Circulating books, particularly in large libraries, has always been a burdensome operation, but the access to the library resources, which is a part of this process has become increasingly so in recent years. Recently, information scientists, computer engineers, library professionals and even the publishers are keeping themselves engaged to make this very burdensome but essential operation more convenient, more easier and user friendly. Millions of dollars are spent for developing and designing new software to make this very operation successful, which will make the circulation system automatic and convenient. The continuing search for simplification in circulation procedures suggests that they are still too complicated, too costly, and too time-consuming.

Our study makes an attempt to determine and identify the factors that are effective in designing a model of circulation system of university libraries. This study makes the following endeavor: to compare and evaluate existing circulation systems, to compare and evaluate the circulation functions in the Library Management Software, to identify the patrons’ need and their satisfaction level, to determine and identify the factors in designing an effective circulation system and finally to design an effective prototype circulation system for university libraries of West Bengal.

Analysis and findings reveal that all the university libraries are not in position to implement fully automated circulation system and some have adopted both the semi automated and the manual circulation system. However, the model proposed by us may be followed to overcome the difficulties to run the circulation system smoothly and user friendly. Because, this very model is designed keeping in mind the ground reality of the problems faced by the users and the authority of university libraries too. Moreover, the IT revolution, information explosion, and digitization in all spheres of
life – all these features were taken into consideration while we analyzed the research data collected so far to propose such a model.

Our study concludes that its findings will help to design, redesign, develop, and implement library circulation system in the present web environment to provide information resources to the users satisfactorily. Designers, policymakers, planners, administrators, who are engaged in developmental activities of this area and intimately interconnected with the circulation system, must get benefit from the findings of this research work.

Keyword(s): Design of an effective circulation system; Circulation system of university libraries; Comparison of circulation system of different university libraries; Attitude of users; Manual circulation system; Automated circulation system