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Automation of Library using SOUL 2.0 by the Government Colleges of Sikkim with special reference to Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College,Tadong (Sikkim)

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ABSTRACT

Libraries which were considered only as the storehouses of knowledge have got a new outlook in the modern Information Communication Technology era. Libraries today not only need physical infrastructure in terms of building, furniture and equipment but also require, quality reading material, ICT infrastructure for automation and networking. Library automation is the general term used when information communications technology are used to replace manual system in the library. It is the process of automating the library function using the modern technology like application of computer and communication technology. A standard library software package has the key role on the success of the process. This paper highlights the present scenario of library automation in Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong (Sikkim).

KEYWORDS: Academic Library, Government Colleges, NBBDC,Tadong, Library Automation, Software

1. INTRODUCTION

The automation is clearly defined as the technique; a process or a system operates automatically. Library automation in India started in the late 1970s in few specialized libraries has now reached most of the academic libraries. Development and use of information and communication technology (ICT) enable the libraries not on to offer their clientele the appropriate information available within their libraries but also gain access to catalogues of other libraries, both local and outstations **(Singh,2003).** Today, here is a greater responsibility on the part of the library and information centers to provide the latest and timely information to their users to facilitate improving the quality of education.

2. COLLEGES IN SIKKIM

Sikkim, the 22nd State of Indian Union is located in the southern mountain ranges of the Eastern Himalayas between Northern Latitudes 27o 4'45" to 28o 7" 45 N latitude' and 88o 35' 15" E Longitudes. It is spread below the world's third highest mountain range, Khangchendzonga (8585m), revered by the Sikkimese as their protective deity. Sikkim is separated by the Singali *la* range from the Nepal in the west, Cho *la* range from Tibet in the northeast, and the kingdom of Bhutan in the southeast. The Rangit and Rangpo Rivers form the borders with the Indian State if West Bengal in the south. The 11 State Government colleges which are affiliated to Sikkim University are:

SL.NO	College Name	Year of establishment	NAAC	Number of computers	Software used
1.	NBBDC, Tadong	1977	2016	15	SOUL 2.0
2.	Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok	1980	NO	00	Nil
3.	Sikkim Government College, Namchi	1995	2019	02	2020 (Work not started)
4.	Sikkim Government Shanskrit College, Samdong	1997	No	00	Nil
5.	Sikkim Government College, Rehnock	2005	2019	06	2020 (Work not started)
6.	Government B.Ed College, Soreng	2010	N0	00	Nil
7.	Gyalshing Government College	2011	No	01	On the process of purchase
8.	Sikkim Government College, Burtuk	2012	No	01	Nil
9.	Chakung Government Science College	2016	No	01	Nil
10.	Sikkim Government College, Mangishila	2017	No	00	Nil

All these government colleges need to be automated for effective use of library facilities by the students and faculty members. Computerization not only eases out the job of librarians who singly handily manage library activities without assistant librarians in most of the college libraries. It also helps library is providing better services to the students and faculty members. Basically the government college library of Sikkim has started thinking about library automation after existence of NAAC.

3. BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF NAR BAHADUR BHANDARI DEGREE COLLEGE, TADONG (NBBDC,TADONG)

Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong (NBBDC,Tadong) was established in 1977 by an Act of state Legislature. It was formerly known as Sikkim Government College, Tadong. The college is affiliated to Sikkim

Central University and is governed by Director of Higher Education, Government of Sikkim and is NAAC accredited.

At present the college library system is serving more than 298 teachers, 3000 undergraduate (BA, BSc, B.Com), & 200 post graduate students. It is also serving the 100 students of integrated Programs (I.T & Pharmaceutical chemistry), researchers and non teaching staff .A college central library have 250 seating capacity at a time, 21 departmental libraries with separate e-resource to facilitated and nurture the progressive demand of fine education in Sikkim.

4. COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Good library services decided on the collection available in the library. NBBDC has a unique collection of Books, Thesis, Periodicals and Journals (hard copy and online) ranging from almost all disciplines from to modern science and technology to ancient Indian culture, philosophy, religion, arts, humanities. The library has the following documents:

Document	No. of Documents
Books	22,745
Journals	43
Online Journals	NLIST (Inflibnet)
E-books	NLIST (Inflibnet)
Thesis	05
Govt. Collection	288

5. AUTOMATION OF LIBRARY

College library, though started with the establishment of college in 1977 practiced the library operation in the old traditional method till 2012. The library operation which involves charging and discharging of books, acquisition of materials, cataloguing, and classification were being done manually. But, in 2012, the college was acquainted about the free services provided by the INFLIBNET centre to the Government College of North-Eastern State which fell under (12B) & (12F), that means college have permanent affiliation and eligible to get central fund from the UGC. As Sikkim was the 8th North-Eastern State and NBBDC Tadong, college falls under (12B) & (12F) so the college decided to automate its system in 2013 to provide quick search facility to the users, Soul 2.0 software developed by the INFLIBNET Centre was installed in the College library, but due to some technical problems data entry work could not be started. Again, in 2015 the college again acquires SOUL 2.0 for its library automation project.

6. SOUL 2.0

Software of university library **(SOUL) (Araro, SOUL Mannual)** is state-of-art integrated library management software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET Centre based on requirements of college and university libraries. It is user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment. The software is complaint to internationals of the country; the software was designed to automate all housekeeping operations in library. The software is suitable not only for the academic libraries, but also for all types and sizes of libraries, even school libraries. The first version of software i.e. Soul 1.0 was released during Caliber 2000. The database of the SOUL 1.0 is designed on MS-SQL and is compatible with MS-SQL Server 7.0 or higher. The second version of the software 2.0 was released in 2008 which is designed for the latest version of MS-SQL and MySQL. SOUL 2.0 is

complaint to international standards such as MARC 21 bibliographic records and NCIP 2.0 based protocols for electronic surveillance and control.

7. SOUL SOFTWARE MODULES

7.1 Administrative Module:

The module has been divided into three major sections for accommodating the new features; those are User Management, System Parameters and Masters. The administration volume provides the following features:

- Grouping of users based on the policy.
- Transaction level security to users,
- Transaction rights over the systems,
- Various configuration settings such as labels, e-mail and other parameters related to the software use
- Common master databases being used in modules.

7.2 Catalogue Modules:

Catalogue module is used for retrospective conversion of library resources. It also facilitates library staff to process the newly acquired library resources. The strong features of catalogue module are:

- Allows cataloguer to create their own templates for data entry of different library resources,
- Different templates for leaders and fixed fields of MARC21,
- Allows user-generated customized reports,
- Facilitates authority database of person name, corporate body, subject headings and series name,
- Supports copy cataloguing in MARC21 format by using ISO-2709 standard,
- Master database of publishers,
- Multi-lingual database by using Unicode Character set, and
- Support full MARK 21 bibliographic format.

7.3 Circulation Module:

This module takes care of all possible functions of circulation. Sufficient care has been taken in designing this module starting from membership management, maintenance and status of library items, transaction, ILL, overdue charges, renewals and reminders, search status and report generation according to the status of the items. The circulation module is fully compliant with the NISO Circulation and Interchange Protocol (NCIP) version 2.0 for electronic surveillance and FRID based transaction of the items. Major functions of the circulation module:

- Membership,
- Transaction,
- Inter-library loan,
- Overdue Charges,
- Reminder,
- Search Status,
- Maintenance of the items such as binding, lost, replace, missing, withdrawal, etc and
- Report generation based on the various requirements.

7.4 Acquisition Module:

This module has been further divided into sub modules to cater to its functional requirements. The module enables library staff to handle all the major functions, such as:

- Suggestions management,
- Order processing, cancellation and reminders,
- Receipt, Payment and budgetary control,
- Master files such as currency, vendors and publishers etc, and
- Reports.

7.5. Serial Control Module:

Managing serials is the most complicated job for a library. The module keeps track of serials in the library effectively and efficiently. The serial control module is developed based on the Kardex system and has following functions built into it:

- Suggestions,
- Subscription,
- Check-in of individual issues of journals,
- Payment, reminder, binding and title history
- Export/ Import by using ISO 2709 bibliographic exchange format,
- Cataloguing of electronic journals, and
- Keeps track of the history changes of the journals.

7.6 OPAC:

SOUL software provides a robust online Access Catalogue with simple and advanced search facility using author, title, corporate body, conference name, subject headings, keywords, class number, series names, accession number or combination of any of two or more fields of bibliographic records. Major function provided in the module is Simple Search, Boolean Search, and Advanced Boolean Search. Displaying and downloading of records in MS Excel, PDF or MARCXML, SOUL software also supports search for the items that are under acquisition process in the library. It also provides facility to arrange the search result in different orders such as alphabetical, i.e. A to Z or Z to A, ascending and descending order for numerical fields, classified order for call number search etc which is of immense value for quick search.

8. SUGGESTIONS

The NBBDC, Tadong library system is in the pursuit the next generation of library automation system. College library is looking forward to the implementation of self-charging/discharging system, anti-theft mechanism. M-OPAC and availability of dedicated WEBOPAC for institution and faculty libraries which have its own server. Implementation of RFID is the solution on to both self-charging / discharging systems and anti theft mechanism. In order to do so, the education department took an initiative by providing computer and automation software training to the library professional and para library professional to upgrade their skills in order to meet the growing expectation of users from libraries.

9. CONCLUSION

Library Automation brings great changes in the function of the library and proving effective and efficient library services. In the SOUL 2.0 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, these reports are useful to any type of users and any types of libraries in few times. It shows that the automation can improve the library's relevance to the academic community. It further revealed that library staff enjoy working in an automated environment and the patrons enjoyed services rendered using the OPAC instead of a card catalogue. Library automation however requires adequate planning as well as availability of technical support (Egunjobi; 2012).

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