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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SOUL AND SLIM LIBRARY SOFTWARE

PROF. GAJANAN GHAYAL

Librarian

Sindhutai Jadhav Arts & Science College Mehkar.

Abstract

The present study compares the differences between the different modules and their functions of SOUL and SLIM. The study focuses on to evaluate a critical comparison between the acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, OPAC modules of SOUL and SLIM. With the help of this study one can easily identify the library management software they really want for managing a automated library. There are so many software developed the field in management of Library. Which provides a total solution for Library Automation like SOUL, CDS/ISIS, LIBSYS, D Space, TLSS and etc. which software can use in Library according to needs? Present study based on the comparison between SOUL and SLIM.

Keywords :-Library Software; SOUL, SLIM, Module, Automation;

Introduction:-

The present study compares the differences between the different modules and their functions of SOUL and SLIM. The study focuses on to evaluate a critical comparison between the acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, OPAC and administrative modules of SOUL and SLIM. With the help of this study one can easily identify the library management software they really want for managing a automated library. All the feature of both software is compared module wise. Hardware and Software comparison is also takes place here. Advantages and drawbacks of both software is discussed here. There are so many software developed the field in management of Library. Which provides a total solution for Library Automation like SOUL, CDS/ISIS, LIBSYS, D Space, TLSS and etc. which software can use in Library according to needs? Present study based on the comparison between SOUL and SLIM.

Needs on the Study

SOUL and SLIM both are library management software. The SLIM21 and SOUL comparison is the need of present study. Utility, advantages and disadvantages of both software also search by this study. Which facility SOUL provides over SLIM and which one is superior we can be conclude here.

Scope and Limitations of the study

The scope of present study is limited to SLIM21 modules and SOUL. SLIM21 software and SOUL software both are Library management software and different modules are available in these software. Some different qualities have in SLIM21 software and SOUL software. I have been compared among some points.

SLIM21 (System for Library Information Management) developed by Algorithms Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Pune and SOUL (software For University Libraries) developed by INFLIBNET.

The objectives of the study are given below

- To know the special features of SOUL and SLIM.
- Difference between SOUL and SLIM.



- Flexibility of both software's
- Usefulness of both software's in university/college libraries.
- To know about the services provided by the SOUL and SLIM.
- To know which is user friendly or easy to use.

SOUL

The SOUL is state-of-the-art library automation software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET. It is user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment. As name indicates it is meant not only for University libraries, but in fact it is flexible enough to be used for any type or size of library in India. The software is compliant to international standards for bibliographic formats, networking and circulation protocols. The first version of software i.e. SOUL 1.0 was released during CALIBER 2000. The latest version of the software i.e. SOUL 2.0 was released in January 2009. The database for new version of SOUL is designed for latest versions of MS-SQL and MySQL. SOUL 2.0 is compliant to international standards such as MARC 21 bibliographic format, Unicode based Universal Character Sets for multilingual bibliographic records and NCIP 2.0 and SIP 2 based protocols for electronic surveillance and control.

SLIM

SLIM is (System for Library Information Management) is an integrated, multi-user, multi-tasking library information software for the Windows environment. SLIM helps you catalogue books, films, sound recordings, drawings, clippings, articles, reports, letters, pamphlets, serials publications. SLIM cataloguing adheres to popular international standards. Retrieval of the data is simple, fast and efficient. SLIM is designed and developed in modules to take care of complete functionality required for automating libraries. You can configure SLIM software for your library by selecting one or more of these standard and add-on modules. SLIM modules work on the same data from different nodes of a network. They can be installed independent of each other on different desktops. SLIM works just as well on a stand-alone machine as it does in a network of Computers. Moreover, your library can be browsed through the Internet with SLIM. The greatest advantage of SLIM is that you can make data entries in any language you want since it supports Unicode.

Data Analysis

There are different features are available in both the software (SOUL and SLIM) but among that features some are available in one software which are not available in another one even in the same modules. Here the study reveals the differences.

Technical Differences between Soul and SLIM

SOUL		SLIM	
Hardware Requirement	Software Requirement	Hardware Requirement	Software Requirement
Pentium @233 MHz with 64 MB RAM	Pentium @233 MHz with 32 MB RAM	Intel Pentium 4 onwards	Windows Server 200x (i.e 2008/2003/2000) (For Server Machine)
1.2 GB HDD	1.2GB HDD with 10MB Free space	1 GB RAM	Windows 2008/2003/2000 client/ windows XP Professional with SP2 (For Client)
32 x CDROM Drive	1.44" Floppy Drive	80 GB HDD MB FDD	Internet Explorer 6.0 (WEB-OPAC)
1.44" Floppy Drive		104/101 TVSE KEYBOARD	IIS Server
Color Monitor (SVGA)	Windows-95 Operating System	2 Serial and 1 Parallel Port	RDBMS(SQL server 200x/ MSDE/ SQL 2005-2008 Express Edition)
Ethernet card 10/100 Mbps		14" SVGA color Monitor with 64 Bit Controller Card	
Windows-NT Operating System		Ethernet Card with Boot ROM (Optional if stand alone machine)	
MS-SQL Server 6.			

Comparative features of Acquisition Module of SOUL and SLIM

SOUL	SLIM
Purchase suggestion from the user	Proposal for acquisition sellers/publishers (foreign / local)
Duplication check	Inquiry to book
Approval process from library committee	Purchase orders
Purchase order	Books on approval memos
Acquisition work process	Purchase bills
Payment details of purchase order	Payment details of purchase bills
Multiple currencies and conversion rates	Credit notes
Report generation	Detailed information about vendors
cancellation and reminders	Multiple currencies and conversion rates
budgetary control	Purchase order status report
Master files such as currency, vendors, publishers etc.	Purchase order follow up letters
	Payment advises
	Entries in accession register are generated automatically

Comparative features of Cataloguing Module of SOUL and SLIM

SOUL	SLIM
Allows cataloguer to create their own templates for data entry of different library resources;	Authority Control on author/ publisher name/ keywords and more
Different templates for leaders and fixed fields of MARC21;	Accession details of items
Allows user-generated customized reports	Cardex for bound volumes of journals
Facilitates authority database of person name, corporate body, subject headings and series name;	Micro-document cataloguing (article Indexing)
Supports copy cataloguing in MARC21 format by using ISO-2709 standard;	Bibliographic details of serials
Master database of publishers. Multi-lingual database by using Unicode Character set.	Accession register
	Cataloguing and labels printing

Comparative features of Circulation module of SOUL and SLIM

SOUL	SLIM
Membership	Member information
Transaction	Registration card with member's photograph and barcode ID
Inter-library loan	User specified code of member ID
Over due charges	Subjects of interest for members (SDI)
Reminder	Loans and reservations data retrieval by borrower identification
Search status	Inventory / circulation status
Maintenance of the items such as binding, lost, replace, missing, withdrawal, etc.	Physical stock verification
Report generation based on the various requirements.	Binding (issues / receipts)
Inter library loan monitoring system	Inter library loan monitoring system

Comparative facilities Serial control module of SOUL and SLIM

SOUL	SLIM
suggestions;	Title, Abbreviation, ISSN and other identification numbers
master databases;	Publisher / Agent
subscriptions;	Periodicity
check-in of individual issues of journals;	Delivery Mode
payment, reminder, binding, and title history;	Gratis/ Exchange/ Depositor
export / import by using ISO 2709 bibliographic ex	Multiple Addresses for Communications
article indexing of journal/book articles;	Holding note for Union catalogue
cataloguing of electronic journals; and	Separate list of journals on proposals
keeps track of the history changes of the journals.	

Comparative facilities of OPAC Module of SOUL and SLIM

SOUL	SLIM
Simple Search	Simple Search
Boolean Search	Boolean Search
Advanced Boolean Search	Advanced Boolean Search
Displaying and downloading of records in MS Excel, PDF or MARCXML;	
Search support for the items that are in the acquisition process in the library.	



Conclusion

The numbers of libraries using library automation software are increasing day by day. In this present era Libraries have computerization and digitalization. But digitalization is the more important than computerization. I have compared SLIM and SOUL Library software. The analysis study helps to know more details about SOUL and SLIM. The data which are collected through designing of checklist, tables and figures of modules are helps to make a critical comparison between the modules of SOUL and SLIM. This analysis has fulfilled the aim and objective of the study. SLIM and SOUL software is the total library management software and it helps in computerization of Library, this is necessary for Library. Because we can easily access any documents and other information material, and save the time of users and staff. Both software i.e. SLIM and SOUL has their limitation. As per descriptive opinions of professionals, best things noticed in SOUL i.e. user friendly, easy to handle, searching facility, data import-export, AACR and CCF support. Therefore it is concluded that SOUL 2.0 is the best compatible to library needs. So hypothesis no.1 is true.

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Coordinator - IQAC
Smt. Sindhutai Jadhao College
Mehkar, Dist. Buldana