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INTEGRATED LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: A STUDY OF BOTH OPEN SOURCE AND COMMERICAL SOFTWARE

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Abstract

The management of both internal and external resources, including as material resources, financial resources, human resources, and tangible assets, is done through computer-based systems called integrated library management systems. It completes automation of libraries and collection development duties, which are divided into various modules with the goal of streamlining routine library tasks including acquisition, cataloging, and circulation. It is typically based on a centralized database, makes use of a shared computer platform, and unifies all library functions into a single, standardized system for the entire company. This essay aims to examine the many open-source and proprietary software options as well as the value of utilizing an integrated library management system

Keywords: *Integrated Library Management System (ILMS), Open Source Software, Commercial software*

Introduction

Human pursuits have always relied heavily on information. Humanity has always made an effort to create, gather, and disseminate information. Libraries or documentation and information units have been established in response to the information requirements in order to handle the duties of locating, identifying, analyzing, and mediating information. Computer-based solutions called Library Management solutions (LMS) automate some or all of the tasks that a library performs. Because all operations are controlled by a single database and involve procedures that openly share data between functional components like catalogue records and circulation transactions, LMS are sometimes known as "Integrated Library Management Systems" (ILMS). A system is referred to as "integrated" when it processes all of the library's functional modules, including budgeting, serial control, acquisitions, circulation, cataloging, and OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog), using a single master bibliographic database. Using an enlarged definition, Genaway (1984) defined the integrated online library system (IOLS) as "a library system that has two or more subsystems operational and accessible online and uses a common machine-readable database." The vast and ever-expanding universe of knowledge presents issues for libraries today. There is a direct correlation between institutional demands for enhanced operational efficiency and rising user expectations for quicker and simpler access to pertinent information. Academic, research, and national libraries may now satisfy the ever-increasing demands of their patrons with the effective, user-friendly tools and workflow support that the integrated library system offers. The provision of

information services is now the primary function of librarians, rather than merely preservation and circulation, as a result of technological advancements and organizational growth. Automating routines in libraries allows for better service delivery and a better user experience.

Development of LMS

An automated library system that can oversee the functioning of many fundamental library functions is what the UNESCO defines as an integrated library management system. Software development methodology has also historically been a distinguishing element between commercial and open source software. For the primary code development, commercial software development teams have traditionally operated inside the boundaries of a single company or unit. Iterations of design, standards, coding, testing, release, and feedback are common to both commercial and open source software development methodologies. As they tackle challenging and unique problems, proficient programmers can build their own reputation for themselves as software developers, regardless of whether they use commercial or open-source software models.

Open Source Software

The term "open source" refers to a type of software license where the program's source code is usually made freely available to users, usually with some limitations allowing for additions, modifications, and redistribution. A design philosophy that is opposed to proprietary solutions is that of an open system. The concept behind it is that organizations, like libraries, can assemble a variety of parts and provide services that use the products of several vendors. To better suit its internal or user needs, a library may, for example, utilize an integrated library system from one of the major vendors in conjunction with an open source product created by another library or on its own. Software corporations are also giving the open source community programs they have developed internally and paid programming time.The hacker culture of the 1970s and 1980s is where the Open Source movement originated. Morgan (2002) states that OSS is both a methodology and a philosophy. It outlines the intended usage of software and distribution techniques as a philosophy. At just four or five years old, the idea of OSS is relatively fresh, depending on your point of view. However, the GNU Software Project, which promotes the distribution of "free" software, has been in existence since the middle of the 1980s. Because of this, the concepts underlying OSS have existed for longer than you might imagine. Open source encourages independent peer review and quick source code growth, which both increase software quality and dependability. A program's license needs to ensure that users have the freedom to read, edit, distribute, and use it in order for it to be approved as open source.

Open Source LMS Software

Koha	Evergreen ILS	OPALS	OpenBiblio	Invenio
PMB	NewGenLib	CodeAchi	Librarian	BiblioteQ

Features of Using Open Source Software

- Catalogue management
- Subscription management
- Online access of books with their location & availability
- Online search option for the inventory
- Inventory management
- Periodicals management
- Patron management

- Online access to the catalogue of various public libraries
- Self check-in & check-out
- Acquisition management
- Barcode scanning

Commerical Software

The term "commercial software" refers to the model in which software created by a business is normally licensed to a client for a price, either directly or through intermediaries, as executable, binary, or object code. The business frequently offers consumers the support, instruction, upgrades, and other services of a similar kind that they require in order to utilize the software effectively. Software source codes are often not released to the general public and can only be copied or altered in ways allowed by the agreements in question. However, they may be made available to certain software users via special licensing or other arrangements.

Commerial Library software package

SOUL	MODERNLIB	AUTOLIB	LIBSUITE	ALICE	VIRTUA	NewGenLib

Advantage of using Commerical Software

- **Professional support:** Technical support and customer service are two areas where professional support services are frequently included with commercial software.
- **Compatibility:** Commercial software is frequently made to function flawlessly with hardware and other software programs.
- **Security:** Commercial software is rigorously tested and validated, and it frequently include security features.
- **Usability:** Commercial software can be simpler to use than open source software since it frequently has an intuitive user interface.
- **Documentation:** To assist customers in getting started, commercial software frequently includes a wealth of documentation and user manuals.

Advantage of using Open Source Software

- **Cost:** The usage, modification, and distribution of open source software is usually free.
- **Personalization:** Open source software's source code is freely accessible to anyone, enabling users to adapt and personalize it to their own requirements.
- **Support from the community:** Open source software frequently has a sizable user and development community that helps to shape its future and offers assistance.
- **Transparency:** Since open source software's source code is available to anyone, it is simpler to find and address errors and vulnerabilities.
- **Flexibility:** A vast array of platforms and devices support the use of open source software.

Conclusion

In his article, Mentor Cana examines open source software and its alignment with the five laws of Library Science, substituting the term "software" for "books" and encouraging the use and expansion of this software. Mentor Cana views open source concepts as potent catalysts for social change. Initiatives including open source software have been introduced in an effort to close the growing digital divide in

developing nations and lower the initial cost of computer ownership. When an organization requires software, it should clearly and objectively describe the features and specifications it wants, and it should invite all vendors—both open source and commercial software providers—to submit bids for consideration. Criteria including functionality, security specifications, and user-required performance attributes should be included in the specs. Libraries will always be primarily concerned with gathering, organizing, and disseminating knowledge and information. On the other hand, the advancement and use of technology is changing how they are carried out. There are significant differences between open-source and commercial software, each having advantages and disadvantages of its own. Commercial software is usually closed, costly, and subject to strict control; in contrast, open-source software is usually free, open, and collaborative. The decision between commercial and open-source software ultimately comes down to the user's needs and the particular issue they are attempting to resolve.

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