Chapter -2
Review of Literature

Computerization activities can be said to have been started in India in 1955 with the installation of the first computer system HEC-2M at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Calcutta (Lakshmana Moorthy, 2004). But the Library Management Software were started to be made available all over the world during 1970s (Rowley, 1998). Thus, the history or library automation in general and that of library management software in particular is not much older. So not much work has been done in this area, however a few studies have been carried out by different scientists time to time on library management software. A careful review of the earlier studies is presented below:

Vyamooorthy (1992) has discussed some the software packages available in India for library and information work. Chowdhury and Chowdhury (1994) have high-lighted the present Indian scenario by presenting a brief overview of 10 selected indigenous packages, namely CATMAN, CDS/ISIS, LIBRARIAN, LibSys, MAITRAYEE, MECSYS, NIRMALS, SANJAY, TULIPS, and WILISYS. Patel and Bhargava, (1995) have made a comparative study of software available in the Indian market for library automation. Later, Seth and Dalai (1995) have also studied some of the library automation software of India.

Sengupta (1997) has evaluated the circulation control modules and its essential features at IIT, Kanpur. Saxena and Srivastava (1998) have also evaluated some of library software packages. They have concluded that - a suitable hardware is needed for implementing software in a library according to operating system of the software. The availability of suitable hardware in Indian libraries is a problem mostly due to non-availability of funds or non-priority to libraries. Operating system of software is also selected according to the needs of library, skill of manpower, availability of hardware, etc. Mishra (1999) has emphasized on the needs of computerization for housekeeping operations, networking, bar-code, facility, and OPAC etc. He has given the main emphasis on the software selection as the prime requirement during computerization of any library.
Bhardwaj and Shukla (2000) have discussed some important software like – LibSys, SCIMATE, CDS/ISIS, Sanjay, MAITRAYEE and OASIS etc. for library computerization work in different libraries. Vasantha and Mudhol (2000) have discussed in details a few library software packages for library automation in their work *Software Packages for Library Automation*. They have given main emphasis to describe LibSys and Soul, developed by INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad.

Patel and Krishan Kumar (2001) have also discussed and evaluated some of the library software. Mukhopadhyay (2001) has also given an account on the progress of library management software in Indian scenario. A comparative evaluation of some of the important library software has also been presented by Dhawan (2002). Singh (2003) has made an overview on the important library automation and networking software. Dhiman (2003) and Dhiman and Rani (2005 & 2007) have also provided a bird’s eye view on the different library software available in the country.

Wilson (2005) has presented a review on some of the library management systems. Hussain and Ansari (2007) have studied the cataloguing modules of Alice for Windows, LibSys and Virtua. Mandal and Nandi (2007) have emphasized over the role of open source software to measure the usage of digital libraries. Where, they have also listed some of the open library source software used in building digital libraries. Cargile (2005) observed a scarcity of practical information about OSS, such as simplified technical explanations in his survey for open source integrated library software.

Harinaryana and Raghavan (2008) have evaluated the retrieval capabilities of CDS/ISIS and LibSys. Besides, Kushwah, Gautam & Singh (2008), have studied some library automation and open source solutions with emphasis on major shifts and practices in India. Riewe (2008) has also presented a survey of open source library management software in his Master Thesis submitted to San Jose State University. She has surveyed eighteen library staff and four patrons on three proprietary library software and one open source integrated library software. She has concluded although users of open source integrated library software experienced difficulties with
installation and incomplete documentation, they were modestly more satisfied than users of proprietary library software.

Ahmad and Iqbal (2009) has emphasized over various points on the library automation using Alice for Window Library Software in libraries. Mulla, Chandrashekara and Talawar (2010) have attempted comparative study, evaluation and selection criteria for different Indian software package.

Dhiman (2010) also has discussed some of the most common and popular free / open library software available in the country for automating various services of the libraries. Neelakandan, Duraisekar, Balasubramani and Ragavan (2010) have proposed a model for automating School of Chemistry library of Bharathidasan University using KOHA as the software. They found Koha software as more suitable for the library automation. Besides, some of the open sources software used in the libraries are also discussed by Maguipuinamei (2011).

Recently, Singh and Gulati (2011) have also presented an account on open source software in the field of library & information centres/science. They are of the opinion that the future application of open source software are certainly depends upon customization, service supports, comparability, interoperability and vibrant collaborations of research groups of persons.

Thus, a careful review of the literature shows that almost no comprehensive study had been undertook till now in the field of library management software, hence the present problem is undertaken as a research topic “Free/Open versus Commercial Software: A Study of Some Selected Library Management Software” for Ph.D. work.

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