



Evaluating Library Automation Software: A Practical Approach From Nirmala College For Women, Coimbatore

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Abstract

Library is the storehouse of knowledge. The main objective of Library is to fulfill the needs of the user. To satisfy the needs of the users the Libraries have to accept and adopt the advancement of information technology to upgrade their services. Library Management System (LMS) is the most important aspects of the Library routines and it facilitates the work of librarian in a effective way. Implementations of Library management system helps to reduce human errors, manages the resources and provide efficient services. This study focuses on the general and special features of Logic Launch Technologies CampesiLIB software the best Library management system in Nirmala college Library and its impact on their Library services .

Keywords : Library Automation, Library Management system (LMS), Information Technology(IT), CampesiLIB, Library Routines, OPAC, Nirmala college for women.

Introduction

The growth and increase of Information Technology (IT) has elevated its impact in all the fields. It has its own influence in the field of Library and information science. The over flow of information and the information needs of the Users have paved way for the implementation of Library Automation. The Library Automation was first used by D.S Harder in 1937. Library Automation means, performing all the information operation in the Library with the help of computers and related technologes (Tufail Khan, 2016). The initiation of Library Automation helped the libraries to provide utmost services to the users. In later days highly developed systems were introduced in the Library Automation called Library Management System (LMS).

A Library Management System (LMS) gives access to and manages the resources in the Library. A well-chosen system will increase Library's efficiency, save valuable administration time, lead to a better educational experience for users and help develop independent learning. The existence of Library Management System came into the World from mid 1970's. LMS is separated into four catagories by their generation (Shailendra, 2011).

- First generation – Module based system
- Second generation – Unix and Dos based system
- Third generation – Integrated Library system
- Fourth generation – Web-centric architechture

A Library Management Software or Automated Library System usually consists of a number of functional modules, such as acquisitions, circulation, cataloguing, serials, and OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue). Library Management System (LMS) is software built to handle the primary housekeeping functions of a Library. This also help Libraries keep track of their documents inventory and loans, and member subscriptions and profiles, sometimes for multiple physical locations. Integrated Library Management System (LMS) is multifunction system applications that allow libraries to handle their catalogue record as well as circulate them to the user (Muller, 2011). Library Management Systems Software developed to support effective management of the Library activities like stock taking, selection, acquisition, cataloguing and classification, serial management, evaluation and among others. LMS is an enterprise resource planning system for a Library, which is used to track items owned, orders made, bills paid and patrons who have borrowed (Randhawa, 2013).

The Library Management System helps to give efficient service to the students. There are many softwares available commercially and at free of cost too. A well-chosen system will improve standard of Library services. In choosing LIS software, libraries must base their decision not only on the performance and efficiency of the system, but also on its fundamental flexibility to readily adapt to the future demands and needs of their patrons (Muller, 2011).

Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore

Nirmala College for women (Autonomous) is a prestigious institution of higher learning, which aims at the emancipation of young women. Founded in 1948, the college has enriched in all the spheres over the years, demonstrated varied excellences, cherished to celebrate diamond jubilee as Autonomous Institution, accredited with 'A' grade from NAAC with CGPA 3.62. The college has established its integrity in providing unprecedented opportunity, radiating virtues of quality education by instilling intellectual empowerment to achieve the goals instigating on "Knowledge Purifies, Charity Enhances".

Nirmala College Library

The Library offers a feast to the intellectual appetite to satiate young minds. The Library is the most frequented place in the college both by students and by the members of the staff. It houses 61661 Books, 200 Journals and Magazines both National and International. The Library is fully computerized with bar coding facility in the year 2004 and the books are classified by Dewey decimal classification. The OPAC system enables the students to check the availability, status and the exact locations of the books. The bar coded ID cards help to systematize the day today book transactions. Library is a three storeyed building, and is fully automated with a wide collection of the latest Books, Periodicals and CDs, which is updated every year. The Library, which has an open access system, uses technology in efficient and innovative manner. The Library functions in a networked environment, and Electronic resources such as INFLIBNET- N List and NPTEL are made available to all members of the Library via internet and the College intranet. The Library also hosts DELNET, a digital repository of research. The main objectives of DELNET are to promote resource sharing among the member libraries by collecting, storing and disseminating information and provide networked services to researchers and scholars to supplement their research activity. It contains published articles, syllabi, conference papers, question papers, theses and other related documents, with full text wherever possible.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the efficiency of the CampesiLIB software in Nirmala college Library
- To understand the popularity of Logic Launch Technologies – CampesiLIB among Library Professionals in coimbatore district
- To find out the reason for application of Logic Launch Technologies
- To know the satisfaction level of Library users and professionals
- To provide speed, quality services to the users
- To maintain various types of materials available in the Library

Review of Literature

The review of related studies is an essential part of any research. It gives outlines of experts and researchers published earlier in the particular area.

Moruf (2020), presented a review on the evolving features of some commonly adopted Open-source ILS software (Koha, NewGenlib, Evergreen, PMB and OpenBiblio) which had stirred ALS to ILS, as well as justifications and barriers to the use of open source software in Academic libraries.

Alwi Mohd yunus (2020), presented the impact of LMS in the Library environment. The pros and cons of Library Management System(LMS) are also discussed.

Naveed-e-Sehar (2019), recommended the development as well as implementation architectures, development technologies, database platforms, required human resources, and Infrastructure (i.e. servers, client machines etc.) for ALMS as a preferred system for public libraries in Karachi, Pakistan. He proposed a new model for public libraries that refocuses them on the vital task of knowledge management coherent within their communities

Sudesh Kumar (2018), presented the different types of Library management software packages being used in the Central University of Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) - Katra. He provided some basic idea to librarians which help them in selecting the suitable Library management software package for their respective libraries.

Bhagwan Singh (2017), discussed how a Library should be transformed/upgraded in to an automated environment/ a higher level of automation. He suggested in the process, some strategic such as, Know Your Library (KYL), Know Your User (KYU), Wise Selection of software and hardware, Library database management (LDBM) Library database verification (LDBV), IT-enabled user relationship management (IT-eURM), etc.

Umesha Naik (2016), illustrated the general and specific features, of the four most popular integrated Library management software. And a brief dissection was done on popular software package, which are available for automation purposes. He also focused on the overview of Library automation software packages, and their features and functions of Library management.

Features of Library Management System

- Maintain the whole Library through the software interface.
- Client-server based architecture , User-friendly interface
- Supports multi-platform for bibliographic database such as My SQL, MS-SQL or any other RDBMS;
- Provides freedom to users for generating reports of their choice
- Supports ground-level practical requirements of the libraries such as stock verification, book bank, transaction level enhanced security, etc.
- Provides facility to send reports through e-mail, allows users to save the reports in various formats such as Word, PDF and Excel
- Highly versatile and user-friendly OPAC with simple and advanced search. Student can check the availability status of a particular book. OPAC users can export their search results in to PDF, MS Excel
- Supports authority files of personal name, corporate body, subject headings and series name
- Provides simple budgeting system and single window operation for all major circulation functions
- Available at an affordable cost with strong institutional support.
- Save the time and energy of the Library staff
- Generate customised Library report for Library items
- Barcode technology is used for effective service.

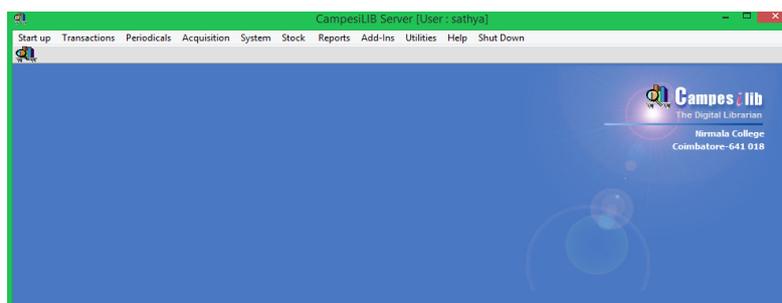
CampesiLIB

CampesiLIB is state-of-the-art integrated Library management software designed and developed by S. Muthu kumar, M/s **Logic Launch Technologies, Coimbatore**. The Company involved in academic related software over 15 years. It is capable of giving service for its clients all the time, backed by well experienced programmers. It is user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment.



Modules of Logic Launch

Logic Launch software module has several features which are very important to provide effective service for the user by the Library. Users can make effective use of the functionalities of the Library and its collections (Books, Journals, Magazines, Theses and Dessertations etc.,). The screen below helps to understand the main menu that are available in this module.

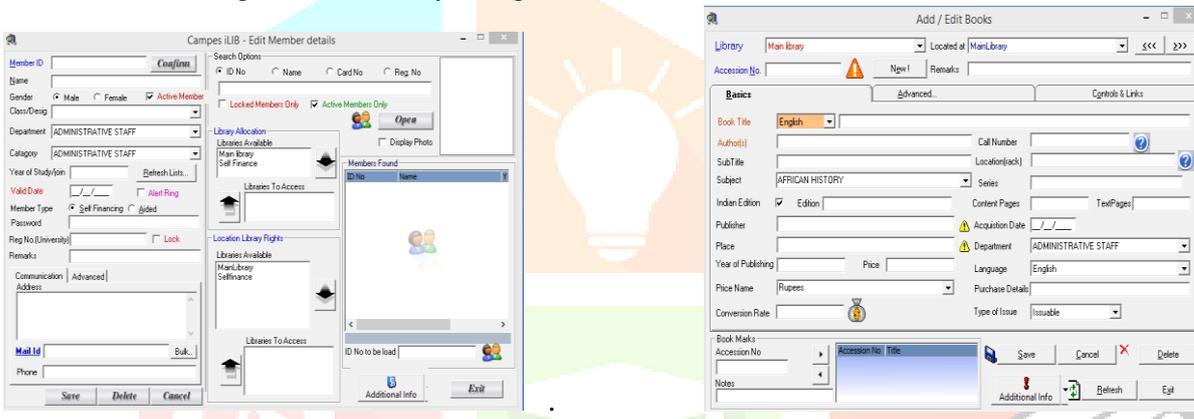


- Master Entry
- Circulation
- Serial Control
- Acquisition
- Stock verification
- Report
- OPAC

Master Entry

This is the first module shown in menu bar. This module helps to create main entry for Library member, it allow the user to access the Library services.

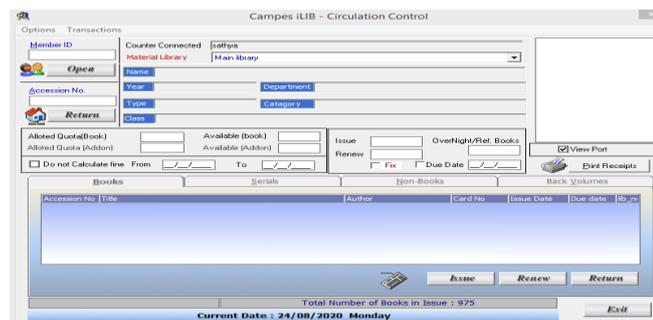
- This module is used for retrospective conversion of Library resources. It also facilitates Library staff to process of the newly acquired Library resources.
- Allows cataloguer to create their own templates for data entry of different Library resources
- Allows user-generated customized reports
- Facilitates authority database of person name, corporate body, subject headings and series name
- Multi-lingual database by using Unicode character set



Circulation

Circulation service is the heart of all the Library service because it is directly dealing with the user. The Circulation module involves charging and discharging of Library resources.

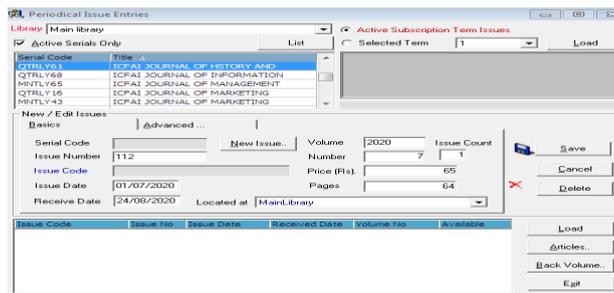
- Transaction of book according to the needs of the user
- Renewals and Alert Logs used as reminder to the user and Library staff
- Help to collect Overdue charges by automatically counting days from the date in case of late return
- Create Circulation Reports for book according to the title of the book, date, name of the use etc
- Helps to view History and Statistics transactions.



Serial Control

The Serial Control module keeps track of serials in the Library effectively and efficiently. This module provides the following facilities like,

- Master databases for each Journals
- Subscription details
- Issue Entries
- Article Entries
- Back Volumes
- Cataloguing of journals
- History changes of the journals



Acquisition module

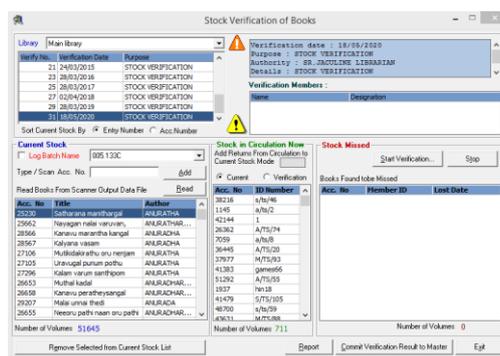
Every Library has its own purchasing transaction for collection development purposes. It helps to manage budgets and funds, available budgets and invoice for vendors.

- Fund Scheme
- Maintenance of Purchase Bills
- Bill Contents
- Bill Reports

Stock Verification

This module is helpful to check stock of the Library. In our Library we avoid lost of books and replace the missing them correctly by using this module.

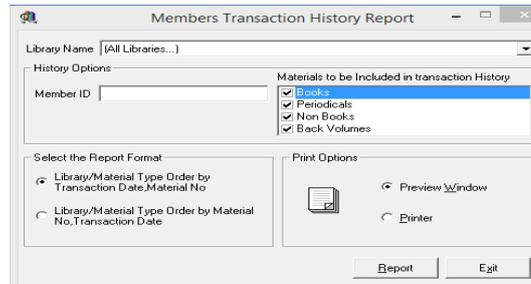
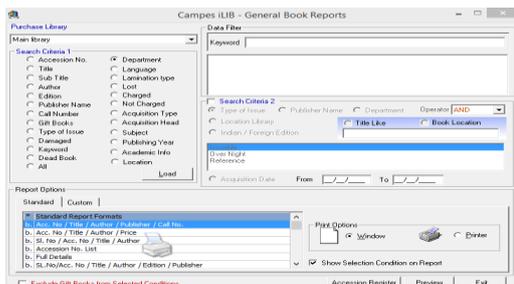
- Master Reports
- Read and Control
- Lost and Replace
- Binding Details



Reports

It helps to generate accurate reports by single click. It Provides facility to send reports through e-mail, allows users to save the reports in various formats such as Word, PDF, Excel.

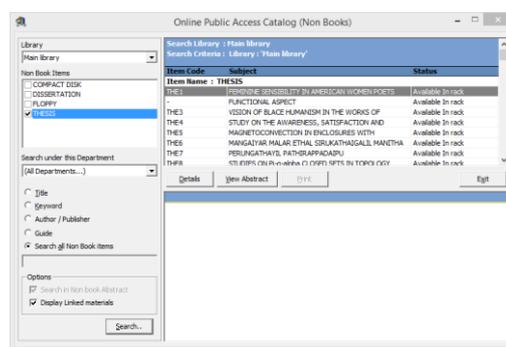
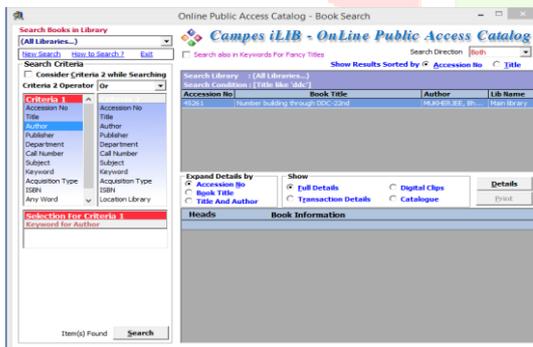
- Books & Non Book Materials
- History of transactions
- Material Statistics
- Transaction Logs
- Multi Language Books
- Entry Register



OPAC

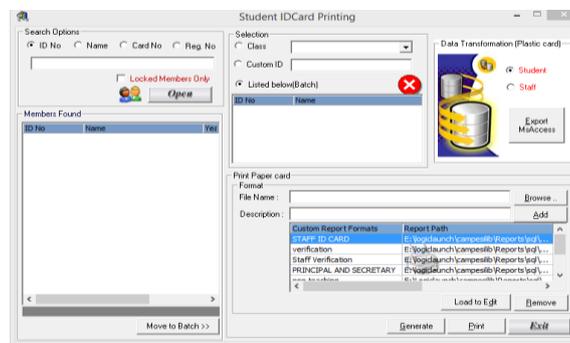
The OPAC has simple and advanced search facility with the minimum information of the item by using author, title, corporate body, conference name, subject headings, keywords, class number, series name, accession number or combination of any of two or more information regarding the item. Major functions provided in the module are:

- Simple Search
- Boolean Search
- Advanced Boolean Search
- Displaying and downloading of records in MS Excel, PDF
- Reservation of Books
- Member Due list



Member ID card creation

It helps to create ID card for students and staff. By this we can store and collect Member Information within short time. This card also serves as the student ID card.



Conclusion

Information and Communication Technology, have changed the role of the libraries to acquire, maintain, manage and distribute the information to the end users. The main purpose of Library automation is, to access the main modules and functions of the Library. Library Management System (LMS) is the most important aspects of the modern system where it can facilitate the work of librarian and serve the users well. This study shows that Logic Launch integrated Library management software LMS provides positive impacts towards Library's environment and its services this system should be improved for future use in order to compete with other application system. It is examined that automation of college Library is very helpful for the management to have the entire Library functions on control. This implementation of CampesiLIB Library management software is being considered as the best technological development which satisfies the Nirmala college Library professionals.

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