

## Research Article

# Open-Source Software and Proprietary Software for Library Automation

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## A B S T R A C T

By using library automation software the work gets done easily and quickly. There is no error in library housekeeping operation and solve many issues like stock verification, bibliography, OPAC search operation easily by library automation software. Open-source software is Open bibliog. library management software, KOHA, Avanti. Proprietary software is e-Granthalaya, SOUL, TLSS, and Libsys. By using any software handling library housekeeping and administrative work is very easy and reduces duplication. Many modules are available in software for library operation and each has its unique quality by which the work can be done easily.

**Keywords:** Library Software, Open-source Software, Proprietary Software

## Introduction

A library is considered to be the centre of information resources of any institution. Library automation eliminates the manual execution of library activities and improves work efficiency and service quality without errors. Library automation brings the major functions of a library together like acquisition, cataloguing, periodicals, and circulations. Acquisition, cataloguing and circulation form the backbone of library activities. Computers are capable of revolutionising the whole world of library. Library automation refers to the usage of computers for doing all library tasks and operations in a fast, efficient, and economic manner. Library automation is economically feasible and technologically required in libraries. In order to cope up with growth in knowledge sharing techniques, acquisition, storage, processing, and transmission of information, the highly significant quantitative and qualitative services provided by online technology must be made use of.

Due to the explosion of information in modern times, it has become very difficult to collect, organise, process, transmit and provide information when required. Many

kinds of software are available to easily carry out various library functions without any error. All the tasks of a library have become easy and efficient with the help of library software. Automation or digitalisation of the library can be done easily through library software. There are many open-source software and proprietary software available in modern times. Some available open-source and proprietary software are KOHA, Evergreen, OpenBiblio, Invenio, Avanti, Greenstone, E-print, Dspace, Green Stone, e-Granthalaya, SOUL, TLSS, Lybsis etc. Library software can be of any type -open-source software or proprietary software.

## Library Software

Both kinds of software, open-source and proprietary, can be used for library operations. We can easily operate library housekeeping operation using them. These help in the smooth and error-free functioning of the library. The two kinds of software available are discussed in detail as below:

- Open-Source Software
- Proprietary Software

**Open-Source Software:** These are available freely on the

internet and can be used for performing the housekeeping operations of the library like acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, stock verification etc. easily. There is no fee/charge for their usage. Their source code is available on the internet so that anyone can use and update them.

### Some open-source library management software are

**KOHA:** It is an open-source integrated library management software. It was developed by Kapi to Communication, New Zealand, in 2000. It is written in PERL and JavaScript. It is an open-source library management software available under General Public Licence. It follows many standards: Z39.50, MARC-21, and ISO-2709. It is a multilingual library management software that requires an Apache server and My SQL database. It supports LINUX and UNIX operating systems.

**Evergreen:** It was developed by Georgia Public Library in 2006. It is written in PERL and C languages.

**Invenio:** It is an open-source library management software developed by CERN in 2018. It is an institutional repository, research data management system. It is written in Python and JavaScript. It is a multilingual library software and supports UNIX operating system.

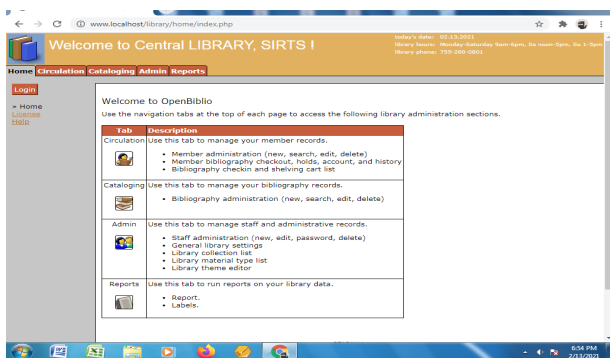


Figure 1. Library Automation using OpenBiblio Software

**OpenBiblio Software:** OpenBiblio software was developed by OpenBiblio development team and is written in PHP language. The main modules of this software are circulation and cataloguing. It is a very popular software for library automation.

**Proprietary Software:** This is the software that can be purchased from any vendor or company. It is installed by paying a fixed price and whose administration and maintenance is also given a separate fee that has to be paid periodically. The housekeeping operations can be easily performed in a reliable manner using this software.

**Libsys:** Libsys is a GUI, multilingual library management software developed by Libsys Ltd., Gurgaon, in 1992. It is proprietary software that supports Windows, UNIX,

and LINUX operating systems. It is an integrated library management system. It is designed on client-server architecture and follows Standard Z39.50, CCF, and MARC-21. It is written in SQL, MySQL and ORACLE. Some modules of Libsys are acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, OPAC and article indexing.

**VIRTUA:** It was developed by Virginia Technology Library Solutions (VTLs) in 2001. It is a GUI, multiuser, proprietary software written in ORACLE. It is an integrated library management system. It is designed on client-server architecture and works on various operating systems such as UNIX, LINUX etc. It follows Z39.50, MARC21, and ISO-23950 standards. The modules of this software include acquisition, fund accounting, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, OPAC, statistics and reporting, and chameleon gateway.

**SOUL:** It is a software for university libraries developed by Inflibnet Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in 2000. It is a user-friendly software that works on client-server architecture.

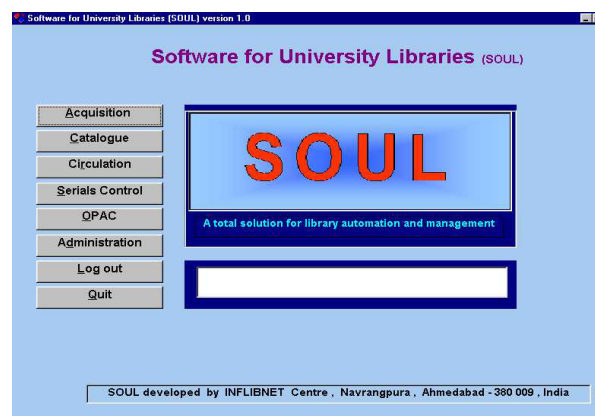


Figure 2. University Library Automation using SOUL Software



Figure 3. Library Automation using TLSS

It supports Windows operating system. The six modules in this software are as. It follows ISO-2709, MARC21, and AACR-II standards.

**e-Granthalaya:** This is an integrated library management software developed by the National Information Centre. It is written in Visual Basic and SQL.

**TLSS:** Total Library Software System (TLSS) has been developed by Total IT Solution Pvt. Ltd. It is a Windows based library management software solution and uses AACR-II format. There are 13 modules in this software. They include library guideline, acquisition, accession, circulation, staff, members, suppliers, stock utility, about us, OPAC, inter library loan and stationary.

### Conclusion

Various library automation software whether it is open source software or Proprietary software the work can be done easily, quickly and without any duplication. Many advantages of proprietary and open-source software are there like acquisition, circulation, cataloguing etc. of the library are easily done using library automation software. The database can be easily created and set up using library software. Through the library automation software save the time of library staff and users and improve quality. The bibliography can be easily created and various types of reports like the due status of student, Title wise list of books, checkout list etc. can also be made. Resource sharing and stock verification can be done easily with the help of library software. The disadvantage of open source software has many security-related problems and the disadvantage of proprietary software is that it is expensive and has high maintenance cost. Generally, small libraries use open-source software while large and special use proprietary software.

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