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PERSPECTIVE OF OPEN SOURCE ILMS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRES: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SOME SELECTED COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Nowdays, almost all the library housekeeping operations has been performed by the Integrated Library Management Systems. Various open source and commercial ILMS are available for the same.But, the adoption of ILMS software is solely depends on the Library managers.There are various factors which leads the library managers to choose a right LMS software for their Library and Information centre. The purpose of this paper is to determine the use and feasibility of the Open Source Library management softwares in the college libraries of Assam.

KEYWORDS: *Open Source ILMS, College library, Dibrugarh University, Assam.*
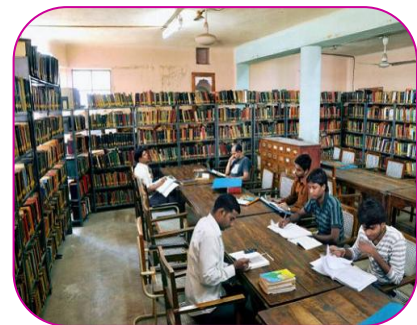
INTRODUCTION

The ILMS/ ILS programs are those application programs that are specifically designed and developed for performing the basic housekeeping operations of a library in a unified manner. It shares a common database for all the housekeeping operations a library. An integrated library system enables the library to link circulation activities with cataloguing, serials management etc. at any given time. It makes use of a file server and clients in a local area network .Most of the library management system have the following modules: cataloging, OPAC, acquisitions serials management and inter library loan (David, L.T., 2001).Applications of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized the customary library milieu. Manual labour in housekeeping operations has been decreased by the automation. Various commercial and open source ILMS packages are now available for the purpose of automated library managemt. Integrated Library Managenemt systems are the boon to the effective management of automated housekeeping opeartions.

OBJECTIVES

- To know the current status of college libraries   on the adoption of open source Software.
- To find out the beneficiary effect by using open source software in the libraries under the study.
- To identify the challenges faced by library professional in the use of open source software in particular surveyed college libraries.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The study has been conducted only in a few selected   libraries of colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh,Assam. The following is the list of the surveyed colleges-

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- D.H.S.K. College, Dibrugarh.
- D.H.S.K. Commerce College,Dibrugarh.
- Dibru College,Dibrugarh.
- M.D.K.G. College,Dibrugarh.
- Lahowal College,Dibrugarh.
- Sibsagar Girls' College,Sivasagar
- Sibsagar Commerce College,Sivasagar
- Sibsagar College, Sivasagar
- Demow College,Sivasagar
- Birlachitborphukan college, Sivasagar
- JagannathBaruah (J.B.) College,Jorhat
- Devi CharanBaruah (D.C.B.) Girls, College,Jorhat
- C.K.B. Commerce College,Jorhat
- JorhatCollege,Jorhat

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hanumappa,Anilkumar,Dora,Mand Navik,Viral(2014) in their study indicated that Koha and NewGenLib were dominant in the LMS category.Dspace, Eprints and Greenstone was mostly used Digital Library Software in India. The study also indicated that there was considerable interest among Indian libraries to adopt or migrate to OSS.**Ukachi ,Ngozi B, Nwachukwu,Victor N and Onuoha,Uloma D(2014)** in their study has spelt out the salient issues that should be considered in library software selection and also discussed the characteristics of OSS that qualify them to be effective library automation software.. Library automation and the use of open source software are relevant for achieving optimal library effectiveness at a minimal cost. This process benefits both the library staff and the users as it reduces the level of job stress on the staff and enhances remote and timely provision of up-to-date information to the users.**Carvalho e Rodrigues,Maya (2016)** in her study reveals that Software's now-a-days have become the life line of modern day organizations. With many Open Source Software applications now available for library and information management, Organizations have a new option for acquiring and implementing systems, plus new opportunities for participating in Open Source Software projects.

METHODOLOGY

A Structuredquestionnaire has been used for the collection of data. Interview with the Librarians of the respective library/ Information Centres is also adopted for the study.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION
Library Management Software used in the Surveyed College Libraries

Library management software provides unified management facility   for various types of library activities such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, administration, reporting and patron records. Following table shows the software that used by the surveyed College Libraries for library automation –

<p align="center">**Table 1: Library management software used in the college libraries**</p>

SL.NO	Name of The College Library	Library Management Software
	A.C.C Central Library,	SOUL 2.0
	Dr. L.P.Dutt Library	SOUL 2.0
	Dibru College Central Library	SOUL 2.0
	M.D.K.G. College Library	SOUL 2.0
	J.P.A Library	N/A

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	K.K.H Central Library	Koha
	D.C.B.Girls, College Library	SOUL 2.0
	Jorhat College Library	SOUL 2.0
	Central Library ,C.K.B. Commerce College	SOUL 2.0
	H.P.M. Library and Museum	SOUL 2.0
	Central Library and Information Centre	SOUL.2.0
	Central library of Commerce College	SOUL 2.0
	Demow College Library	SOUL 2.0
	BLB College Central Library	SOUL 2.0

From the table no 1, it is found that most of the college Libraries are using SOUL (Software for University Libraries) and only K.K.H. Central Library using Koha Integrated Library Management Software for library automation, which indicates that the surveyed college libraries using commercial LMS rather than Open source LMS for housekeeping operations.

Module of the LMS used in the Surveyed College Libraries:
Every library uses various modules for functioning their library. Here the various modules used by the surveyed college libraries are shown in the table.

Table 2: Module of the LMS used in the Surveyed College Libraries

SL.NO	Name of the College Library	Acquisition	Cataloguing	Circulation	OPAC	Serial Control	Library Administrative
	A.C.C Central Library,	-	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	-
	Dr. L.P.Dutt Library	Partially	Fully	Fully	yes	No	Partially
	Dibru College Central Library	Partially	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	Fully
	M.D.K.G. College Library	Partially	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	Partially
	J.P.A. Library	-	-	-	-	-	-
	K.K.H. Central Library	Partially	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	No
	D.C.B.Girls, College Library	-	Fully	Fully	Yes	No	Partially
	Jorhat College Library	-	Fully	Fully	Yes	No	Partially
	Central Library ,C.K.B. Commerce College	Partially	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	Partially
	H.P.M. Library and Museum	-	Partially	-	-	-	-
	Central Library and Information Centre	Partially	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	Fully
	Central library of Commerce College	-	Fully	Fully	Yes	-	-
	Demow College Library	-	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	-
	BLB College Central Library	-	Fully	Fully	Yes	Partially	-

From the above table It is clear that all the surveyed college libraries are using almost all the modules of LMS except the J.P.A.Library, Lahowal College as it is not automated. Cataloguing and circulation module and OPAC is fully used by most of the surveyed college libraries. Serial control ,acquisition and administrative module does not use by some of the college libraries B.L.B. College Central Library only use cataloguing module partially as the library is recently automated.

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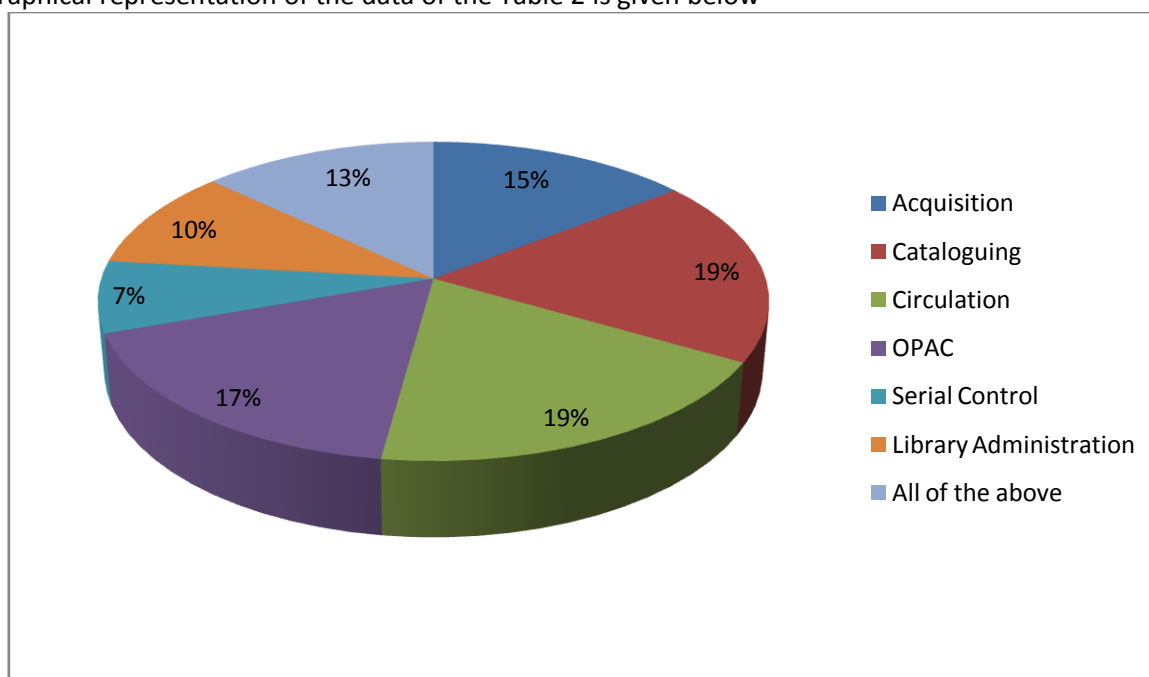The graphical representation of the data of the Table 2 is given below

Figure 2 :Module of the LMS used in the Surveyed College Libraries

From the figure it is seen that both the cataloguing and circulation modules are used equally in all the libraries which have been surveyed. Out of 14 College Libraries, only. Central Library and Information Centre ,K.K.H Central Library,Dr. L.P.Dutt Library, Dibru College Central Library, M.D.K.G. Collegeuses acquisition module. Thus, it is seen the maximum of College Libraries does not use acquisition module. Only 13 % college libraries are using all LMS module for Library operaion. It is also seen that only 7% college library using Serial module for controlling journal, Magazine etc.

Use of open source software for institutional repository by the surveyed libraries –

An institutional repository is an archive for collecting, preserving and disseminating digital copies of the intellectual output of an institution. Following table shows the software that used by the surveyed college libraries for institutional repository –

Table 3: Open Source Software For Institutional Repository

SL.NO	Name of the College Library	Institutional repository Software Used
	A.C.C. Central Library,	-
	Dr. L.P.Dutt Library	DSpace
	Dibru College Central Library	-
	M.D.K.G. College Library	-
	J.P.ALibrary	-
	K.K.H. Central Library	DSpace
	D.C.B.Girls, College Library	-
	Jorhat College Library	-
	Central Library,C.K.B. Commerce College	-
	H.P.M. Library and Museum	-
	Central Library and Information Centre	DSpace

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Central library of Commerce College	DSpace
Demow College Library	-
BLB College Central Library	-

From the Table 3 it is found that among all the surveyed college libraries onlyDr. L.P.Dutt Library , K.K.H. Central Library, Central Library and Information Centre, Central Library of Commerce College use institutional repository software and they use DSpace institutional repository software. Around 21% college libraries used institutional repository software.

Overall attitude of the departments towards Institutional Repository development in the Surveyed College library

Attitude of the academic departments towards the development of the institutional repository is a great concern because it helps institutional repository to achieve its full potentials. The following table shows the attitude of the academic departments towards institutional repository development –

Table 4 : Attitude of the academic departments towards Institutional Repository development/management

SL.NO	Name of the College Library	outstanding	Satisfactory	Average	Not at all interested
	A.C.C. Central Library,	-	-	-	-
	Dr. L.P. Dutt Library	-	√	-	-
	Dibru College Central Library	-	-	-	-
	M.D.K.G. College Library	-	-	-	-
	J.P.A. Library	-	-	-	-
	K.K.H. Central Library	-	√	-	-
	D.C.B.Girls, College Library	-	-	-	-
	Jorhat College Library	-	-	-	-
	Central Library ,C.K.B. Commerce College	-	-	-	-
	H.P.M. Library and Museum	-	-	-	-
	Central Library and Information Centre	-	√	-	-
	Central library of Commerce College	-	√	-	-
	Demow College Library	-	-	-	-
	B.L.B College Central Library	-	-	-	-

From the above Table it is seen that among all the surveyed college libraries only Dr. L.P.Dutt Library, K.K.H. Central Library, Central Library and Information Centre, Commerce Central library of Commerce College use institutional repository software and they use DSpace institutional repository software. So ,according to them the attitude of the academic departments towards the development of the institutional repository is satisfactory.

Digitization of the library materials of the surveyed College libraries :

Among the surveyed college libraries eight college libraries initiated digitization process of library materials. The following graphical representation shows the type of materials digitized by the surveyed college libraries –
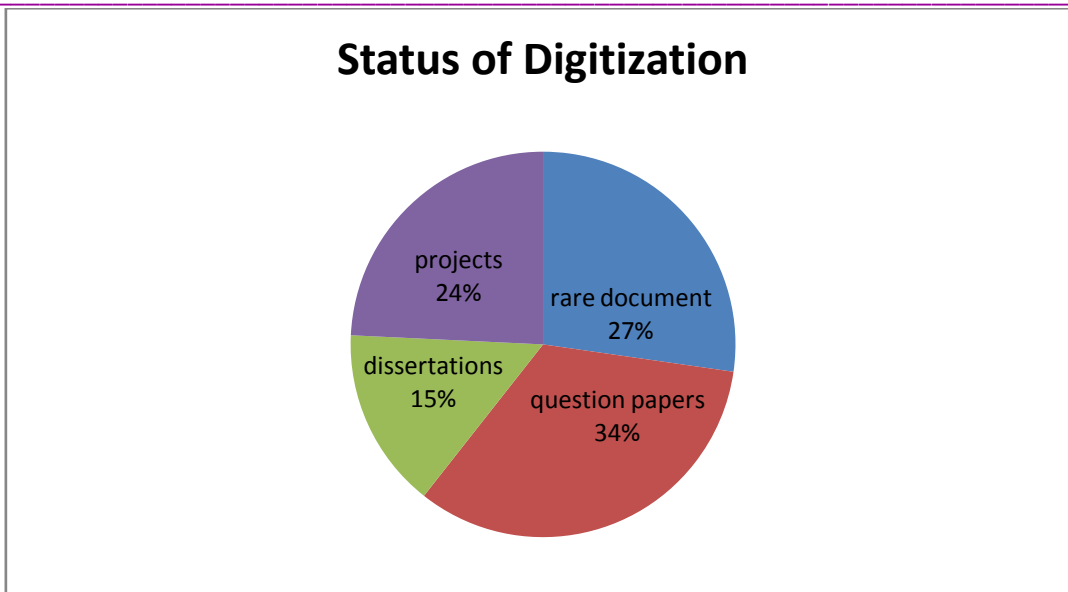
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Status of Digitization

Figure 4: Status of Digitization

It is observed from the figure 4, that   the surveyed college   college libraries digitizing   rare documents(27%), question papers(34%), dissertations(15%) project reports(24%) etc. D.C.B Girls' College library also digitized the scholarly articles authored by their faculty and staff.

Approach towards Human Resource Management for using Open Source Software

The following figure   presents the training, workshop, seminar, conference on Open Source Softyware attended by the Librarians of the surveyed College Libraries. It is found that 40 % of the college librarian attend state,National and   International level workshop on Koha and 33.33% of the librarian attend State and National level Workshop on Dspace. 13.13 % of the librarians attend state level training/workshop on other LMS software.

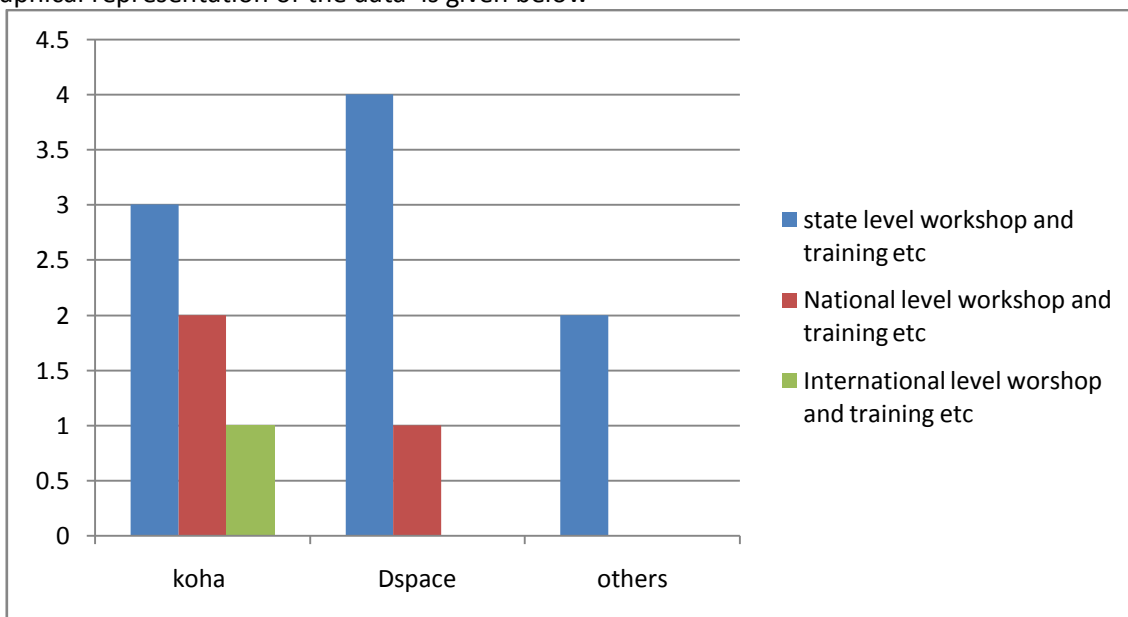The graphical representation of the data is given below

Figure 5 Human Resource Management for using Open Source Software.

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Plan to implement Open source Library Management Software in the surveyed college libraries in near future

Majority of the surveyed college libraries are using SOUL 2.0 and some colleges are using Koha integrated library management software. The following table shows the plan of the surveyed college libraries to implement open source library management software in their library in future .

Table 6: Plan To Implement Open Source LMS In Surveyed College Libraries

Districts	Name of the College Library	Plan to implement Open source Software		
		Within 3 years	Within 5 years	Within 7 years
Dibrugarh	A.C.CCentral Library,	-	-	-
	Dr. L.P.Dutt Library	-	-	-
	Dibru College Central Library	√	-	-
	M.D.K.G. College Library	√	-	-
	J.P.ALibrary	√	-	-
Jorhat	K.K.HCentral Library	-	-	-
	D.C.B.Girls, College Library	-	√	-
	Jorhat College Library	√		-
	Central Library		√	-
Sivasagar	H.P.M. Library and Museum	-	√	-
	Central Library and Information Centre	√	-	-
	Central library	√	-	-
	Demow College Library	√	-	-
	BLB College Central Library	-	√	-

The table 4 shows that surveyed college libraries which are not using open source software, planning to implement open source library software within 3-5 years in their libraries.64% of College libraries planning to implement Open Source software within 3 years and 36% college libraries planning to implement open source software within 5 years.

FINDINGS

The analysis of the data collected in this survey based study, has brought into the light many issues related to the Open Source Software aspects of the college libraries of three districts. The major findings of the present study are summarized below-

I.   Evaluation of the results shows that there is lack of open source software practices in majority of surveyed college libraries

II. It is found only J.B. college libraries using Koha Integrated Library Management Software for library automation and all other surveyed college librarieSusing SOUL 2.0 software for functioning their library.

III. Cataloguing and circulation modules are used equally in all the libraries which have been surveyed. The maximum of College Libraries are not using acquisition module. Only 13 % college libraries using all LMS module for Library Automation.

IV. It is found that among all the surveyed college libraries only Dr. L.P.DuttLibrary , Krishna KantaHandique Central Library, Central Library and Information Centre, C.K.B. Commerce College Central library use institutional repository software and they use DSpace institutional repository software.

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V. Among the surveyed college libraries Eight (8) college libraries digitized their rare documents, question papers, dissertations, project reports etc. D.C.B Girls' College library also digitized the articles written by their college staff.

VI. Librarians working in the surveyed College Libraries have undergone various State/National/International level workshop on Open Source Software packages.

VII. It is found that those surveyed college libraries which are not using open source software, planning to implement open source library software within 3-5 years in their libraries.

CONCLUSION

Although the College libraries of Assam are fabricating asolemneffort to automate their traditional housekeeping operations using different LMS packages, still there are a lot to accomplish by them for the substantial development for the same. As the library automation is the keyundertakingwhich seems costly but use of open source LMS can reduce the financial barrier in economically developing state like Assam.But there is lack of IT infrastructure, technically skilled professionals, IT staff, and administrative support. Therefore library professionals are not interested to apply new technology immediately. Some of the college libraries made an attempt to use open source software either by the software popularity or by knowing its functionality and good features supported by each software.

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