Yashada, NIC develop open software for libraries

Swati Shinde | TNN

Pune: The Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (Yashada) along with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed a software called eGranthalaya for the automation of libraries.

This open source software can easily be downloaded and can be freely used by the libraries.

It enables automation of the entire set-up. While this particular software is free to download and use, similar commercial software available in the market costs Rs 5 to 6 lakh.

Manoj Kulkarni, senior librarian, Yashada, who will be conducting a three-day workshop on its usage from December 3 said, "The speciality of this software is that it is open source and can be easily downloaded. There are various open source softwares available, however, they are developed by foreign countries and do not necessarily support the Indian system. That is where 'eGranthalaya' will come in very handy."

The software also helps in generating bar codes for each book.

"Since it is based on unicode, language is not a problem and hence any book available in the library can be part of eGranthalaya," said Kulkarni.

Through the software a record of library users, issues and receipts of books can be maintained. The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, B J Medical College and the Jail's Officers Training School, Yerawada already use this software in their libraries.

"In today's digital world, automation of libraries is becoming increasingly important. There are hundreds of libraries in the country, but very few are automated. With an enhanced user interface, this software will simplify the work-flow of library functions," said Kulkarni.