



OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE TOOLS FOR LIBRARIES

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Abstract-

In the modern technology era exponential growth in knowledge increased lead on libraries. Today's technology is web based technology. Now all the users use the internet, through the computer, mobile phone etc. That's why it is easy to handle the computer operating system. Library automation is one of the part of the new technology and the automation is depending on the software, free software and commercial software. This paper discusses various open source software free available for the library automation.

Keywords - Open source software, Need of Open Source Software, Types of software, Selection of Library Management of Software, Open Source Software Tools for Libraries etc.

Introduction-

Information technology has transformed the whole into a global village. Exponential growth of knowledge and information made a human technology developed, and libraries are not an exception to it. Budgetary provisions in the libraries do not conform to the pace of technology and knowledge output to purchase commercial software. It becomes costly in the terms of maintenance, procurement and purchase, Most of the times libraries are not able to procure and acquire commercial software due to their financial constraints. The libraries which are not able to invest their money in purchasing commercial software, one can download and use open source software. Now a day's many open source software are used to run the library functions effectively. When on library downloads these software's after that they can make changes in it as per their requirements and they make changes and reload it for use by other libraries.

Meaning of Open Source Software- Open Source Software is software is like any other however it is distinguished by its license, or terms of use, which

guarantees certain freedoms, in contrast to closed proprietary software which restricts these rights. Open Source Software guarantees the right to access and modify the source code and to use reuse and redistribute the software. In some cases, there can be an obligation to share improvements with the wider community.

Research of objective –

1. To study Open Source Software Tools for Libraries.

Research Methodology-

The current study ‘Open Source Software Tools for Libraries’ is based on secondary data collected from different sources. The secondary sources are concerned they were accumulated from online databases, articles and books. The research method applied to the present study is descriptive research method. In this paper an attempt has been taken to analyze Open Source Software Tools for Libraries.

Need of Open Source Software-

Following benefits from open source software made it ideal to use in the libraries.

1. Code of software is open to modify, improve and redistribute.
2. Mature of software.
3. Libraries outline the any software producer or vendor.
4. No dependence on vendor or producer.
5. It is more reliable, performance is better, it is more secured.
6. Use without restriction and reduced cost.

Thus, the philosophy, flexibility, freedom cost and continuity of open source software as an ideal choice.

Types of Software-

Mainly there are two types of library software-

1. **Commercial Software-** The software which is builds up for profit making the main aim is to earn profit by selling their products. Commercial software is produced for sale; user is unable to modify software for his own needs.

2. Open Source Software- Open Source Software (OSS) is free software. Open source refers to the fact that the source code of the software is open to world to take, to modify and to reuse. Open Source Software refers to software distributed in some form which can be freely modified and redistributed. Open Source Software defines free software that respects the following four freedoms,-

1. Freedom to run the program for purchase.
2. Freedom to redistribute copies so one can help another.
3. Freedom to improve the program and release it to the public, so that everyone on get its benefits.

Beings free to do these things means that the developer does not have to ask or pay for permission. The license allows modifications and derived works. It also allows to be distributed under the same terms as the license of the original software. Software is available free with source code, under GPL license to use, change, improves and redistributes it modified or unmodified. Open Source Software can be used freely without having to pay license fees to its developers.

Selection of Library Management Software-

Selection of library management software is not a simple task. Sometimes librarians go with either renowned software or maximum number of usage of the library. Selection of library management software may consist the following steps; which might helps the librarian to select the right software for their housekeeping operations as well as information retrieval. There are much library management software which are very popular and being used by number of libraries. Librarians may have the comprehensive study about them before taking decisions in this regard. While examining the software, librarians must have the following information about the software which might help to select the right software for housekeeping operations as well as information retrieval.

Open Source Software for Libraries-

1. **Koha-** One of the best fully featured open source software used by over 1000 libraries in the world. It is the first free open source software for integrated

library packages. It is suitable for various types of libraries for having verifying type, size, nature and attributes. Various small libraries which cannot afford to purchase expensive packages, Koha is for them as an alternative solution. Libraries using Koha software can receive tech support from any party as an alternative solution. Libraries using Koha software can receive tech support from any party as Koha has no vendor lock. It supports MARC 21 and UNIMARC support Z39.50. It also has a provision for online reservation and renewals.

2. **New GenLib-** New GenLib is an integrated LMS open source under the most widely used free software license, GNU GPL; New GenLib is the result of collaborations between specialists in library automation and software specialists. The software was developed over a four-year joint effort between professional Charitable Trust, Keshvan Institute and a fledgling software development company. The first version of this ILS was released in March 2005. Later in 2008 it was declared open source software under GNU GPL License. It provides not only basic ILS functions but also built-in special media functions.
3. **Evergreen-** Evergreen is an open source integrated library system (ILS) initially developed by the Georgia Public Library Service for public information network for electronic service (PINES) a state-wide resource sharing consortium with over 270 member libraries in 2007. Evergreen development team formed a commercial company for the software, Equinox software, which provides custom support, development, migration, training and consultation for Evergreen.
4. **E-Prints-** E-Prints has been developed at the University of Southampton School of Electronics and Computer Science in 2000 and released under a GPL License. For building open access repositories that are compliant with the open Archives Initiative protocol for Metadata Harvesting. It shares many of the features commonly seen in document management systems and is primarily used for institutional repositories and scientific journals.
5. **DSpace-** On March 2000 DSpace was designed and developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology Library and Hewlett. DSpace is an

institutional repository that captures, stores, indexes, preserve and redistributes the intellectual repository that captures stores, indexes preserve and redistribute the intellectual output of universities research. DSpace accepts all manner of digital formats, such as articles preprints working papers, technical reports, conference papers, books, thesis, datasets, programs, visualizations simulations and other models, multimedia publications, administrative records, published books, journals, bibliographic databases, images, audio files, video files, reformatted digital library collections, learning objects, web pages etc.

6. **Fedora**-Fedora was developed jointly by Cornell University information Science and the University of Virginia Library. Where the first reference was implemented and at CORBA based technical implementation was built. Since then several modifications have been made to the architecture and late 2005, version 2.1 was released. Fedora is an attractive solution in a variety of dominos, some examples of applications that are built upon Fedora include. Library collection management, multimedia authority systems, archival repositories, institutional repositories and digital libraries for education.
7. **Greenstone Digital Library Software**-The Greenstone digital library software is an open-source system for the construction and presentation of information collections. It builds collections with effective full-text searching and metadata-based browsing facilities that are attractive and easy to use. Moreover, they are easily maintained and can be augmented and rebuilt entirely automatically. The system is extensible: software 'plugins' accommodate different document and metadata types. The aim of the Greenstone software is to empower users, particularly in universities, libraries, and other public service institutions, to build their own digital libraries.

Conclusion-

In conclusion, the open source software has been found very useful in various library operations. The Open Source Software is solution to reduce the cost. Libraries can make use of Open Source Software for managing digital

content effectively. The money even saved by using Open Source Software could be used for purchasing other important resources for providing better advanced services. The main features of these Open Source Software are that they are committed to bring changes in new versions according to library changes in new versions to libraries need. Librarians and programmer may worked together to implement open source in integrated library systems and at the same time, library professionals are required to acquire new skills for developing and managing the digital library by using Open Source Library Management Software.

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