

Output /Contribution/Report of the National Seminar on Library Automation Using SOUL Software .to the Field of Library Science

The two-day "**National Seminar on Library Automation Using SOUL Software**", sponsored by the **Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, New Delhi (Ministry of Human Resource Development)**, organized was at **Sitabai Arts, Commerce and Science College, Akola, run by The Berar General Education Society on 24th & 25th February 2019**. The seminar was inaugurated on 24th February at 10 AM in the auditorium hall of the host college. Honble J.P. Dange, Ex. Chief Secretary, of Maharashtra State & Dr. Rajendra Singh Jadhav, Former Secretary of the President of India was the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony .The President of the. Berar General Education Society, Dr.R. B,Heda, was the Chairman of the inaugural ceremony. Dr. Dharmraj Veer, Director of Knowledge Resource Center, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad was the keynote speaker of the function. The Berar Education Society's Hon'ble Secretary Adv. Motisingh Mohta, Dr.Subhash Chavan, Director, Knowledge Resource Center, Smt. Nathibai Damodar Thakarsi Mahila Vidyapeeth, Mumbai, Prof. Dr. Satyanarayan Baheti, Member of the Berar General Education Society, Prof. Dr. Nilesh, Gawande, Member of the Management Council of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. Prof. Dr. Ravindra Sarode Professor, Department of Library and Information Sciences, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, College Principal Dr.Radheshyam Sikchi, coordinator Dr.Ashok Sonone were present on the dais.

Four technical sessions were conducted in these two days national level seminar. The delegates from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were present. We have received 152 research articles from various states of India. All articles are included in the Souvenir

I -Technical Session

During this session, research papers were read out related to SOUL Library Software. And other library management software At the end of the session, the questions were answered on the SOUL by Dr.D.K.Veer. He is a SOUL coordinator for Maharashtra & Goa appointed by INFLIBNET, Ahmedbad. Following key research points were discussed in the session.

- There is need to organize regular workshop on SOUL at university level once in a year for library staff.

- Assistance in Installation, handling, updates are not up to the mark.
- The online assistance SOUL help line which has no good experience.
- AMC should be compulsory with two onsite visits from INLFIBNET
- Technician is the necessity because librarian are not software expert.
- If we want to change server, there is no help from the other side.
- Available at low cost compare to other standard library software
- There is necessity to release web based version of SOUL
- Many SOUL users are facing to install Web OPAC
- Lack of on time technical Support.
- Discusses comparison between SOUL, LIBSYS, SLIM & LIBMAN
- Collection prize is not calculated by software
- Multilingual Data from SOUL1.0 to SOUL 2.0 is not transferred properly.
- Update version SOUL2.0 provided free to all existing user.
- On the basis of overall discussion in the session SOUL, LIBSYS, SLIM are
- leading library management system in India.

II - Technical Session

During this session, research papers were read out related to other library management software & Open Source software .At the end of the session, the questions were answered by Chirperson Dr.Ravindra Sarode,Professor Department of Library and Information Science Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University,Amravati. Following key research points were discussed in the session.

- Libsys and SLIM-21 are better than SOUL but user have to pay huge money for purchase. AMC of Libsys & SLIM is not affordable to the college libraries.
- There are many Open Source Software are available free of cost like KOHA and E-Granthalaya
- Many IIT libraries are organizing KOHA installation and operation training for Libraries. Librarian community should take the benefit of it.
- In Maharashtra there are 23 training are organized at various places with the help of IIT Mumbai during this session.
- Some open source softwares are not user friendly so they are difficult to use
- Open source contain only limited warranty and no liability.

- Even though the SOUL is better choice by the librarian .INFLIBNET should organize University level workshops for librarian in the different states.

III - Technical Session

During this session, research papers were read out related to Library Automation and IPR .At the end of the session, the questions were answered by Dr.S.R.Baheti . Following key points discussed in the session.

- Selection of suitable library management software is important in the process of Library automation.
- Librarian should have up-to-date knowledge of hardware and library software to handle automated library.
- Many Libraries are facing insufficient & lack of Skilful other library staff to handle automated library ,most of the college libraries are depend on single librarian.
- Automated library retrieves much more precise and accurate information in less Time.
- While comparing the patent system of India and USA .USA patent system is far more developed than India.
- Networking of libraries and their automation are still in their preliminary stages in pan of India.
- Due to the use of technology in housekeeping operations, it reduces human resources as well as time of users and library staff. Libraries are providing better services to researchers.
- Technology is important to improve the existing as well as introduce new services to the user.
- In the changed scenario of digital and online environment the librarian has to play mediator's role, Librarians job transferred from custodian of knowledge to facilitator of knowledge.
- Brainstorming, Workshops, Training to staff are some important activities to reduce the barriers of the library automation.

- It is found that automated and computerized libraries are playing a vital role in research

IV - Technical Session

During this session, research papers were read out related to other library management & Library Automation. At the end of the session, the questions were answered by Dr.Ashish Raut following key points discussed in the session

- Impact of Technology Quick search of Document/books through OPAC/WEBOPAC
- Easy accessibility of documents
- Modern Library Services is a result of automation
- .Now a days digital library facilities are available this is the gift of Technology to field.
- Improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of services.
- Resource sharing is possible.
- Gift of digital consortia.
- You can access world's best library through Internet.
- Library professional are required to acquire new skills for developing and managing digital library
- Lack of awareness of new technologies in the library community is a real problem.
- Maintenance of software and hardware.
- **Lack of funds for implementation of new technology**

Feedback from Participants-

This was a very useful platform for librarians to interact with one other regarding library advancements. Such type of seminars /workshops should be organized regularly to provide technical updates to the library profession. INFLIBNET should organize university level workshop regularly on SOUL Software to give technical support to the library professional. Nice arrangement and all the facilities provided by the host institution was good.

Dr.A.S.Sonone

(Convenor of the Seminar)

Dr.R.D.Sikchi

(Principal)