CHAPTER - 9

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS.
SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

9.1 SUMMARY

Library automation in simple terms is the application of computers and utilisation of computer based products and services for carrying out different library operations. Automation implies a higher degree of mechanization where routine and repetitive tasks or operations are to be performed by machines with little or no intervention by human beings. The lesser the degree of human intervention the greater the degree of automation.

Library automation in any library system is need of the hour. Particularly, in the field of Engineering and Technology, effective services cannot be offered through manual methods. For successful implementation of Library automation, a suitable library software package is very much required. Among the plenty of software packages, in library science, both general and specific, FoxPro seemed to be very much suitable, provided necessary changes are made to suit the requirements of Engineering College Library. The present work has been undertaken with the sole purpose of deeply studying the salient features of FoxPro and also to modify the program on scientific lines to suit the needs engineering college library.

9.2 MAJOR FEATURES OF FOXPRO:

1. FoxPro is the most advanced and fully featured relational DBMS package for microcomputer users. The relational database is command driven and programmable, and user friendly.
2. Database can have up to 255 fields

3. FoxPro permits arithmetical manipulation of data.

4. FoxPro has the facility of report generator. It allows the user to specify the precise layout of a printed version, changing the position of fields.

5. Database can have up to 1 billion records. It is a very important feature of FoxPro. Because of these significant features, FoxPro is very much suitable for automating the Engineering College Library.

9.3 MODULES:

The FoxPro program of present study comprises one main menu and nine modules. Each module has its own options. The main menu consists of following nine modules.

1. STOCK ENTRY
2. STUDENT ENTRY
3. ISSUE
4. RETURN
5. REPORTS
6. PURCHASE ORDER
7. PRINT
8. CATALOGUE
9. PERIODICAL
EXIT
MODULE 1: STOCK ENTRY

This module allows to enter new records, edit records and delete records of books.

To access this module select STOCK ENTRY from main menu, the STOCK ENTRY menu will appear as shown below.

ADDING BOOK
EDITING BOOK
DELETING BOOK

MODULE 2: STUDENT ENTRY

This module allows to enter new records, edit records and delete records of students.

To access this module select STUDENT ENTRY from main menu, the STUDENT ENTRY menu will appear as follows.

ADDING
EDITING
DELETING

MODULE 3: ISSUE

This module allows to issue a book to the user.

To access this module select issue from main menu, the ISSUE menu will appear as follows.

BOOK S.NO
TITLE
AUTHOR
ID NO.
NAME
ISSUE DATE
DUE DATE
Do you want to Issue Y/N

233
MODULE 4: RETURN

This module allows to return the books, from the users.
To access this module select RETURN from main menu, the RETURN menu will appear as under.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOK S.No.</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>ID NO.</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ISSUE DATE</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>RETURN DATE</th>
<th>Do you want receive</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

MODULE 5: REPORTS:

This module allows to verify the no.of transactions (i.e. both issues and returns) of a day, verify no.of books already issued to a member, to know the position of the books (means whether the book is issued out or available in the library).

To access this module select REPORTS option from main menu, the REPORTS MENU will appears as follows

- DAILY REPORT
- QUERY

To access the DAILY REPORT option from module REPORTS, the DAILY REPORT sub menu will appears as

- ISSUE
- RETURNS

To access the QUERY option from module REPORTS, the QUERY sub-menu will appears as
AVAILABLE STUDENT

MODULE6: PURCHASE ORDER

This module allows to order the books, to add, the books, edit the books, delete the books in purchase order list, and finally to take the print out.

To access this module select, PURCHASE ORDER menu from main menu, the PURCHASE ORDER menu will appear as under
ADD
EDIT
DELETE
PRINT

MODULE7: PRINT

This module allows to take printouts as required manner.

MODULE8: CATALOGUE

This module allows to refer the subject catalogue, title catalogue and author catalogue.

To access this module select CATALOGUE from main menu, the CATALOGUE menu will appear as under
SUBJECT
AUTHOR
TITLE

MODULE9: PERIODICAL:

This module allows to add new records in PERIODICAL menu, edit records, delete records from the list. It also allows to list out the missing issues of periodicals.
To access this module select PERIODICAL from main menu, the PERIODICAL menu will display as under:

- ADDING
- EDIT
- DELETE
- QUERY

9.4. CASE STUDY

The present study is a case study of Intell Engineering College Library, Anantapur. The main instruments used for collection of data are primary and secondary sources of information. Wherever necessary, the researcher has collected the information through computer experts. The investigator has explained the context and tried to get the suitable information and the same has been recorded in the thesis.

9.5 METHODOLOGY:

Initially the features of FoxPro have been investigated thoroughly by the researcher. Then the program was developed by using different commands of FoxPro to suit the different operations Intell Engineering College Library.

9.6 MAJOR FINDINGS:

The study led to the following findings.

1. The study presents the overview of the Intell Engineering College Library.

2. The study reveals that, there are so many software packages to automate the libraries, but FoxPro is very much suitable for automating the libraries by its excellent features. In this study the Intell Engineering College Library automation mainly concentrated on acquisition, circulation, cataloguing and periodical control.
3. In this study an experiment is made in designing and developing computer program using FoxPro for acquisition control, circulation control, cataloguing and periodical control.

4. Nine modules are used to automate the various sections of the library.

5. These modules are only a part of package, which is to be developed for entire library activities.

6. The FoxPro permits to modify and improve all library sections (acquisition, circulation, cataloging, periodical control) more effectively.

7. This software is a flexible system for storing, organising analyzing and retrieving information on micro computers.

8. It is far better and advanced when compared with other software packages.

9.7 SUGGESTIONS:

1. The present study is limited to Intell Engineering College Library automation. It can be extended to other colleges i.e. degree colleges, Junior Colleges is referable.

2. A uniformity in library services is possible by using LAN connection between the colleges. For this the library authorities should develop networking of Engineering College Libraries.

3. Library authorities should take steps to maintain the automation in libraries.

4. The college authorities should take an action to train library personnel for operating the computer.

9.8 AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH:

1. The present study can be extended to Engineering Colleges over a large geographical area.

2. The feasibility of FoxPro to academic libraries can be explored.
3. The utilization of FoxPro for special libraries can also be investigated.

9.9 CONCLUSION:

Though there is phenomenal growth in number of Engineering Colleges, the library as the heart of institution, is not paid required attention both by the administrators as well as the library professionals. The major issues of Library automation, application of software packages need to be discussed on common platform and standardisation of library practices shall be brought out so that the effective and fast exchange of information becomes practicable facilitating innovative and modern library services at national level and inturn at global level.