PREFACE

A Library is a place where knowledge and Information are kept in an organized way so that any user can acquire information they are looking in a right and short time. Information carries its own value at the very moment when patrons put it in use for fulfilling their information quest. Information are available in books, journals, documents, reports, CDs, internet etc. At the present time advancement in technology and internet trend have paved the way of information dissemination in libraries.

Library Management Software (LMS) is a software package developed to handle everyday housekeeping functions of a library efficiently. Since various discrete functionalities of a library like acquisition, cataloguing, circulation etc. are integrated into a single user interface in such software, they are often called Integrated Library Management System (ILMS). In attempt to ease and automate the tedious job of library management and its functions, a number of separate ILMS have been developed by different libraries and software firms across the globe. Almost all of them are developed based on server-client architecture with a web-based graphical user interface. Some of the ILMS are even developed under open source license whereas some are made commercially available under strict commercial licensing by respective developers and vendors. With time, newer features are being integrated into the software like tracking and processing of interlibrary loan requests, online acquisition of soft as well as hard copies from vendors, remote access of documents and patron management etc. ILMS has helped bigger libraries achieve automation targets by saving time, manpower and money in day to day library activities. A well developed and integrated software package also increases efficiency, accuracy and speed of routine library jobs.

Serials have always been the primary source of latest information for faculties, scientists, researchers and scholars. They are usually published periodically and target a specific group of interested readers and contain all forms of information and articles on current development in the subject. All institute libraries recognize the importance of serials. Use of LMS packages for managing serials is always helpful. However it can be
seen that library personnel always avoid using the specific module for various problems. Although some of the Institutions under study regularly use the serial control module like IITG, GU, DU, NIT Silchar using LMS packages like Koha, Libsys and SOUL 2.0. The use of serial control module is also very challenging task for librarians due to various uncertainties linked with serials like irregular frequency, missing issues, advance payments etc. Implementing the same on a pre-developed piece of software is even difficult for both the software developer as well as the end user in a library.

The college libraries all over India are encouraged to use SOUL (Software for University Libraries), a state of the art ILMS developed by INFLIBNET Center, by UGC. The Universities and Institutes of national importance libraries are using various ILMS like Koha, Libsys and SOUL 2.0.

Keeping this in mind, I discussed with my fellow professionals and respected teachers of LIS who have encouraged me to concentrate on the core issue of use of Serial Control Module of Library Software used in Institutes of higher learning in Assam. My teachers in DLISc including Professor Sanjay Kumar Singh have also advised me for undertaking the topic for my PhD and Professor Singh has agreed to my request for guiding me for the study. After the study on my topic, I have got some input. The results on the core issues of Use of library Software packages in institutes of higher learning in Assam with reference to serial control module, I am positive that these will be able to guide both research scholar and LIS professionals in meeting their knowledge drive and further develop their knowledge.

The Thesis is divided in to six chapters. The references are arranged according to the APA Sixth edition version.

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