An Introduction to Library Automation

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ABSTRACT

The overview of library automation and evolving state of library management were the main topic of this article. Customers do not need to browse every shelf to find a paper. They merely receive their paperwork while seated in front of a PC. Robotics has decreased the workforce. This article will go over the idea of automation, What it entails, and its many parts. Software packages have been provided that can be used for Automation.

KEYWORDS: *Automation, housekeeping, library software, OPAC*

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's technologically advanced world, where everything appears to be at your disposal, libraries must also be close by. With modernization, everything appears to be feasible in terms of educational facilities. It is common for people to spend at least two to three hours in libraries learning about various topics from the variety of sources available there. Libraries need to be upgraded, and this can be done with the aid of digitalization. For example, can you imagine being able to access thousands of books or sources of knowledge on your mobile phone ? This is now possible with Automation. Library automation helps library professional to provide fast delivery of service and other information.

1.1. Library Automation Concept

Ancient Greek defined Automation as "acting of one's own will."

The term "automation" was first coined in 1936 by D.S. Harder to refer the use of automatic machinery and control in mechanised production.

However, the phrase has been in use for a while in libraries. In essence, library automation is a mix of the phrases automation and library. Liber, the Latin word for book, is the origin of the word "library."

Library is a collection of books and other printed material. Automation refers to voluntary action. So we can define library automation as the process of automating task using a computer. It converts the manual processes to digital ones. Alternatively, "it is the employment of machinery for collection, inserting, processing, storage and retrieval of data or information with the help of machineries that called library automation.

1.2. Definition of library Automation Swihart Stanely S and Hefley Beryl F have defined the term library automation as "the processing of certain routine clerical function in the library with the assistance of computer or other mechanized or semi equipment". It may also defined as a process of mechanization of all housekeeping operation of a library which is repetitive in nature. The housekeeping operation includes acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, and other administration work.

Note:- In case of library housekeeping operation, the computer is used for acquisition of books and other reading materials, their classification, cataloguing and serial control.

According to encyclopaedic dictionary of library science automation is the technology concerned with

the design and development of the process and system that minimizes the necessity of human intervention in their operation[1].

According to Markers 1967 Library automation in the broadest sense, the employment of machines for library.

According to Salmon 1975 "library automation is the use of automatic and semi-automated library activities as acquisition, cataloguing and circulation.

From the above definition it is very clear as they indicates the use of computer in library to provide better service.

1.3. Basic requirement for library automation

1. Infrastructure for instance a room with good collection of books as automation cannot take place outside the building.
2. secondly Finance and willingness of the staff and library committee.
3. It required computer software and trained staff.

1.4. Concept related to Automation.

Open source software is computer software whose source code is available under a licence that permits the user to study.

A. Application programming interface (API) API is the acronym for application programming interface is a software bridge that enables communication between two applications.

B. Free software free are those which provide user's freedom few examples are linux kernel, BSD, GNU Compiler collection and c library and many more.

C. copylefted software. copy left is usually regarding to a license that granting certain freedom over copies. GNU GPL software that provide copyleft license.

D. Proprietary software It is based on monopoly of publisher by the copyright and intellectual property law to exclude the recipient from freely sharing.

E. freeware Is a type of proprietary software that is released without charge to the public e.g Adobe Reader, free Studio.

1.5. Purpose of library Automation. Automation in libraries improve

Jammu University has 25 Aided College Libraries. Libraries must be automated so that students and faculty can use the library facilities efficiently. Automation doesn't just make librarians' jobs easier. It also helps the library provide better services to students and faculty. It is also mandatory for all colleges undergoing NAAC accreditation/re-accreditation. Here are some points that indicate the need for library computing:

A. You save time for users and library staff.
B. Able to process huge amounts of information.
C. Helps manage library circulation.
D. Fast information processing and its search.
E. Impeccable service
F. Keep records up to date.
G. Provide users with modern basic IT services such as OPAC and use of barcode technology

1.6. OPAC is the acronym of online public Access Catalogue it is commonly used for the computerized catalogue. It replaces the print card catalogue.

An OPAC is a bibliographic database of library items that was created to replace the card catalogue and enable user to do independent book and other material search. The Library staff and the public can usually access it in computer within the library, or from home via the internet. OPACs offer a variety of search on several indexes, integrate rich content. The catalogues which are available for searching online are known as OPAC. Such OPAC may be searched from a terminal within the originating library.

1.7. Types of OPAC:

A. First Generation OPAC:- has been derived from traditional catalogues or computerized circulation system. They are also refer as the phase indexed.it demands exact matching between the search term and pre coordinate phrase

B. Second Generation OPAC:- originated from common bibliographic information retrieval system. This Generation provides Key word searching that is post coordinate searching together with phrase searching or pre-coordinate subject heading.

Conclusion

From the above we can say Automation of library helps in easy access of library material. One can search the book or any other material from home. User can get informed about the material available or not in library.

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