

## LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE IN MAHARASHTRA: AN OVERVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

Books are the knowledge treasure for the students, youths etc. They contribute in transforming the youths into civilized citizens. In this regard, libraries play a significant role in shaping the generations. Technology has significant impact on improving the reach, accessibility, digitalization, automation, book management, online databases, publications etc. Library automation helps libraries and library patrons to use library resources

effectively. It is streamlined because of computers and software. Automation is a process of using the machineries for easily working and saving the human power and time. The main purpose of library automation is to free the librarians and library staff and to allow them to contribute more meaningfully to spread of knowledge and Information. In the said article, the information about the library software used in the libraries of Maharashtra state has been given.

**Keyword:** *Library Automation, Software, Digitalization, Library Management System*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Books are the knowledge treasure for the students, youths etc. They contribute in transforming the youths into civilized citizens. In this regard, libraries play a significant role in shaping the generations. Technology has significant impact on improving the reach, accessibility, digitalization, automation, book management, online databases, publications etc. Library

automation helps libraries and library patrons to use library resources effectively. It is streamlined because of computers and software (Lancaster, 2008).

A library is a storehouse of information and is an exemplary part of the educational institution and the society as a whole. Over recent years, the way that library functions have undergone a lot of changes. Nowadays, every task related to library management is digitized. Yes, we are currently living in an era of library automation. A library automation system helps in managing the work of the library constructively. It gets more natural for a librarian to efficiently manage the extensive collection of books, magazines, and heaps of journals with library automation software. By employing a library automation system, it is easy to reduce the paperwork, printing cost, and workforce in the library. In present digital world, one can make a smart library where all works get carried out systematically.

## **2. LIBRARY AUTOMATION: BACKGROUND AND NATURE**

Beginning in the 1960s with the development of the machine-readable catalogue record (MARC), the process of automation has expanded to include the core functions of acquisitions, cataloguing and authority control, serials control, circulation and inventory, and inter-library loan and document delivery.” Library automation is a process where every major task of a library is automated. Such a facility helps in efficient tracking of the record of books that have been issued, returned, and added in the library. The library automation process can store information related to book numbers, author name, rack detail, and book titles. Management of the members also becomes much easier when automation is put in use. Reitz (2004) defined library automation as: “The use of computer systems to accomplish tasks originally is done by hand in libraries.

Library Automation has been defined as ‘integrated systems’ that computerizes an array of traditional library functions using a common database (Cohn, Kelsey and Fiels) and while this is still generally true, rapid technological change is forcing a re-examination of what it means to “automate the library”. In the broadest sense, Markuson means “employment of machines for library processes”. ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science defines automation as “the performance of an operation, a series of operations or a process by self-activating, self-controlling, or automatic means. Automation implies the use of automatic data processing equipment such as

a computer or other labour saving devices”. To Bierman it is “the use of computer and associated technology to revolutionize the meaning of libraries and redefine their existence” as a computerized library information system.

### **3. SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY**

Innovative technological developments have been evolving the process and functions of a library. Automation in library management has been proving to have extraordinary benefits. Have a look at the following points that will justify this statement.

- **Efficiency and Control** - The library staff can increase their efficiency and productivity by making use of copy cataloging, creating a union catalog, and sharing of bibliographical records. The consistency and standard quality of the record are maintained well by automating several tasks of the library. The library automation system provides instant access to the collection and helps in saving the time of the users.
- **Protects information of library and users**- Library automation protects the information related to the library’s holdings and patrons along with their transactions.
- **Advanced search and access** - The library automation system provides advanced search and access to the library. All the resources in the library are efficiently handled and managed with the help of library management software.
- **Better interface** - The library management system provides a better interface with the users. The library management system quickly and easily generates reports for the smooth functioning of the library.
- **Reduced human interference** – The process of library automation reduces the interference of human activities and increases the utilization of the latest technology. Library automation removes all cumbersome and monotonous work related to the printing of the card catalog.
- **Library cataloging**- The library cataloging helps in creating metadata representing information resources such as books, sound recordings, and moving images. It allows users to search for any fields, access databases, email services, and can make their request services.

#### **4. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:**

The present study has the following pre-defined objectives:

- To understand the scope of library automation in Maharashtra
- To examine the present status of library software used in Maharashtra
- To examine the contribution of library automation tools for schools, colleges and university in Maharashtra

#### **5. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

##### **• Present Use of Library Automation Software in Maharashtra:**

##### **1. Koha software for library –**

Koha is an open source instigated library system (ILS). Koha software developed by koha community (originally katipo communications in 2002) Koha library software used Globally by the university, school, Institution, an special lib

Latest Edition of Koha: 20.05.04, Released on September 22, 2020.

Repository: [git.koha-community.org/koha.git](https://git.koha-community.org/koha.git)

Koha Software Written in Perl, JavaScript, HTML Language. & Operating system is Linux.  
Website: [koha-community.org](https://koha-community.org)

##### **2. Granthalaya library Software –**

It is Developed by INSDOC ((Indian national scientific documentation center).

##### **3. Libsys Library Software-**

LIBSYS Library Software is Automated Solutions for Libraries, Academic, University, Institution & Special Libraries. It is Developed by Infotech Website: <https://www.libsys.co.in>

**4. SOUL Library Software-** SOUL Library Software for University & College Libraries is an integrated library management software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET in 2000. Latest Version: SOUL 2.0 (Latest edition of SOUL) Website: <https://soul.inflibnet.ac.in>

**5. E- Granthalaya-**

E Granthalaya is a Library Management Software & Digital Library Module. e-Granthalaya is a Digital Platform developed by the National Informatics Centre(NIC) in 2003 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MEIT), Government of India for Libraries. Latest Edition: E Granthalaya 4.0 Website Download: <https://egranthalaya.nic.in>

**6. LIB-MAN**

Master Soft is one of the oldest Educational ERP Solution providers in India, with a solid experience of 22+ years in serving academic and non-academic institutes. We have catered over 2,000 HEIs and a whopping 10+ million users. LIB-MAN is a highly integrated, user-friendly and compatible system for complete computerization of all the in-house operations of any size or type of library. The library management software is intuitive, efficiently and compliant. Lib-Man is embedded with multilingual fonts, Barcode & QR Code fonts. The software developed in consultation with prolific senior library professionals, is currently being used by as many as 500 libraries.

**7. Green Stone Digital Library Software-**

Green Stone is a Digital Library Collection on the Internet or CD-ROM Software. It is an **Open Source multilingual software & developed by the University of Waikato** under the New Zealand Digital Library Project in 1997.

**8. Winisis Library Software-**

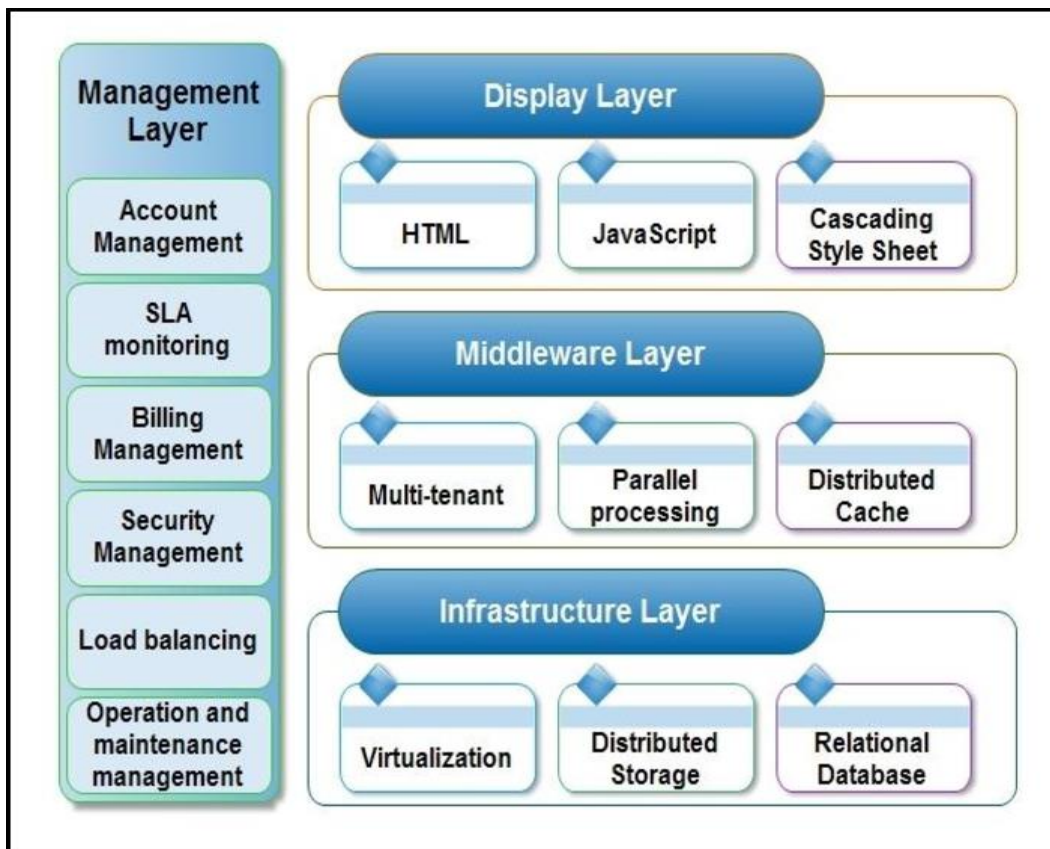
The **Winisis library software developed by CDS / ISIS** is a software package for information storage and retrieval system. Winisis library software is developed by UNESCO. Website: <https://bit.ly/3kTyG4b>

9. **NewGenLib Library Software-** NewGenLib is an integrated library management system developed by Verus Solutions Pvt Ltd. NewGenLib version 1.0 was released in March 2005. It is written in Java language Operating system: Linux, Windows Latest Edition release: 3.1.2 on May 15, 2015 Website: <http://www.verussolutions.biz/web/>

**10. SLIM Library Software –**

Senayan Library Management System (SLiMS) is open source integrated library management software originally developed in Indonesia with a variety of developers from the different parts of the world including Bangladesh. The software was awarded in the category of Open Source by Indonesian ICT Award -2009. Since SLiMS is developed based on Unicode, it completely supports Bangla input, and also it was very good built-in feature of Digital Library and Institutional Repository <https://slims.web.id/web/>

**Library Automation through Software-as-a Service Model (SaaS)**



(Source: Zhou & Liu, 2013)

The effort for library workers in terms of cataloguing, circulation, and acquisitions is lessened through library automation. This frees up time so that library users can receive higher-quality service. The staff becomes available to respond to reference inquiries, assist individuals with their research projects, and locate material upon request. Finding library resources like books and reference articles is made simpler and quicker using automation (Brown-Syed, 2011). Customers no longer have to wait for hours for a busy librarian to handle their requests. Vendor-supplied catalogues can be used to catalogue goods for simple reference. Bar codes on books can be scanned and entered straight into the catalogue database with the help of professional cataloguing software. The work of keeping track of library materials is made easier by computerized cataloguing. Quick stock control identification is especially useful when planning a budget for new library acquisitions.

On the other hand, library automation may have certain disadvantages too. Some of them are mentioned here. There is typically not much money left over because of compensation and employment perks because a significant portion of the budget is utilized on automation. Additionally, there is no longer a need for the entire personnel of the library. Many of the tasks that individuals used to undertake were replaced by automated processes. Fewer spending is made on books when a higher budget percentage is allocated to automated library systems. It is less probable that you will locate what you need on your next library visit due to the diminishing decor.

**Some Leading Library Automation Service Providers in India**

<b>Using Open Source Software</b>	<b>Using Proprietary Software</b>
1. Informatics (India) Ltd.	1. LIBSYS Ltd.
2. Edutech Pvt. Ltd.	2. Autolib Software Solutions
3. Ecole Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	3. Easylib Software Pvt Ltd,
4. First Ray Consulting	4. CR2 Technologies Limited
5. IndServe InfoTech Pvt. Ltd.	5. TheNetSpiders
6. Total IT Software Solutions.	

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Library automation is the process which needs proper planning, timely implementation and periodical evaluation. Automation is used to reduce the amount of staff time devoted to repetitive (and often less challenging) activities that must be done in any properly functioning library. Library automation is the application of computers and also connected tools to the processing of data in a library or libraries. The library catalogue or index to the collection forms the base for most of the library activities such as acquisition, reference, bibliographic service, inter-library loan, etc. The focus in library automation now is on interconnecting systems, information resources, and users. The librarian with the administrators has to set the priorities after analyzing the current status and future requirements. Selection of the suitable integrated library management package according to the needs of the users and the library is important.

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