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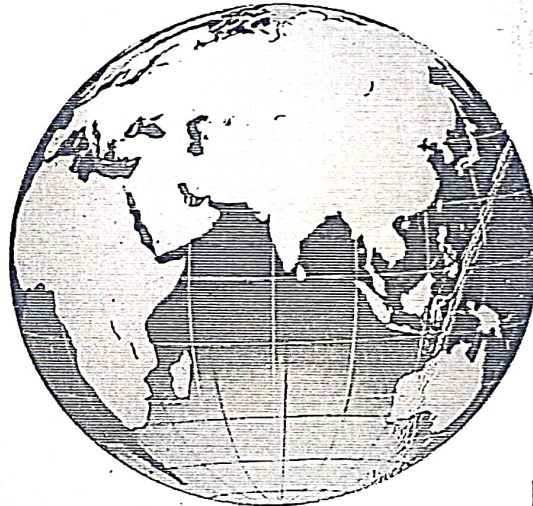
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# “INDIAN LIBRARY MANAGEMENT FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE”

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## Abstract:

Library management systems are designed to manage the movement of books and maintain records of the members in a library. The software solution is designed based on the system requirements, the people involved, the content of the operation and the activity to be performed. The system requirement in library management focuses on the possibility of search for books by title, author or subject by the member. They should be able to locate a book physically by the unique identification code and the rack number for each book. The system should provide details on the books held by the members. The system should limit the number of books that can be taken and the number of days that a book can be kept for. The system should generate fines when due from the member. The next step focuses on the functions of the librarian, the member and the system. Managing books by the librarian, searching for books by the members and notifications sent by the system are detailed in a case diagram. The third step in the design of the library management system software is based on the different aspects of a library. The name of the library, the book detail member details, membership cards, book reservations, book lending, cataloging, fines, book rack and notifications are consolidated as a class diagram. The next step further breaks down the function into specific activities that are performed in a library. An activity diagram based on the primary activities – checking out a book, returning a book and renewing a book – is drawn. The final stage coding for each activity in the case, class and activity diagrams. This is the most important function in the design of the library management system software. Library management system GitHub, the software created using Python, stores data on a log file. The software systems are developed on the platform.

**Keyword:** Library Management, Trends, Database, Catalog,

## Introduction:

The purpose of a library management system is to operate a library with efficiency and reduced costs. The system being entirely automated streamlines all the tasks involved in operation of the library. The activities of book purchasing, cataloging, indexing, circulation recording and stock checking are done by the software. Such software eliminates the need for repetitive manual work and minimizes the chances of errors. The library management system software helps in reducing operational costs. Managing a library manually is labor intensive and an immense amount of paperwork is involved. An automated system reduces the need for manpower and stationery. This leads to lower operational costs. The system saves time for both the user and the librarian. With just a click the user can search for the books available in the library. The librarian can answer queries with ease regarding the availability of books. Adding, removing or editing the database is a simple process. Adding new members or cancelling existing memberships can be done with ease. Stock checking and verification of books in the library can be done within a few hours. The automated system saves a considerable amount of time as opposed to the manual system. The library management system software makes the library a smart one by organizing the books systematically.

by author, title and subject. This enables users to search for books quickly and effortlessly. Students need access to authentic information. An advanced organized library is an integral part of any educational institution. In this digital age a web based library management system would be ideal for students who can access the library's database on their smart phones.

### HOW DO YOU MANAGE A LIBRARY

Managing a library requires knowledge of library management and skills to perform the activities. The task involves planning, decision making, organizing, collecting and disbursing information and controlling and monitoring the various functions. The management should have an objective for running the library. They should have a clear idea of the members they wish to serve. The selection of books in different categories is dependent on the interests of the members. An understanding of the organizational hierarchy will enable proper delegation of responsibilities to the personnel employed. Governmental regulations regarding structure, space and systems should be in place. A budget has to be allocated for the operation of the library. Maintenance of the library has to be scheduled on a regular basis. Dusting, cleaning, pest control, exposure to air and sunlight, replacement of fixtures are essential in preserving the library. A proper inventory check has to be done annually to record the details of books in circulation. Provisions for the replacements have to be done accordingly. These are the basics for operating a library efficiently. In a traditional library all these functions were done manually by people. The process was time consuming and expensive. In today's digital world software solutions have been developed for library management. This system performs all the adequate functions with increased efficiency and accuracy saving time and costs. Library management software system makes the primary functions of adding and deleting, issuing and returning of books very simple. The processes of book indexing, cataloging, book reservations and overdue notifications are automated. The software system makes the process simpler and more accountable.

### ADVANTAGES OF LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE

1. **User friendly system:** The library management systems are simple and easy to use for the librarian as well as the students. The system provides online and offline storage of data. The system automatically updates and backups data. The system is flexible and can be adapted to the needs of the institution.
2. **Simplification of librarian duties:** The system allows the librarian to maintain a wide collection of books, periodicals, journals, audio and video books and pictorials. The librarian operations of addition and deletion of books, tracking books, tracing missing books, reserving books can be performed very easily.
3. **Increased member engagement:** The web based library management system software can be easily accessed from anywhere and at any time. The members can search for books from classrooms, computer labs, home and places where the internet is available. The system provides access from smartphones and tablets to search books and resources. The easy access increases engagement of the users.
4. **Efficient data management:** The library management system software hosted from a cloud platform is very efficient. The functions of cataloging, indexing, referencing and circulation of books are managed automatically and saved on the cloud for reliable and secure operations.

5. **Time and effort saver:** The automated library system software eliminates the need for manual entries. This saves the effort and time consumed in data entry. Automation makes the database error free and accurate.
6. **Automated reports:** The system reports the performance of the library automatically. Charts and graphs are provided for review and tracking of the library functions. This aids in making changes and improvements to the library.
7. **Cost effective:** Digital libraries eliminate the need for extensive paperwork and too many staff. Maintenance overheads and operation costs are reduced.

#### FEATURES OF LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE

The best library management system software will have the following fixtures:

1. **Catalog management:** to digitally keep track of what is available in the library. The books will be catalogued by title, subject, author and date of publishing.
2. **Membership management:** to maintain a detailed database of the members. The system records the name, ID and password of each user. The system helps in ascertaining the track record of the member.
3. **Circulation management:** to track the movement of books. The location of my book at any point of time can be tracked. Misplaced or missing books can be traced with ease. The details on books to be returned and that which are overdue for return are provided on a daily basis.
4. **Acquisition management:** to acquire new books and add them digitally. Irrelevant and outdated books are deleted.
5. **Bar-coding:** to give specific identification to each book. All books, old and new, are bar-coded on the basis of title, author, topic and date of publishing.
6. **Barcode scanning:** to read the barcode easily using RFID sensors. The database is automatically updated when books are scanned while issuing or returning.
7. **Search function:** to enable both the librarian and the members to search the catalog of books in the library. The search functions can be filtered to the need of each user.
8. **Online access:** to catalogues of other public libraries. The web based library management system software provides access to different associate libraries. This broadens the spectrum of search benefitting the user considerably.
9. **Self management:** to check in and check out books by oneself. The library management system software of digital libraries allows the members to login, search, select, issue and return books by themselves.
10. **Fee management:** to collect membership fees and manage individual member accounts. The software calculates the fine due for non-return or lost and damaged books. The members are intimated of the fines by the system.

#### THE LATEST TRENDS AND STRATEGIES USED IN LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEMS

##### Trends:

The library automation system should keep pace with global technological advancements, web design changes, virtual services and online information. The conventional libraries have shifted from manual operations to automated integrated library management systems to manage the entire gamut of operations. The new trend is digitizing the content of the library and providing open source platforms for access to all members. These platforms are integrated with each other to enable a broader spectrum for search and use from remote locations on a 24/7 basis. The members are provided access to digital content in addition to collection of books in print. The

challenges faced by libraries are the dual management of physical collections and electronic content and the appropriate service for each medium.

#### Strategies:

The selection of appropriate software is the answer to meet the challenges of newer trends. The software should be web-based with a user-friendly interface for today's computer savvy users. In schools, the library management system software should be integrated with other school department computers through LAN connectivity. Web has to be enabled on school servers providing internet and email connectivity. Accessibility of the software from outside the school on a 24/7 basis is essential. The database should be built on open technologies like SQL, XML or cold fusion to enable sharing and updating of information between different modules. High levels of security features are to be integrated into the system to enable users to log into and out of the system using IDs and passwords. The security feature should permit the administrator to restrict access to confidential records.

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