Newgenlib: A Review of the Next Generation of Open Source Library Automation Software, First Year College of Government Naragal

Billiah Gisore

Librarian GFGC Naregal
billiah6827@gmail.com
Phone No: 8880506827

Abstract: *A library or information professional in the current age of information continuously faces challenges from the technology and under pressure to fulfill the demands of the users. They constantly look forward to improve their services, collection and tool for dissemination of information. Library management software is of the source for improving the library service and has become a minimum requirement for any type of library. The open-source movement has become very helpful for the libraries to implement library automation software, digital library software or much other software at very minimal cost. NewGenLib is the user-friendly software. This paper is focused upon one of such open-source library automation software, i.e. NewGenLib that not only helps in managing resources of the library but also facilitate searching various databases with a single click.*

Keywords: library automation, open source, NewGenLib, information dissemination, user demands

1. Introduction

NewGenLib is a complete solution for libraries. It is a unique combination of a library

Automation software, digital library software and a database search facilitator. With its version

Users can not only search library catalogue, but also search various databases subscribed by the library and some open access databases at a single click. NewGenLib is based on Client - Server technology for managing library functions and creating digital library where as its Online Public Access Catalogue is accessible through the Web. NewGenLib is compatible with international standards such as MARC 21 for bibliographic description, ISBD, OAI - PMH Protocol, Z 39.50 Protocol, Dublin Core, Unicode, and many more (NewGenLib, 2011 NewGenLib unlike Koha is platform independent software which turns it more beneficial for the user who are not well verse with Linux. It has five main modules, i. e. technical processing (cataloguing), circulation, acquisitions serial management, and OPAC besides administration, queries and reports.

2. Various Modules

Acquisition
The acquisition module provides a complete solution for acquisition process in a library. This module facilitates to invite quotation from vendors too. If users of the library make requests for new purchase through OPAC they reflect in the acquisition modules request menu. Moreover the library employees to can add user's requisition manually. Requested books, then goes for the approval of the approving authority that can be sent ordered to various vendors. Accessioning of received books can be done here.

Cataloguing:
Technical processing modules carry forward the work of acquisition module. Those books which are acquired and accessioned in the acquisition module are received by the technical processing module for cataloguing. If a library does not uses acquisition module can catalogue the book directly from this module.

Circulation:
Besides very well - known function of circulation services such as issue, return, renew, reservation,
Inter - library loan this module also provides many other facilities. This module covers Binding management module that is useful when books are removed for binding and are not be available for circulation.

Serial Management:
NewGenLib provides a complete solution for acquisition, cataloguing and management of serials. Serial management is one of the very difficult functions of a library that is very well handled by NewGenLib.

Web OPAC:
OPAC is an essential element of any ILS software. In the age of Google users expect their library's OPAC to compete with search engines, though typically it is not possible for a standalone library to offer wide information through its OPAC.

Administration:
After first installation one has to set various values as per the structure of the library and organization. Flexibility in the parameters makes NewGenLib very compatible for use in a public, research or academic library.

Other Utilities:
NewGenLib provides several add in utilities that makes NewGenLib unique software and makes it more useful software. Using these utilities a library can ease the load of

its work as well as prove the library services more interesting.

3. Conclusion

NewGenLib in a very short period of time has earned fame as sustainable open source software for library automation. NewGenLib has become very competitive to Koha and many cases it is better than Koha such as its platform independence, predefined templates, cataloguing module, etc. It would not be overrating NewGenLib to say that this software can professionals who are looking forwards for a library automation software may adopt NewGenLib ILS to automate their libraries.

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