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Library Professional's Knowledge and Utilization of Integrated Library Management Software's (ILMS) In East and West Godavari Districts Engineering College Libraries (Affiliated To JNTUK, Kakinada) – A Study

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ABSTRACT

The study focused library professionals' knowledge and utilization of Integrated Library Management Software's (ILMS) in East and West Godavari Districts Engineering College Libraries (affiliated to JNTUK, Kakinada). Today's most of the engineering college libraries are being used ILMS packages. Majority of engineering college libraries 87% are using Campus Management Software's, only few colleges 13% are using ILMS (exclusively for library purpose). The study revealed that about 88% of libraries are using 3 ILMS packages i.e, ECAP, Ez-School and Bees Campus, only 12% of colleges are using remaining popular ILMS packages i.e, Libsys, SOUL, KOHA and Newgenlib. Majority of library professionals 75% are being preferred Commercial Software packages than open source and in-house developed software's. The study also highlighted that circulation, OPAC and cataloguing modules are being used properly. Most of the library professionals 75% are being used barcode technology in circulation and stock verification tasks, none of the library used RFID technology. The study found that library professionals have moderate knowledge on software evaluation process and about 52% of library professionals are nil knowledge on installation process of ILMS packages.

Keywords; Library automation, Software, Library Professionals, ILMS, Engineering College libraries, Software modules, Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

In the early 1970's library automation processes were started to automate and smoothen the work flow of the library services and also Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) packages were introduced for computerization of housekeeping operations of a library. Such application packages use a single bibliographic database and a set of interrelated application programs to support multiple library operations. Most Integrated library systems consist of a five modules,

namely Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, Serial Control and OPAC. Now a day's most of the engineering college libraries are using ILMS packages to automate their library housekeeping operations to improve their resources and services. Mostly two types of library management software's are using in engineering college libraries i.e. (i).Integrated library management software (Exclusive for Library). (ii). Campus management software (Designed for total campus operations). For better maintenance of the library software library professionals should have the basic knowledge of library automation technologies such as Barcode, RFID, Digital, Mobile, Internet and Hardware technologies and also acquire knowledge on general features, functionalities, protocols and standards of the ILMS modules and software evaluation process to choose better ILMS packages available in the market. Trained and skilled manpower is essential requirement for successful automation of library.

Library management software's are two types, these software's are using frequently in the institutions.

- i. Campus Management Software (Design for total campus operations)
- ii. Integrated Library Management System (Exclusive for library purpose)

Campus Management Software:

Campus Management Software's are designed and developed for complete automation of all operations. This software's fulfills all the requirements of the Schools, Colleges and Universities including integrated campuses. It provides all the functions of the institution such as admissions, fees, library, examination, hostels in multi modules by centralized server. It manage to all campus related information from anywhere in the campus.

Integrated Library Management Software (Exclusive for Library Purpose):

Integrated library management software is an automated package of library services that contains several functions in the form of modules such as Acquisition, Circulation, Cataloguing, Serial Control, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) & Administration. This software use exclusively for library purpose Ex. KOHA, Libsys, SOUL and Newgenlib.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Hajarika, H.J (2017) studied on use of KOHA and SOUL library management software in some of the selected colleges of Assam. The study revealed application of various modules in college libraries and find out the use of OPAC module in libraries. Finally the author proposed some recommendations for effective use of ILMS in college libraries.

Narayanaswamy, B.V and Kumar Kirana,D (2017) studied knowledge and use of ICT and open source software's among the library professionals of Karnataka state. The study investigates on ICT proficiency and use of software of library professionals. The study revealed library professionals in Karnataka have relatively moderate level of skills in various ICT related tasks in libraries. KOHA open source software was more used in libraries. The main constraint in the application of ICT in libraries is inadequate training in ICT applications.

Somasekhara Rao (2016) focused on the use of integrated library management software's in the National Board of Accredited (NBA) engineering college libraries (affiliated to Jawaharlal

Nehru Technological University, Kakinada). Library automation is important and necessary in engineering college libraries. The author adopted questionnaire method to collect the data. The study found that, 38% of libraries are fully automated, whereas 62% of libraries are partially automated their library housekeeping operations. The study also focused on use of library functional modules and which library services are being offered by the library software.

Vikas singh (2015) examined various features and components of commercial library management software's i.e, Libsys, Virtua and troodon to choose better ILMS. The author designed check list to evaluate functional features of core modules i. Acquisition ii. Cataloguing iii. Circulation iv. Serial control v. OPAC and WEB OPAC vi. Administrative. The author made it some suggestions to library professionals for better selection of ILMS package.

Ranjna (2014) studied on functional features in ILMS modules of various important library management software's i.e. Libsys, SOUL, Sanjay, Suchika, Maitreyi, SLIM++ and LIBERA. The author also studied basic requirements to implement the software in the libraries. Finally the author made some valuable suggestions to the library professionals towards development of automation in libraries.

Archana and others (2014) the author studied the features of cataloguing module in both type of Adlib ILMS & KOHA ILMS and also compared the Online public access catalogue (OPAC) interfaces of the both software's with search features. The both software's are analyzed with the certain functional features. The study given some suggestions for better improvements of open source software based on the study. KOHA was the better in functional features on par with other proven commercial ILM software's.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know which type of Integrated Library Management Software Package's are being used in Engineering College Libraries.
- To identify the preferred ILMS package by library professionals in Engineering College Libraries.
- To know the level of knowledge and utilization of ILMS modules among the Engineering College Library professionals.
- To find out the knowledge and use related to automation technologies among the library professionals.
- To ascertain the level of knowledge on ILM software evaluation and installation among the Engineering College Library Professionals.

METHODOLOGY

For this study questionnaire method was adopted for collecting data from respondents. The sample included library professionals (Librarians and Assistant Librarian) those working in 31 engineering college libraries which were automated of East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. The total numbers of 62 questionnaires were distributed to the professionals and 57filled questionnaires were received back by the library professionals. Hence selected 57questionnaires are used for analysis and interpretations of data.

Table- 1 Respondents of library professionals

Designation	Distributed	Respondents
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Librarians	31	31 (100.00%)
Assistant Librarians	31	26 (83.87%)
Total	62	57 (91.94%)

The above table shows that all the librarians 31/31 (100%) are the respondent to the questionnaire and only 84% of Assistant librarians are respondent. Some of Assistant librarians are not respondent due to not participate in automation work in their libraries.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study is mainly focused on library professionals i.e. Librarian and Assistant Librarian's working in automated engineering college libraries affiliated to JNTUK, Kakinada in East and West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

Table-2 Number of Automated Engineering College Libraries

Name Of The District	Total Affiliated Colleges	No of Colleges Automated
East Godavari	30	20 (66.66%)
West Godavari	21	11 (52.38%)

Table 2 shows About 20 out of 30 engineering college libraries are automated their libraries housekeeping operations in East Godavari District and 11 out of 21 engineering college libraries in West Godavari District. Remaining colleges are not automated and under automation.

Table-3 List of Automated Engineering College Libraries in East and West Godavari Districts

S.No	Estd	Name of the college	Place	District	Use of ILMS	Respondents
1	1997	B V Chalamayya Engineering College	Odalarevu	East Godavari	Bees Campus Soft	3
2	1998	Godavari Institute of Engineering and Technology	Rajahmundry	East Godavari	Ez School	2
3	2000	Lenora College of Engineering	Rampachodavaram	East Godavari	ECAP	1
4	2001	Aditya Engineering College	Peddapuram	East Godavari	Ez School	4
5	2001	Kakinda Institute of Engineering and Technology	Korangi	East Godavari	Bees Campus Soft	2
6	2001	Pragati Engineering College	Peddapuram	East Godavari	KOHA	2

7	2001	Sri Prakash College of Engineering	Tuni	East Godavari	ECAP	1
8	2002	Bonam Venkata Chalamayya Institute of Technology and Science	Amalapuram	East Godavari	Bees Campus Soft	2
9	2004	Sri Sai Aditya Institute of Science and Technology	Peddapuram	East Godavari	Ez School	3
10	2005	Chaitanya Institute of Science and Technology	Kakinada	East Godavari	ECAP	1
11	2005	GIET Engineering College	Rajahmundry	East Godavari	Ez School	2
12	2009	Srinivasa Institute of Engineering and Technology	Cheyzeru	East Godavari	ECAP	2
13	2008	Rajahmahendri Institute of Engineering and Technology	Rajahmundry	East Godavari	ECAP	1
14	2008	Sri Aditya Engineering College	Peddapuram	East Godavari	Ez School	3
15	2008	Adarsha College of Engineering	Chebrolu	East Godavari	ECAP	1
16	2008	Kakinada Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women	Korangi	East Godavari	Bees Campus Soft	2
17	2008	Kakinada Institute of Technology and Science	Divili	East Godavari	SOUL	1
18	2008	Ideal Institute of Technology	Kakinada	East Godavari	Libsys	2
19	2008	BVC College of Engineering	Palacharla	East Godavari	Bees Campus Soft	2
20	2009	GIET College of Engineering	Rajahmundry	East Godavari	Ez School	2
21	1998	Akula Sriramulu College of Engineering	Tanuku	West Godavari	ECAP	1
22	2001	Sri Vasavi Engineering College	Tadepalligudem	West Godavari	Bees Campus Soft	2
23	2001	Swarnandhra College of Engineering and Technology	Narsapuram	West Godavari	Ez School	2
24	2001	Sri Vishnu Engineering College for Women	Bhimavaram	West Godavari	ECAP	2
25	2002	Sasi institute of Technology and Engineering	Tadepalligudem	West Godavari	Newgenlib	2

26	2007	Swarnandhra Engineering College	Narsapuram	West Godavari	Ez School	2
27	2008	Vishnu Institute of Technology	Bhimavaram	West Godavari	ECAP	2
28	2008	A K R J College of Engineering	Nallagerla	West Godavari	ECAP	1
29	2008	Eluru Collehe of Engineering	Eluru	West Godavari	ECAP	1
30	2008	Ramachandra College of Engineering	Eluru	West Godavari	Ez School	2
31	2010	D N R College of Engineering	Bhimavaram	West Godavari	Ez School	1

Table 3 represents that 31 engineering college libraries affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada (JNTUK) in East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh with place and established year. The table also indicated which software package are being used in the libraries and respondents of library professionals in their libraries.

Table-4 No of Colleges and Respondents Covered

District	Number of colleges		Respondents	
	No.	%	Librarian	Asst. Librarian
East Godavari	20	64.52	20	19
West Godavari	11	35.48	11	7
Total	31	100.00	31	26

Table 4 shows number of engineering colleges (31) covered in the study and library professionals (57) working in the libraries (Librarians and Assistant Librarians) in both east and west Godavari districts.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table- 5 Type of Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) Used In Engineering College Libraries

Type of the ILMS used in Engineering Colleges	East Godavari		West Godavari		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Campus Management Software	17	85.00	10	90.91	27 (87.10%)
ILMS (Exclusive For Library Purpose)	3	15.00	1	9.09	4 (12.90%)
Total	20	100.00	11	100.00	31 (100%)

Table 5 reveals that, type of Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) packages used in Engineering College Libraries, the data shows that majority of engineering college libraries 27 (87%) out of 31 in Godavari districts are using campus management software packages, and just 4 (13%) colleges are using ILMS (Exclusively for library purpose) packages in the libraries.

Table-6 Use of Various ILM Software Packages in Engineering College Libraries

Name Of The Ilms	East Godavari		West Godavari		Total	
	Users		Users		Users	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ez-School	6	30.00	4	36.36	10	32.26
ECAP	6	30.00	5	45.45	11	35.49
Bees Campus Soft	5	25.00	1	9.09	6	19.36
Libsys	1	5.00	--		1	3.22
KOHA	1	5.00	--		1	3.22
SOUL	1	5.00	--		1	3.22
Newgenlib	--	--	1	9.10	1	3.22
Total	20	100.00	11	100.00	31	100.00

Table 6 shows that use of various ILM software packages in engineering college libraries; it is found that, most of the engineering college libraries have been using ECAP 11 (35.49%), Ez School 10 (32.26%) software packages, Bees campus 6 (19.36%) whereas Libsys, KOHA, SOUL and Newgenlib software packages are using each one.

Table-7 Type of ILMS Package Preferred By the Library Professionals

Type of The ILMS Package	East Godavari		West Godavari		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Freeware (Open Source)	6	15.38	5	27.78	11	19.30
Commercial	31	79.49	12	66.67	43	75.44
In-House Developed	2	5.13	1	5.55	3	5.26
Total	39	100.00	18	100.00	57	100.00

Table 7 represents type of ILMS packages are being preferred by the library professionals in the engineering college libraries. About 75.44% of respondents are expressed their preference for commercial software, 19.30% of respondents are interest of freeware (open source) software, while 5.26% prefer in-house developed.

Table-8 Level of Knowledge in the use of ILMS modules among the library professionals

Functional Module	Fully		Partial		Total
	No	%	No	%	
Acquisition	26	45.61	31	54.39	57 (100 %)
Cataloguing	42	73.68	15	26.32	57 (100 %)
Circulation	52	91.23	5	8.77	57 (100 %)
Serial Control	21	36.84	36	63.16	57 (100 %)

OPAC	52	91.23	5	8.77	57 (100 %)
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Professionals were asked about the level of knowledge in the use functional features of ILMS modules and their responses are presented in the table 8

About 26 out of 57 (45.61%) library professionals (Librarians and Assistant Librarians) are having full knowledge in the use of all functional features in Acquisition module, whereas 31/57 (54.39%) respondents are partial knowledge in using functional features of Acquisition module.

From the above table, It is observed that about 42 out of 57 (73.68%) of the respondents are acquired full knowledge in the use of all functional features in Cataloguing module, and 15/57 (26.32%) respondents are partial knowledge in using functional features of Cataloguing module.

It is evident from the table that more professionals 52 out of 57 (91.23%) are obtained full knowledge in the use of all functional features in Circulation and OPAC module, whereas only 5/57 (8.77%) are partial knowledge in using functional features of Circulation and OPAC module.

Serial control module utilization is very less among the engineering college libraries, the same trend has been reported that, only 21 out of 57 library professionals are having full knowledge in the use of all functional features in Serial control module, while 36 out of 57 (63.16%) are having partial knowledge in using functional features of Serial control module..

Table- 9 Knowledge and Use of Library Professionals on Various Technologies Related to Automation

Technology	Knowledge (N=57)		Use (N=57)	
	No.	%	No.	%
Barcode Technology	46	80.70	43	75.44
RFID Technology	10	17.54	0	0.00
Digital Technology	38	66.67	33	57.89
Mobile Technology	29	50.88	24	42.10
Hardware	38	66.67	26	45.61
Internet Technology	55	96.49	50	87.72

Table 9 elaborated, about 55 out of 57 (96.49%) reported having knowledge of internet technology while the use of it is 50 (88%). Respondents possess knowledge 46 out of 57 (80.70%) on barcode technology, while the use is 43 (75%). About 38 out of 57 (66.67%) acquired knowledge on digital technology, but use of it is only 58%. RFID is emerging technology only 10 out 57 (18%) possess knowledge on it, but usage is nil. Half of the respondents having knowledge on mobile technology but usages are less. Hardware technology know how is very much in need to library professionals for successful operation of automation, about 38 out of 57 (67%) of the respondents possess hardware knowledge and use of it is only 46%.

Table- 10 Knowledge of Library Professionals on Installation of ILMS Packages

Level of Knowledge	No.	%
Full	11	19.30
Partial	16	28.07
Nil	30	52.63
Total	57	100.00

The table 10 shows that, about the knowledge on installation of ILMS package among the library professionals, majority of respondents 30 out of 57 (53%) don't have required knowledge on how to install library software package, only 11 (19%) of respondents have full knowledge, while the remaining 16 (28%) possess partial knowledge only.

Table- 11 Knowledge on ILM Software Evaluation

Level of Knowledge	Total	%
Full	12	21.05
Partial	34	59.65
Nil	11	19.30
Total	57	100.00

The professionals were asked to know the level of knowledge on installation of ILM software. It is evident from table 11, about 12 (21%) of library professionals having full knowledge to install ILMS in their library, whereas 34 (60%) of partial knowledge and only 11 (19%) of the library professionals have no knowledge of installation.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Majority of engineering college libraries 87% are using campus management software's like Bees campus soft, Ez-School and ECAP, due to management willing for cost effectiveness. Only 13% colleges are using ILMS (Exclusively for library purpose).
- ECAP, Ez-School and Bees campus software's are mostly preferred in engineering college libraries, whereas Libsys, KOHA, SOUL and Newgenlib ILM software's prefer very less due to cost factor.
- Majority of library professionals 75.44% are preferred commercially developed ILMS packages due to hassle free maintenance service by the vendors.
- About 91% of the library professionals are having good knowledge in the use of functional features of Circulation and OPAC modules, followed by Cataloguing 74%, Acquisition 46% and Serial control 36.84%.
- Library professionals having moderate knowledge related to automated technologies like Barcode, RFID, Digital, Mobile, Hardware and Internet technologies, whereas the usage also moderate. No college library using RFID technology with ILMS package.
- Majority of library professionals 53% have no knowledge on installation of ILMS packages, whereas 28% partial knowledge and only 19% of the professionals having full knowledge.
- About 60% of the library professionals are partial knowledge on software evaluation, while 21% full knowledge and 19% nil knowledge.

CONCLUSION

Majority of engineering colleges particularly in India are using ILMS packages to automate their library housekeeping operations for providing better services to the users of the library. Majority of the engineering college libraries are using campus management software, it is observed that the economic and user friendly features of this software, institution's management is also giving priority. Most of the library professionals particularly circulation and OPAC modules are using to a maximum extent, remaining modules are using partially. To overcome this problem's library professionals should be trained up on functional features of ILMS packages, barcode, RFID technologies and installation of ILMS by attending seminars, workshops, conference, it helps to getting better knowledge for better utilization of ILMS packages in the libraries.

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