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**ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN MAHARASHTRA  
STATE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LIBRARY  
AUTOMATION : A SURVEY**

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**Abstract**

*The present paper focuses on the status of library automation in the engineering college libraries in Maharashtra State. The paper also highlighted on the type of Library Automation softwares being used by the engineering college libraries. The results of the study shows that majority status of library automation is in partial stage in almost all the libraries . Also the use of local made or home made software was found on large scale.*

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**KEYWORDS :**

Libraries , Library Automation , community information , machines.

**INTRODUCTION:**

The increasing impact of ICT has absolutely emphasizing library professionals to redefine the concept & role of library & librarian. The time is ripe to convert the public libraries as community information resource center rather than a mere collection of books. It would be possible by introducing library automation. The automation of libraries is an important activity as it is a perquisite for networking of libraries & resource sharing.

**LIBRARY AUTOMATION:**

The word library automation is being used in literature for the last four decades. In the opinion of Markerson “ Library automation in its broadest sense can be taken to mean the employment of machines for library processes .In general however library automation has come to mean the application of computer & related data processing equipment to libraries”.

In 1960s the first trend of library automation was developed in US, using computer for creating bibliographic database as library catalogues. A machine readable catalogue of holdings record using MARC input format was developed by Library of congress. During 1980s the rapid development in the computer technology & decreasing prices of computers , the automation became a possible proposition for all types & sizes of libraries.(Aswal, R.S.)

**SELECTED REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

The selected literature regarding library automation and selection criteria for the f Library Automation software is scanned briefly as under-

Hambarde Govind (2011) has highlighted on the scenario of library automation in the engineering colleges of Maharashtra state. Bhalekar,Dipak (2011) discussed the various steps involved in the process of the library automation with a special reference to Babasaheb Nail College of Engineering Library , Pusad (M.S.). Rajput and Gautam (2010) examined the status of library automation and problems in its implementation in special libraries of Indore city, Madhya Pradesh. Mulla and Chandrashekara (2009) tried to identify the status of the library automation in the engineering college libraries of Karnataka state. Bansode, Sadanand and Periera , Shamin (2008) conducted a survey on the status of the library automation in the college libraries of Goa State. Abdul Azeez (2004) discussed the library automation system of TKM College of engineering. Thapa (2004) conducted a survey to study the present status of automation in special libraries of Jabalpur district in Madhya Pradesh.

S. Dhanavandan (2010) conducted a survey on the use of the library automation software in self financing the engineering college libraries of Tamilnadu State. K.R. Mulla, M. Chandrashekara and V.G. Talawar (2010) focused on the usage and performance of various library software modules in the engineering colleges of the Karnataka State. K. R. Mulla (2009) studied the use of integrated library software (ILS) in engineering college libraries of Karnataka. The study was carried out on the selected engineering college libraries of Bangalore region, to explore the satisfaction level of software users and to find out their problems and suggestions.S. Gopalkrishnan and K.S.Raghavan (2009) outlined that the decision mechanism in the selection of library software needed to consider the possible alternatives and the uncertainty inherent in the determination. The author concluded that a knowledge-based approach to identify and rank the various attributes/desirable qualities of library software enabled decisions using the collective wisdom of a number of experts in the domain.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COLLEGES BY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE RECEIVED :**

In Maharashtra state, up to 2006-07, there are only five (5) engineering colleges, run purely by the State Government, whereas one college is aided and four colleges are autonomous; but as they receive funds from the state Government, the researcher has included these 10 colleges in the Aided Category, whereas the engineering colleges / institutes which are self-financing, are considered under Unaided Category. The data regarding the responses received from the colleges by the management is shown in Table 1

**Table 1**  
**Distribution of Colleges by Management and Response Received**

Category	Total Colleges	Response Received	%to Total Colleges
<b>Aided</b>	10	07	70
<b>Unaided</b>	138	79	57.2
<b>Total</b>	148	86	58.1

**SCENARIO OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION IN THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES:****Library Management Software**

The researcher tried to know use of library management software from the libraries of the surveyed engineering colleges. Data collected on this aspect is presented in table 2.

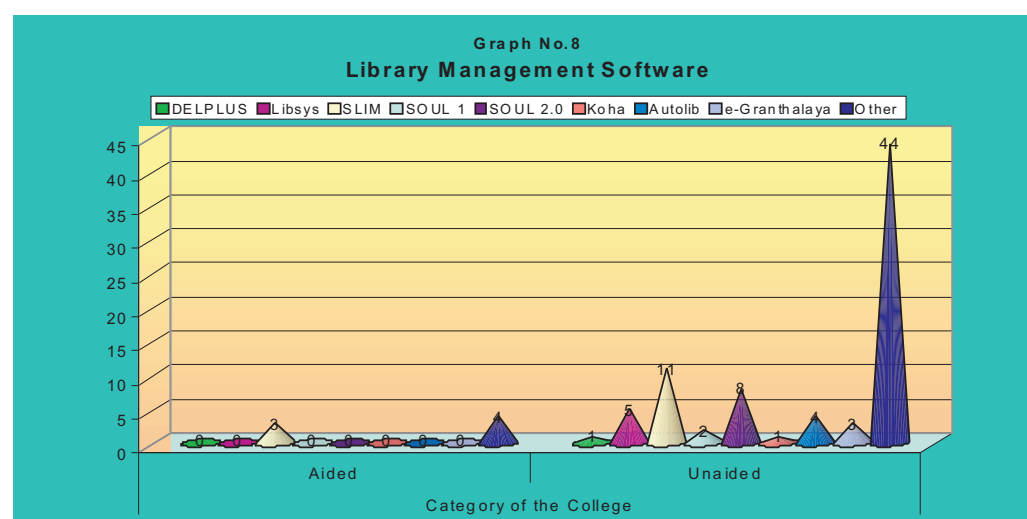
**Table 2**  
**Library management software**

Software	Category of Colleges		
	Aided	Unaided	Total
DELPLUS	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.2)
Lib. sys	0 (0)	5 (6.3)	5 (5.8)
SLIM	3 (42.9)	11 (13.9)	14 (16.2)
SOUL 1.0	0 (0)	2 (2.5)	2 (2.3)
SOUL 2.0	0 (0)	8 (10.1)	8 (9.3)
Koha	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.2)
Autolib	0 (0)	4 (5.1)	4 (4.7)
e-Granthalaya	0 (0)	3 (3.8)	3 (3.5)
Others	4 (57.1)	44 (55.7)	48 (55.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>79</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>86</b> <b>(100)</b>

Figures in table 2 reflect that 57.1 % of aided colleges and 55.7 % of unaided colleges use one or other type of library software. 42.9 % of the libraries in aided colleges and 13.9 % of the libraries in unaided colleges used SLIM. In case of unaided colleges, 10.1 % of the libraries used SOUL 2.0 for the library management.

The table also makes it clear that use of Open Source Software is very less in unaided colleges where as none of the aided college was using Open Source Library Management Software. It is, however, noted that the varieties of library software used in unaided colleges are more as compared to aided colleges. Figure 4.10 also shows the use of Library Management Software in the surveyed colleges.

**Figure 1**  
**Library Management Software**



### Features of Library Management Software:

Efforts were made to know the features of library management software. Table 3 contains data regarding important features of library management software from the libraries of the surveyed engineering colleges.

Figures in table in the table 4.89 reflects that in 71.5% of the libraries in aided colleges software is a network version, and in 75.9 % of the libraries in unaided college's software is a network version. In 55.5 % of the libraries in aided colleges library management software, and in 64.6 % of the libraries in unaided colleges library management software has a Web OPAC facility. In 16.7 % of the libraries in aided colleges and in 17.04 % of the libraries in unaided colleges, the library software is having an integration facility with RFID and other magnetic security system, In 16.67% of the libraries in aided colleges the library software is having integration with office automation software, and in 20.6 % of the libraries in unaided colleges the library software is having integration with office automation software.

**Table 3**  
**Features of Library Management Software**

Category of the College	Network Version			Web OPAC		Integration Facility with Security System		Integration with office Automation Software	
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Aided	5 (71.5)	2 (28.2)	7 (100)	4 (55.5)	3 (44.4)	1 (16.7)	6 (83.3)	1 (16.7)	6 (83.3)
Unaided	60 (75.9)	19 (24.1)	79 (100)	51 (64.6)	28 (35.4)	13 (17)	66 (83)	16 (20.6)	63 (79.4)
Total	65 (75.6)	21 (24.4)	86 (100)	55 (64)	31 (36.6)	14 (16.3)	72 (83.7)	17 (19.8)	73 (84.9)

### Status of Library Automation:

The researcher tried to know the status of automation from the libraries of the surveyed engineering colleges. Data collected on this aspect are presented in Table 4. Figures in the table 4 reflect that major status of library automation was partial automation in almost all the processes, across aided and unaided colleges.

**Table 4**  
**Status of Library Automation**

Category of the College	Acquisition			Cataloguing			Circulation			Serial Control			Budget Control		
	fully	partial	In process	fully	partial	In process	fully	partial	In process	fully	partial	In process	fully	partial	In process
Aided	1 (7.7)	6 (92.3)	0 (0)	1 (14.3)	6 (85.7)	0 (0)	1 (7.69)	6 (92.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (71.4)	2 (21.4)	0 (0)	5 (71.4)	2 (21.4)
Unaided	27 (33.6)	44 (55.7)	8 (10.7)	28 (35.4)	47 (59.5)	4 (5.1)	16 (20.7)	55 (69.6)	8 (9.6)	25 (31.3)	37 (46.9)	17 (21.8)	23 (28.8)	36 (45.5)	20 (25.8)
Total	28	50	8	29	53	4	17	61	8	25	42	19	23	41	22

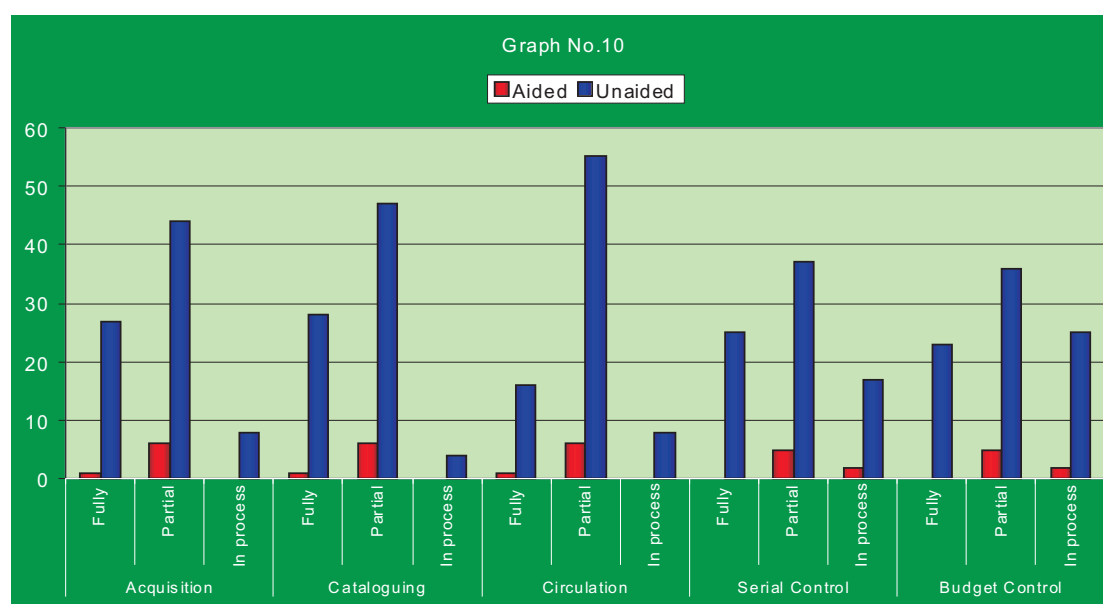
The researcher tried to summarize the status of automation from the libraries of the surveyed engineering colleges. Data analyzed on this aspect are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5**  
**Summary of Status of Library Automation**

Category of the College	Overall			
	Fully	Partial	In process	Total
Aided	1 (20)	6 (80)	0 (0)	7 (100)
Unaided	35 (44)	38 (48)	6 (8)	79 (100)
Total	36 (41.9)	44 (51.2)	6 (6.9)	86 (100)

It is clear from the above table that out of 86 surveyed libraries only 36 libraries (41.9%) were fully automated their in-house operations with the help of library management software where as majority (51.2%) of the libraries replied that their libraries were partially automated their in-house library operations. More number of libraries in case of unaided colleges were fully automated their in house library operations when compared to aided colleges. Also figure 4.11 presents the status of library automation.

**Figure 2**  
**Status of Library Automation**



#### CONCLUSION:

Major status of library automation was partial automation in almost all the processes, across aided and unaided colleges. Results of the study shows that use of SLIM software and homemade or local made library management software was in large scale. Resource Sharing is one of the main purposes of Library Automation and it is supposed that libraries would be able to share their catalogues through automation process. Hence it is recommended that the Standard software having internationally recommended standards for data exchange should be used in the library automation process. But as the results of the study shows that many of the engineering colleges were using local made or homemade software for the purpose of library automation, hence there is a need of awareness among the engineering college librarians regarding selection criteria for the Integrated Library Management Software.

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