) are multifunction, adaptable software applications that allow libraries to manage, catalog and circulate their materials to patrons” (Muller, 2011). It helps library professionals to perform these function with help of computer with more efficiency, reliability and effectively for serve the user’s requirements.

KOHA: OPEN SOURCE LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE



Koha is an open source integrated library management system that has been developed in 1999 under General Public License to enhance performance of all library routine activity by Katipo communications Limited in New Zealand. It is the based on client-server architecture. Koha server support linux, unix, and mac operating system and client requires only a web browser on workstation. Koha has given freedom to librarian from product dependency(koha, 2017). (Singh & Sanaman, 2012) also mention “OSS represents an exciting opportunity for libraries rather than forcing a library to depend on products which may not fully meet its needs. Open source allows the library to participate directly in the development of its systems and innovate services in a manner consistent with the values of librarianship.” It is fully web-based software means that multiple operations can be performed at a time and provides user friendly interface with twelve modules include:

- Acquisition
- Cataloguing
- Circulation
- Serials
- Patron
- Reports
- Authorities
- Koha Administration
- Tools
- Lists
- Advanced Search
- About Koha

INSTALLATION OPTIONS

Most of the open source software packages are genuinely developed for the Linux operating systems. Installation of open source software is complex procedure for library professionals because its require expertise in command based environment. Two following option to install koha are available in public domain:

- **Manual installation**
Koha is support for Linux operating system so that installing koha through commands is not easy as like the Windows based software. It needs the library professionals’ expertise in Linux operating system.
- **Live CD installation**
Live CD installation is not official supported by koha, but developed by experts in open source library management software to make the installation easy. Library Professional requires basic knowledge of the Linux environment to install it.

KOHA SOFTWARE FEATURES

Koha is the fully web based integrated library management system and frequently updated by the developer community according to the users requirement. Their web based features facilitate the library staff and user to access it from anywhere, any time by using a web browser. This feature gives independence from specific platform dependence. It has many more following features:

- Support multi –library and branches
- Customizable search
- Barcode printing and reader
- Reports and statistics
- SMS or email alert
- Online renewals and reservations
- Online public access catalogue (OPAC)
- Multi-lingual OPAC support
- Book suggestion through OPAC
- Supporting library standards and protocols
- Union catalogue facility
- Patron login/account management
- Catalog templates/frameworks
- Supporting library standards and protocols such as MARC21, UNIMARC, Z39.50

SUMMING UP

Information and communication technologies have impacted the libraries by amending the way of process, storage, organization and distribution of information. The current scenario is the main reason for the library and information center to implement the fully automated system and digital services, but shrinking budget is in front of libraries as a barrier. Koha has removed the barriers and limitations of small and medium libraries which are usually restricted to the financial crisis. It is web-based multilingual Integrated Library System to cater to the automation needs of medium to large libraries around the world. Its comprehensive functionality including basic and advanced options attract to the libraries to develop new features to support the workflows of libraries.

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