LIBRARY AUTOMATION : AN OVERVIEW
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ABSTRACT
Library Automation is the general term for Information and Communication Technologies (ITC) that are used to replace manual system in the library. For this the electronic machines (i.e. computer) are used to automate the library and computerize all house-keeping operations of the library with its services. So there are many library application software are present for library automation Inspite, there are also many integrated library management packages available in the market suiting to the need as well as budget In this paper we have discuss an overview of library automation, its concept, objectives of the library automation, need of automation and some different national & International available software packages.

INTRODUCTION
A process of great change has been taking place today in libraries due to the impact of information technology and application of Computer in library work. Library automation is the general term for ITC that are used to replace manual system in the library for this the electronic machine i.e. computer are used to automation the library. The library automation means the application of machines to perform the different routines, repetitive and clerical jobs involved in the functions and services of the library.

Therefor, library automation means principally the use of computers, associated with magnetic taps, disks, optical disks etc. computer based products and services in library. Thus library automation is the:-
1. Computerization of all the house keeping operations of the library
2. Operate a computerized based management system and services.

Meaning of Library Automation:-
The word “automation” has been derived from Greek word “automose” means some thing which has power of Spontaneous motion or self-improvement . The term “automation” was first introduced by D.S. Harder in 1936, who was than with General Motor Company in the U.S. He used the term automation to mean automatic handling of parts between progressive production processes. Library automation started a single term, is the application of computers and utilization of computer based product and services in the performance of different library operations and Functions.

Definition of Library Automation:-
Library Automation may be defined as the application of automation and semiautomatic data processing machines (i.e. computer) to perform traditional library house-keeping activities such as acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, reference and serial control. Today Library Automation is by for the most commonly used terms to describe the mechanization of library activities using the computer (Uddin-2009)

Objectives of Library Automation:-
There are some important objectives of library automation are below:

- To maintain bibliographical records of all the materials, in a computerized form
- To provide bibliographical details through a single enumerative access point of holding of library
- To reduce the repetition in the technical processes of house-keeping operations
- To provide access to information at a faster rate
To share the resources through library networking

**Need:** Computer has its impact on almost every step of life, libraries are not exceptions to them. Automation, i.e., use of Computer has changed the whole structure and working environment of the library. In the present day context, automation is needed in libraries and information centers because:

- It is difficult to handle a large amount of increasing information without computer
- A machine readable record can be used by many users for various purposes at many number of times
- It takes less time to process data and retrieve information thus saving the time of the users and staff
- To share the resources with other libraries
- Library automation relieves the library staff from repetitive work

In addition to the above, by automation, library activities such as acquisition, circulation, serial control, information retrieval, cataloguing, and indexing can be mechanized by using library software.

**Area of Library Automation:**

1. **House-keeping operations:** In libraries, the house-keeping operations mean those functions or tasks which are done in the background so that the library has may fulfill its goals of service to the users. The house-keeping operations of the libraries are the cataloging, classification, circulation of books & serial control.

2. **Information Retrieval:** The enormous growth in the published information and increasing specialized nature of the literature have resulted in serious problems in accessing information i.e., retrieving information on a given topic & in becoming aware of new piece of information. The use of computer has become an important application for solving these problems and permit access to the users. These access are called Information Retrieval.

3. **Searching process:** For cataloguing by the use of compute a file is prepared for all possible entries of the documents & the file is organized in such a way that all the queries, the entries prepared to provide access to the users are filled. The search for a record of a document may be done for various type of accesses in this system. It has become possible only due to the method of searching by machine readable file, and which has become due to the efficiency of quick searching of the computers.

**Selection of Automation package:**

- The library automation software must be user friendly
- Well designed screen, logically arranged functions with extensive help messages
- Minimal training
- Multi user and unlimited user access
- Multilingual & Multimedia
- Support internationally known standards (MARC-21, AACR-2, Dublin Core and Z39 etc.)
- Training & Support

On the above point of view there are so many automation software available in the market. The term software to set of computer programmes, procedures and associated documents (Flow chart, manuals etc) that describe the program and how they are to be used. It is one of the most important component which should be taken notice of, while automation. Today, a number of application software available in the market Manufactured by different companies of India and Abroad with distinct feature & hence while selecting Software.
Mahapatra & Ramesh (2004) has given the following table provides a list of different Software’s packages used for automation and the name of their manufacturing companies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Name of Software</th>
<th>Manufacture</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ARCHIVES</td>
<td>MIFIFAX Electronics Ltd.</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CDS/ISIS</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DELSIS</td>
<td>Libsys Corporation</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>GRANTHALAYA</td>
<td>NISCAIR</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>LIBMAN</td>
<td>Datapro Consultancy service</td>
<td>Pune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>LIBRIS</td>
<td>Frontier I. T. Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LIBSUITE</td>
<td>Softaid Computer Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Pune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>LIBSYS</td>
<td>Libsys Corporation</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>MAITRAYEE</td>
<td>CMC ltd.</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>NEW GENLIB</td>
<td>Kesavan Institute of information &amp; Knowledge management</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>MINISIS</td>
<td>International Development Research center</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>OASIS For DOS</td>
<td>Soft link Pvt.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SANJAY</td>
<td>DESIDOC</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SLIM</td>
<td>ALGORYTHMS Co.</td>
<td>Pune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SOUL</td>
<td>INFLIBNET</td>
<td>Gandhi Nagar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>TULIP</td>
<td>Tata Unisys</td>
<td>Noida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>WILISYS</td>
<td>WIPRO India</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:**
In India there is a good scope for library automation but till we have not create healthy environment for it. Library Automation facilitates generation of a number of reports for better decision making in the effective management of the library. Availability of various statistical and other usage reports and performance reports will ensure better appreciation from library users. For example, Vendeor performances analysis is possible-subject-wise or project department wise budget can be monitored, circulation data can provide information on titles that are in great demand so that more copies can be produced if needed. Many CAS like current additions, content of books & Journals etc. can also be provided to users, so it is a time to a working & accept the Presence of IT sector and automated library concept.

**References:**