Software for University Libraries (SOUL) and Library Management System (LMS): A Comparative study

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Abstract
The paper deals with comparative study of Software for University Libraries (SOUL) and Library Management System. SOUL developed by Information Library Network (INFLIBNET) LMS developed by Vidya Pratishthans College of Engineering, Baramati. Researcher had hands on experience of both software. Comparative study shows pros and cons of both software’s.

Keywords: SOUL, INFLIBNET, Library Management System, Module.

1. Introduction
Library Software is the most important for the success of library automation as it has many implications for a library are operations services staff and users. The success of library automation depends largely on the selection of right software and its effective implementation. A wide variety of library software packages are available in the market. Selection of an appropriate package suited to a particular library and its intelligent implementation are challenging computer task in library automation process. Therefore libraries should evaluate and compare all the available software packages carefully in order to select the best one that can match both the priority requirements and available financial resources.

2. NEED OF THE STUDY:
Library Management System (LMS) is developed by Computer Department of Vidya Pratishtan’s College of Engineering, Baramati, Dist- Pune (Maharashtra) It is in house developed software. This software is developed exclusively to meet the needs of our library. Software for University Libraries is developed by INFLIBNET. It is user friendly software developed to work under client server environment.
3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Moorty A L, Laxman Rao N and Goud Sudhakar have evaluated Library Software Packages in India in his book entitled “Technology Management in Libraries” Dr. S Gopalkrishnan, and Dr. Pichppan P. has given a list of commercially available Software Packages in India, and discussed some packages in his book “Emerging Thrust Areas In Library and Information Science”. Prof. Dadage V.R. edited some articles in SOUL in his SOUVENIER “Modern Trends in Library and Information Science.” S. C. Saxena and R. K. Srivastava have been evaluated Library Software Packages available in India in DESIDOC Bulletin. Dr. Satyanarayana M. has described the activities of INFLIBNET in Library Automation in IASLIC Bulletin. SOUL Software is studied by scholars and Professionals, But Library Management System (LMS) didn’t studied by any scholar.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To study software for University Libraries (SOUL)
2. To study library Management system (LMS)
3. To make comparative study of LMS and SOUL

5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:
The topic of the research work reflects its scope. The scope is to determine and analyses true various dimensions of Library Management System and Software for University Libraries (SOUL).

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
Comparative study approach has been employed for this study, because all higher knowledge is gained by comparison and rest on comparison. Comparative research is concerned with obtaining information about more than one set of conditions or group of subjects and to compare the multiple sets of data on the basis of laid down criteria. Here comparative judgment is applied to obtain judgment regarding difference or no difference or larger or smaller in size.

7. Software for University Libraries (SOUL) and Library Management System: Comparison
7.1 Software Developer:
Software for University Libraries is designed and developed by INFLIBNET. INFLIBNET stands for Information and Library Network. It is an autonomous Inter University Center of University Grants Commission, which is located at Gujarat University campus, Ahmadabad.
Library Management System (LMS) is designed and developed by Department of Computer Engineering of Vidya Pratishthan’s College of Engineering Baramati, Dist Pune.

7.2 Modules:

**SOUL has following six modules**

1) Acquisition Module
2) Catalogue Module
3) Circulation Module
4) Serial Module
5) OPAC Module
6) Administration

**LMS has following 14 Modules.**

1) Transaction Module
2) Members Module
3) Material Module
4) Reports Module
5) Withdrawal Module
6) Verification Module
7) Search Module
8) Demand Module
9) Purchase Module
10) Set Up Module
11) Clearance Module
12) Bar Code Module
13) Notice Module
14) Back Up Module

7.3 Acquisition Reports:

Item in Acquisition, Invoice Register, Supplier history, Accession Register, Letter Format these reports can generate in SOUL LMS don’t have these reports, But we can know Invoice Register in Setup Module. Also suppliers information i.e. suppliers history are available in supplier sub module. We can take print out of Accession Register. LMS didn’t provide letter formats like SOUL.
7.4 Circulation Module:
   SOUL circulation module includes
   1) Membership
   2) Reminders
   3) Transactions
   4) Search status
   5) Inter Library Loan (ILL)
   6) Reports
   7) Overdue Charges / Fine
   8) Maintenance.

7.5 Membership:
   We have to fill up the following fields in SOUL. The boxes are provided for the member ID, Barcode, (It takes automatically by SOUL), Last name, First Name, Middle Name, Date of Birth, Member type, Current / Suspended, Course, Year of Admission, Category, Present Address, Phone No, E-mail ID, Permanent Address, Phone No Effective Date, Validity period and Remark we can print member card.

   LMS have less information about membership. We have to enter member ID, Password, First Name, Last Name, Roll No, Department, Class etc. And select Student or staff. If member is staff then his designation are to be selected from drop down menu lastly you click on add button.

   If we compare membership details in SOUL and LMS. We will know SOUL have more information regarding Member which is very useful for library.

   SOUL Provides this facility to delete membership either group wise or single. LMS did not have group wise delete membership facility. It has only single delete membership. i.e. Making invalid status of member.

7.6 No Dues Certificate:
   No Dues Certificate is issued to member by library when they quit college or Institute.

   SOUL has facility to issue No Dues Certificate to group or single, also you can change matter of the certificate.

   LMS have facility to issue Clearance Certificate i.e. No. Dues Certificate to a member only, Group No dues Certificate facility is not provided in LMS.
7.7 **Members ID card:**
SOUL has a facility to create and print ID card for a group of members and individual members also. LMS don’t have facility to create ID card of members. ID Cards are issued to the members by college office.

7.8 **Transactions:**
SOUL have provided following Transactions,

1) Issue Transaction
2) Return Transaction
3) Renewal Transaction
4) Reservation Transaction
5) Recall / Reminder

**Library Management System (LMS) has only two Transactions:**

1) Issue Transactions
2) Return Transactions

7.9 **Circulation Reports:**
SOUL has a facility to generate report i.e. library member list, member list Criteria wise Member List, Department wise Member list, Items issued over a period, Items returned over a period, Item Transaction History, Department List, Category List, overdue item List, library membership expiry member History fine collection over a period, Issue status Department wise, Issue status category wise most frequently issued item most frequent Users, maximum pending dues maximum fine payers class No. wise status. Transaction Log (Staff) LMS has facility to generate following reports. Library Member List is available in Membership module criteria wise member list can generate, Department wise list and class wise member list, Books issued over a period & Books returned over a period, (Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Semester) can generate, Books, Transaction History, fine collected over a period, department wise books Issue report, Book Bank Books Returned Report, Most frequently Books issued Books, Most frequently users Maximum fine payers (Defaulters Student List).

7.10 **OPAC Module:**
**Online Public Access (OPAC),** as the name suggests is a catalogue of all the materials hold by the library. This includes Books, Theses Reports, Serials, CD-ROM, etc. LMS Database can be searched by six different Options as given below,
1) Accession Number
2) Title
3) Author
4) Subject
5) Classification Number
6) Department

Users have to fill any one or two fields and click on submit button / enter screen will display document details like Accession Number, Title, Author status (Available / Issued / Withdrawal etc) and Location. Boolean search facility also provided in LMS. Web OPAC facility is not available in LMS.

7.11 Administration:
SOUL has provided users library staff Login according to his/her Authority responsibility, Here We have to enter full Name Last Name Middle Name and his / her Designation like Librarian, Asst Librarian, Information Officer, Library Clerk, Library attendant and mark on His / her work module in the Software.

7.12 Manual / Documentation:
INFLIBNET provides well designed manual of the SOUL which is very useful when you are working on SOUL. LMS don’t have manual, Due to non availability of Manual Library Personnel are facing so many problems.

7.13 Users:
SOUL Users are University and College Libraries in all over India.

LMS user is Vidya Pratishthan’s College of Engineering Library Baramati Dist Pune

7.14 Maintenance and Support Facility:
SOUL: Maintenance and Support Facility is not Provided to SOUL users

LMS: Computer Engineering Department’s software Development team (Programmers) Provides very good Support for regular maintenance and continuous improvement in LMS according to need.

7.15 Acceptance of Library Specification:
SOUL Supports internationally known standards such as Common Communication Format (CCF) Machine Readable Catalogue (MARC) I MARC21, Anglo American Cataloguing Rules i.e. AACR – II
LMS didn’t support any standards like SOUL

7.16 Multi-script Acceptance:
SOUL has multi-script acceptance facility i.e. you can enter your data in same Indian Languages.
LMS didn’t have such type of facility; you have to enter data in English Language only.

7.17 Updated Version:
INFLIBNET provides revised version of SOUL to the users, Users not necessary to pay additional charges / Amount to INFLIBNET.

7.18 User Friendly:
SOUL have Windows based, well designed screens, logically arranged functions with extensive help message make it user friendly. LMS could not provide screen help messages.

7.19 Performance:
SOUL performance is very good, Multi-user, Multitasking facility is provided,
LMS performance is satisfactory

7.20 Member Photography:
You can add photography of a library member in SOUL Software.
LMS don’t have photography facility in membership module.

7.21 Overdue Charges Concession Facility:
SOUL doesn’t have a overdue charges concession facility.
LMS have a good overdue charges/ Fine concession facility.

7.22 Membership Validity:
In SOUL you can give membership validity according to your system
In LMS membership validity is only one academic year from July to June, Every year you have to modify status of all the members.

7.23 Transaction Time:
SOUL provides transaction date only.
LMS provides transaction date and time in seconds also.

7.24 User Group:
SOUL have a user’s Group.
LMS don’t have Group of users.

7.25 Barcode Facility:
Bar code facility is provided in SOUL for member ID’s and Book (s)
LMS have Barcode facility only for Book’s and not for member ID’s

8. CONCLUSION:

SOUL is very good library software for all the libraries. LMS is developed by Engineering College for own Library. If we compare overall performance of SOUL and LMS, SOUL is very good Software, and LMS is satisfactory and good. LMS must improve continuously and update all the modules according to need. Also some improvement is essential according to today’s new technologies like (RFID) in both software packages.

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