



IMPLEMENTATION OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION USING KOHA- OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE IN JNTU LIBRARY, TELANGANA ACADEMIC LIBRARY: A PROPOSAL

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Abstract

Koha is the first open source software library automation package in the world it's steered by a growing community of users collaborating to achieve their technology goals. Automating a library is a unique decision that makes the library activities easy for prompt service delivery to the users.

Introduction

The library activities such as acquisition, cataloguing, classification, circulation, serials management, etc is no longer debatable as libraries globally have realized the need to move from their segregated past into integrated systems and networked operations. Recent developments in information handling processes have also obligated libraries to embrace automation as a means of enhancing their service delivery to their clientele.

Koha: Integrated Library System

Koha is an open source Integrated Library System (ILS), it was created in 1999 by Katipo Communications for the Horowhenua Library Trust in New Zealand, and the first installation went live in January 2000. Koha is web-based ILS, with a SQL database (MySQL preferred) backend with cataloguing data stored in MARC and accessible via Z39.50 or SRU. The user interface is very configurable and adaptable and has been translated into many languages. Koha has most of the features that would be expected in an ILS. Many smaller libraries cannot afford to purchase, install, and maintain an ILS, and Koha is a perfect alternative. Koha is built using library ILS standards and uses the OPAC (open public access catalog) interface. In addition, Koha has no vendor-lock in, so libraries can receive tech support from any party they choose.

Objectives of the study

- To develop and updated database of books, journals and other resources of the jntu
- To implement automated system using Koha open sources integrated library software;
- To carry out the charging and discharging functions of the circulation section;
- Provide various search options to know the availability of books in the library; and

- To produce the list of books due and overdue by a particular patron.

Methodology

The various functions and routines of academic library operations have been studied and observed. The bibliographic details were collected in a data entry sheet browsing the jntu books. The data were entered in to the system using Micro Soft Excel. The data has been edited after verifying for wrong entries and spelling and grammatical error were rectified. Indexing has been made to enable the search with the titles, author, publisher, ISBN, classification number, pages, price and year of publication. The database is integrated with library database by using the KOHA Marc edit software.

Limitations of the study

The present study has limit to only to implementation of library Automation using Koha open source software in the JNTU Library, Telangana.

Planning for automation using Koha

- Initial investment and recurring expenditure as the maintenance of Koha software.
- Taking time for installation and data entry job
- Used sufficient ICT trained staff
- Classification humanities for all the books general devised and assessment visited Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) 21stedition.
- The JNTU Library following Books has been entered in Koha Software.

Cataloguing entry Module

The cataloguing module is the most important to prepare library collection. For cataloguing, Koha maintains full MARC record, followed to the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), We have to just click on add biblio after finishing up with the details of the bibliographic item and the item get added to the list.

Adding New Patrons

When we click on the add patrons in the above search result, then the following form will appear which prompts us to fill in the member particular, the Koha system automatically allots one card number to the patrons, however it can be changed later if needful. Once the details are filled in, then it prompts us to conform the record mentioning the joining and expiry date for the patrons slip. This information is shown only when the user sees his/her membership information in the OPAC.

Borrower Categories

It can be defined by clicking on the same link in the parameters window We can edit and delete the details of a particular borrower type in the following window and we can even add new categories.

Circulation Module

When we have to enter any borrower card number or the partial last name of the borrower, as show in the above picture. After entering the above information, it shows the patron information with his/her category and one hyperlink is also available to look into more detail of the patron, if required. If we want issue any book, then the barcode of the book should be entered and the date of issue is automatically selected.

Conclusion

Koha open source software system has completely automated of major day-to- day activities of the Jawarlal Nehru Technologies Universities (JNTU), which is tiresome and cumbersome. After the investigation, the researcher has found that Koha software is more suitable for the library automation. This project had the basic objective of designing a bibliographic database for the Jawarlal Nehru Technologies Universities (JNTU), with which the automated and the routine library housekeeping operations can be carried out. From this point of view it may be concluded that Koha is a useful package for the creation of a database and for information retrieval. On the other hand the ever-rising needs and expectations of library professionals have given a through challenge automation software vendors. Approximately all ILs software offers the same module for all type of libraries, ignoring the aspect of library collection, user and services, but open source ILs software comes with core functional modules, such as online catalogue, circulation, cataloguing with choice of limiting parameters format.

The open source model of ILS software like Koha s can provide an attractive alternative for libraries, if only its ideals can be realized and things could change very quickly. To evaluate commercial and Koha open source ILS software for their own merits in features, proven reliability, support and vision.

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