
**APPLICATION OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE
PACKAGES IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF
COASTAL KARNATAKA**

Malavika G. Bhat and V. T. Kamble

Research Scholar , Dept. of Library and information science Gulbarga University, Gulbarga,
Karnataka, India.

Professor & Chairman , Dept. of Library and information science , Gulbarga University, Gulbarga,
Karnataka, India.

Abstract :

This paper highlights importance of library automation in presence context of information technology, where the libraries are expected to play a dynamic role in facilitating information to the user community. The authors conducted a survey on the application of automation software in some selected colleges of coastal Karnataka. The findings of the survey cover several aspects of automation in the college libraries. The result of the survey indicate that application of library automation software are plays a significant role in coastal Karnataka college libraries. The structured questionnaires were distributed to senior grade librarian and received 100% response rate. The respondents gave different opinion about library automation softwares and this paper also discussed about the library automation softwares are used by the librarians through different forms and tries to understand their level of satisfaction in using the library sources and services.

KEYWORDS :

Costal Karnataka College library (CKC library). Library automation software (LAS) packages.

INTRODUCTION

In the present academic scenario libraries are considered as a vital component of an academic institution, which may be a college, or a University or the like. In fact libraries are expected to make use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to provide information more expeditiously and exhaustively than ever before. Today, there is a greater responsibility on the libraries and information centers to provide the latest and timely information to their users to facilitate improvement in the quality of education and research. This cannot be done until each institution has an efficient library and information management systems at its command. Therefore library automation systems are elaborately designed and crafted computer applications that require considerable programming skills together with an extensive knowledge of the functional needs of libraries and the exacting standards that are applied in their libraries.

Library automation refers to the phenomenon of mechanization of traditional Library activities such as acquisition, serials control, cataloguing, circulation, etc. Library Automation is usually distinguished from related fields such as information retrieval, automatic indexing and abstracting and automatic textual analysis. However, now-a-days, a clear distinction is not maintained and library automation may sometimes include related fields as well. Although computers have a major role in library automation, telecommunication and reprography technologies have equally important roles because of the support they offer to library automation. An automated library is one where a computer system is used to manage one or several of the library's key functions such as acquisition, serials control, cataloguing, circulation and the public access catalogue

Library automation, which started in India in late 1970s in few special libraries, has now reached most of the academic libraries particularly the University libraries however it has yet to take off in college libraries owing to various problems, such as lack of sound finance, inadequate skilled manpower, inappropriate infrastructure etc. Many studies on library automation have been undertaken in the West, but few have been undertaken in India. This paper tries to identify the status of library automation and the use of Software Packages in college libraries of Costal Karnataka.

“Coastal Karnataka” or “ Karavali Cost” is located in South Western India. It forms the Southern part of Konkan coast. This region is characterized by swaying palms and swift brooks running towards the Arabian Sea.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To know the status of Library Automation among the College Libraries of Coastal Karnataka.
 To find out the operating systems used in College Libraries of Coastal Karnataka.
 To ascertain the Library Software used in the College Libraries for Automation.
 To assess the house keeping operations.
 To know the Library services provided with the help automation software packages.
 To observe the Digital Library Software used in the College Libraries for Automation.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A large number of sources were consulted and the contents were gone through to identify the related studies on the present topic of research, which in fact gave lot of insights. Several studies have been conducted on the application and use of automation software in academic institutions in several countries and states. Some of the major studies are discussed here.

The study conducted by Drabenstott et al. (1989) on five libraries discuss about the expectations and realities of their automation projects which include staff impact, costs and funding, time and schedules, users, computer support, vendors, and consultants. The authors opine that some key factors to success include clear political objectives, developing careful definition of the project structure, well-prepared automation plan, sound contractual commitments with vendors and flexibility and adaptability etc.

Richmond, (1981) attempts to explore the past, present and future of library automation. The author emphasizes the establishment of networks, describing the role of OCLC and the adoption of MARC and highlights the growth of online databases, with particular reference to Lockheed, SDC and BRS. The paper also deals with several influencing factors such as the costs,

Standardization of formats, the effect of online systems on retrieval, document delivery systems and contribution of mini- and microcomputers to this area. However the author feels that the real problem is still that of making systems user friendly therefore librarians need to cultivate self-sufficiency in programming using easy high-level languages like FORTH and SPEAK-EASY. Finally concludes that the future must lie in achieving access to all information from a terminal.

Kari and Baro (2014) in their study "The Use of Library Software in Nigerian University Libraries and Challenges" reveal that university libraries in Nigeria widely use library software's such as KOHA, SLAM, and VIRTUA for their library operations. Challenges such as lack of skilled manpower, lack of fund, absence of modern systems (computers) and erratic power supply were identified as the major problems university libraries in Nigeria encountered while using library software's. The authors also observe that librarians recommended the use of KOHA, SLAM, or VIRTUA library software for use by university libraries that are in search for library software to use.

Shafique and Mahmood (2007) observe from their study that several libraries purchased or developed software without any exchange of experience with each other. A variety of software was being used by the libraries of Lahore. The author point out that there are no standard tools or directories available for the selection and evaluation of software, nor was comprehensive literature written and published in a Pakistani scenario discussing the technical and practical aspects of library software. The paper also reveals that Pakistani literature available on the topic is not up to date.

Anas, Iqbal, and Ahmad, (2014) in their study "Impact of automation on library services in selected management institutes at Aligarh: a survey" reveal that 3 libraries out of 4 are partially automated, with the exception of Al-Barkaat which is completely automated. Seventy percent of librarians believe that automation has improved their library's services, while 85 percent users believe that an automated library system is better than the traditional manual system. Of the four libraries, three have a shortage of general staff and three also lack qualified specialized staff to deal with automation.

Lihitkar and Lihitkar (2011) conducted a study on "Ranking of selected library software packages in India". Ten selected software packages were chosen on the basis of their usability and implementation to libraries. It was observed from the study that, total ten software provided acquisition, cataloguing, online public access catalog (OPAC), circulation and serial control facility. Only five library softwares provided online facility. Out of ten library software; LibSys was the highly rated one having 37 software features followed by SOUL software having 36 points followed by 35 points of Wolk Soft Tech software. SLIM 21 and SLM+ + has 34 points. The authors opine that it is necessary to improve the quality of software for providing effective services.

Sampath Kumar and Biradar, (2010) in their study "Use of ICT in college libraries in Karnataka, India: a survey" reveal that one can enable to evaluate the library automation software packages and rank them according to their features so that they can implement the particular software for library automation to their own library. The authors are of the view that application of ICT in Indian college libraries has not reached a very high level. Lack of budget, lack of manpower, lack of skilled staff and lack of training are the main constraints for not automating library activities. Even though library professionals have shown a positive attitude towards the use of ICT applications and library automation, they need extensive and appropriate training to make use of ICT tools.

METHODOLOGY, SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This paper is based on the survey conducted on the libraries of selected colleges which offer Degree Courses in the disciplines of Arts, Science, Commerce and Social sciences in Coastal Karnataka. Some of the colleges also offer Post Graduate, Diploma, Pre-University and Certificate courses. As it was not possible for the researcher to cover all the colleges of Coastal Karnataka, only few top reputed college libraries were considered for the study. Structured questionnaire was used as the tool for data collection. The questionnaires were distributed among the selected college libraries to collect the data and

simple statistical techniques were used to tabulate and analyze the data.

COASTAL KARNATAKA COLLEGE LIBRARY: A BRIEF PROFILE

The researcher visited to 12 reputed college libraries of coastal Karnataka and collects the data on application of library automation software packages, from respondents. These 12 college libraries are Re- accredited 'A' by NAAC.

They are as follows.

Bhandarkar's Arts & Science College Kundapur, Karnataka, Library was established in the year 1964.
 Mahatma Gandhi Memorial college, Udupi, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1949
 University college Mangalore, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1928.
 Shivaji Arts, Com. & BCA College, Karnataka, Library was established in the year 1970
 Poorna Prajna College Udupi, Karnataka, Library was established in the year 1961
 Saint Mary's Syrian College Brahmavar, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1980.
 Cross land college Brahmavar, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1984.
 Gokale centenary college, Ankola, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1966.
 Karavali Colleges Mangalore, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1996.
 A.J Institute of Management College, Mangalore, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1999.
 Divekar College of Commerce, Karwar, Karnataka, Kanara welfare trust, library was established in the year 1971.
 St. Agnes Degree College Mangalore, Karnataka, library was established in the year 1920.

These college libraries are gives full education, encouragement to its used like the students and the staff members of the college.

DATA ANALYSIS RESULT AND DISCUSSION.

The description of the data and the result of the study carried out are presented in the following sections. The total college librarians is 12 (100%) structured questionnaires were distributed, to some reputed UG and PG college libraries and out of which 12(100%) responses were received . This constitutes of total responses and it was used for the below table – 1.

Details	Distributed	Percentage	Received	Percentage
Coastal Karnataka College librarians	12	100	12	100

The rapid advancement of computer technology has had a marked impact on the development of automation software. Selecting of softwares in an automated system is a time – consuming task that takes a long –term commitment of financial and personal resources. The selection decision should be based on needs assessment reviews of literature, evaluation and comparison of existing software packages.

OPINION ON OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE USED IN CKC LIBRARY

Operating system software includes platforms for operating, managing and monitoring, library networks and computers. Operating systems software is designed to operate the computer hardware to provide basic functionality of the library and to provide a platform for running application software

Table – 2 : Opinion on operating system software used in CKC library.

Sl. No.	Softwares	No. of Respondents
1.	M.S.Dos	Nil
2.	Windows –XP	11(91.6%)
3.	UNIX	Nil
4.	LINUX	1(8.4%)
5.	Others	Nil
	Total	12

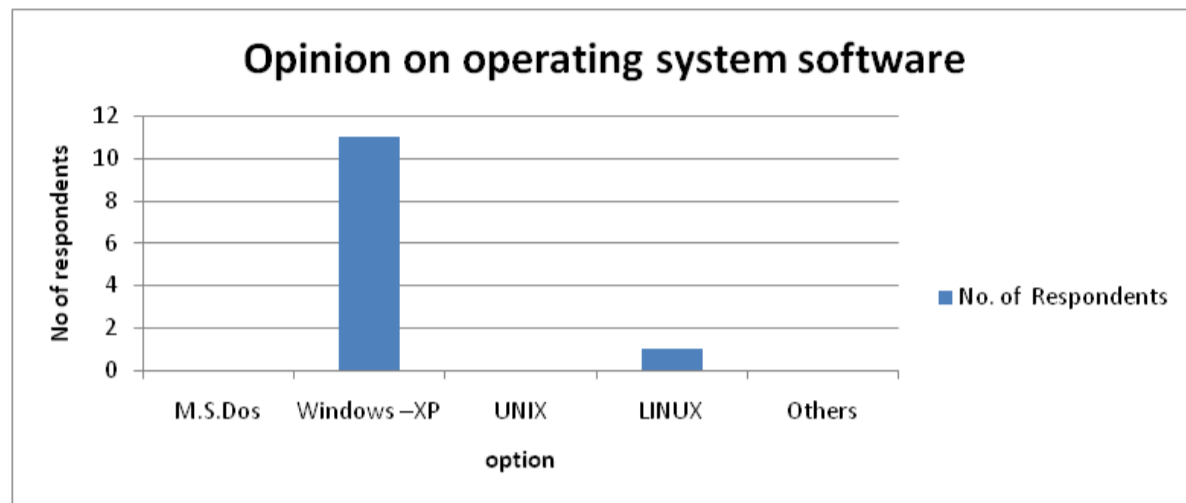


Table-2 : shows that operating system software Windows -XP 11 (91.6%) is used by majority of librarians and software LINUX 1(8.4%) is rarely used by librarians

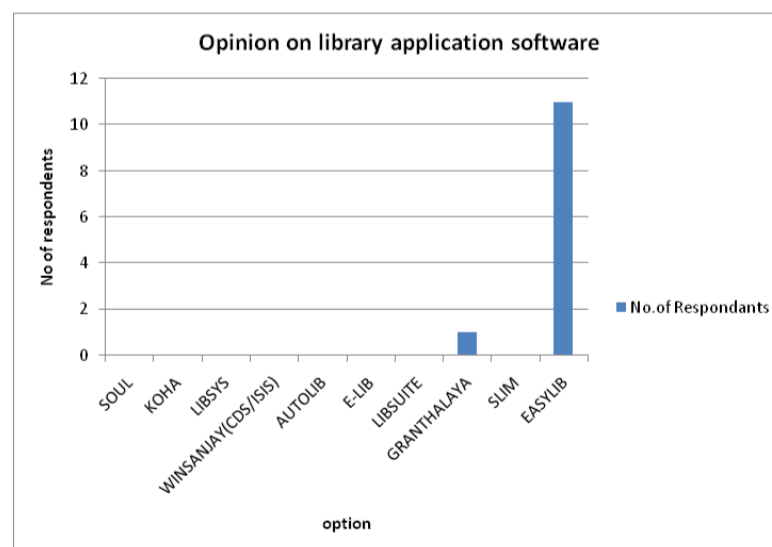
Windows - XP : Windows - XP Operating system software is a stable, standard system and commonly used for library housekeeping operations.

Information about the application of library automation software packages in CKC library.

Application of library automation software packages are mainly uses the computer system to perform useful work or provide library functions beyond the basic operation of the computer itself. Selection of library automation software (LAS) is not a simple task. Selection of LAS might help the librarians to select the right software for their housekeeping operations as well as information retrieval. They are shows in below table - 3.

Table - 3: Opinion on library automation software

Sl. No.	Automation software	No.of Respondants
1.	SOUL	Nil
2.	KOHA	Nil
3.	LIBSYS	Nil
4.	WINSANJAY(CDS/ISIS)	Nil
5.	AUTOLIB	Nil
6.	E-LIB	Nil
7.	LIBSUITE	Nil
8.	GRANTHALAYA	1(8.4%)
9.	SLIM	Nil
10	EASYLIB	11(91.6%)
Total		12



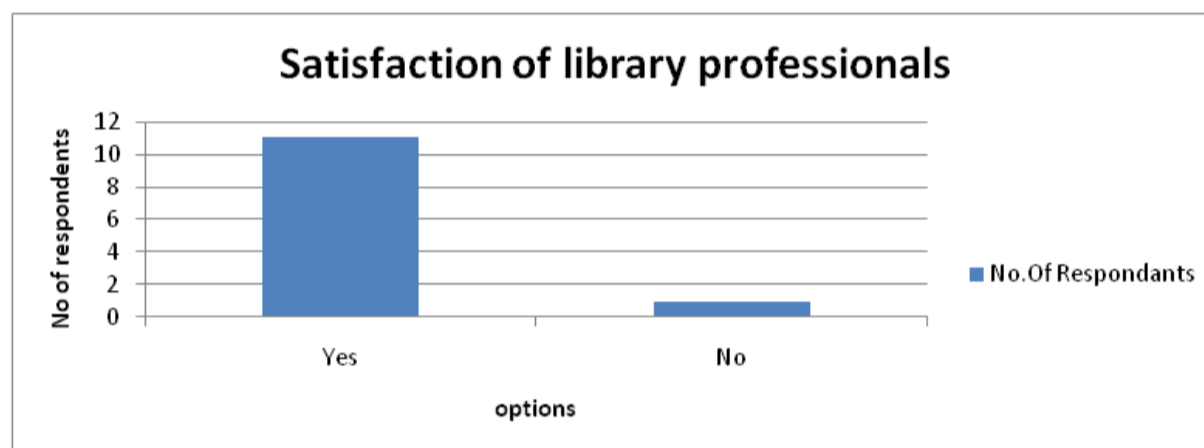
These are many library automation softwares are used by librarians to housekeeping operations. But the above table-3 shows that in CKC library only EASYLIB is top most 11(91.6%) used and very popular automation software. Out of 12 colleges only 1(8.4%) AGRANTHALAYA software package is used by CKC librarians.

EASYLIB – EASYLIB is entire automation system for librarians an advanced and state of the art of library automation system. The first installation of EASYLIB was in March 2001. Developing library automation software has been EASYLIB's core focus. This applications software packages has been used in libraries in Karnataka and all over India.

Satisfaction of Library Professionals on library automation software to full fill the basic requirements of the library.

Table -4:

Options	No.Of Respondants
Yes	11(91.6%)
No	1(8.4%)
Total	12



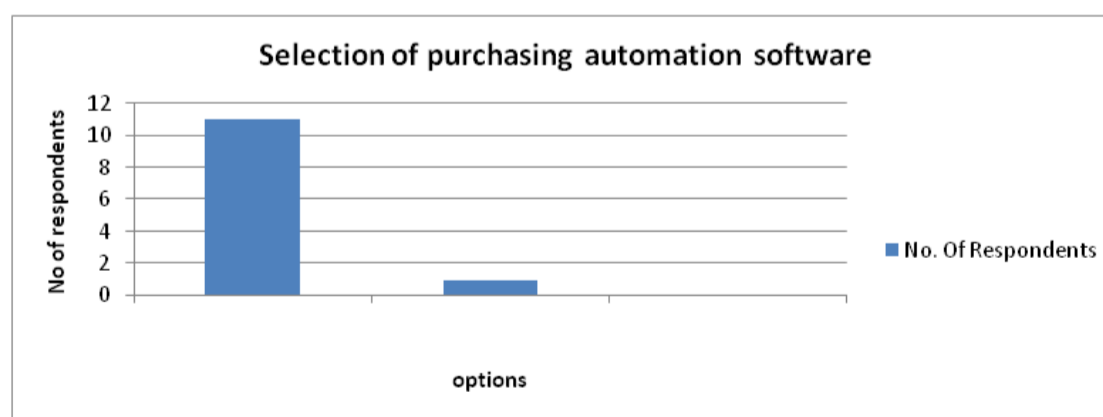
The above table - 4 reveals that 11(91.6%) librarians had full satisfaction about the application of library automation software and 1(8.4%) librarians have not satisfaction. But the highest respondents are satisfied with the automation software to managing basic functions of the library.

Purchasing the application software packages used in CKC library / information centre

Selection of library automated system is depends on librarians priority needs, staff needs, user information needs and budget so that librarians are able to translate these needs in to software features that are essential and desirable in an automated system. It includes the needs to purchasing the software package

Table -5:

Sl. No.	Selection of purchasing automation software packages	No. Of Respondents
1.	Commercial	11(91.6%)
2.	Open source	1(8.4%)
3.	In-house built softawre	Nil
	Total	12



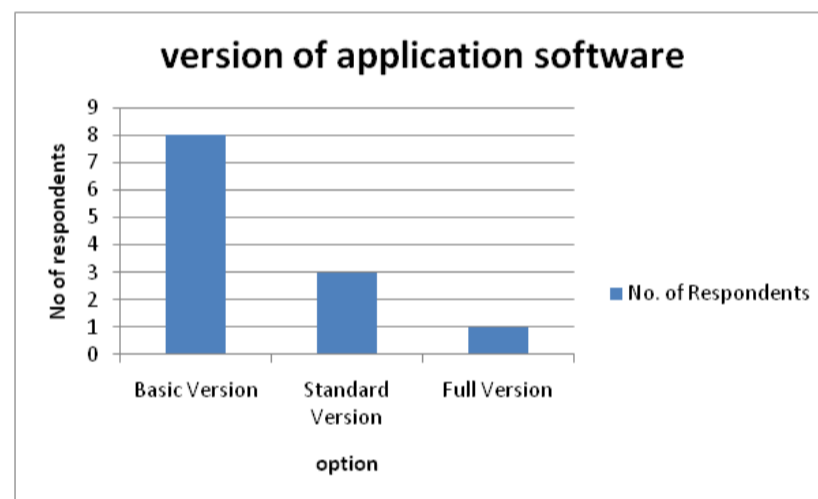
The above table -5 shows that selection of purchasing software packages in library commercial such as 11 (91.6%) and only 1 (8.4%) is open source. But in maximum libraries the application softwares are purchased by vender commercially and it takes a long term commitment of financial and personal resources. And it also gives best performance to library housekeeping operations.

The versions of applications software packages in CKC library

The versions of library software packages are basically stands on pricing model of software packages . If the applications of library automation software packages are commercial the library professionals have to take the price of the packages also into consideration for cost –benefit analysis of available services in the short listed library management system (LMS). This factor plays an important role in our country like India because financial crunch is a regular feature in Indian libraries and Information centers. In CKC library the library managements also depends on pricing model of commercial software packages.

Table -6: The version of application software packages.

Sl. No.	Applied the type of Version	No. of Respondents
1.	Basic Version	8(66.6%)
2.	Standard Version	3(25%)
3.	Full Version	1(8.4%)
	Total	12



The above table -6 indicates that in CKC library top 8(66.6%) Basic Versions are most applied and 3(25%) Standard Versions are applied, 1(8.4%) Full Versions are applied.

Status of advanced operational facilities

Table -7:

Sl. No.	Status of advanced operational facilities	No. of Of Respondents	
		Yes	No
1.	Access to your library OPAC	12(100%)	Nil
2.	Bibliographic and inventory control	Nil	12(100%)
3.	Inter library loan	12(100%)	Nil
4.	Digital Media archive system	10(83.4%)	2(16.6%)
5.	Bills and Fines	12(100%)	Nil
6.	Circulation control	12(100%)	Nil
7.	Document recommendation For acquisition	12(100%)	Nil
8.	Information Gateway	10(83.4%)	2(16.6%)
9.	Electronic data interchange (EDI)	4(33.4%)	8(66.6%)
10	FAQ	5(41.6%)	7(58.4%)
	Total	12	12

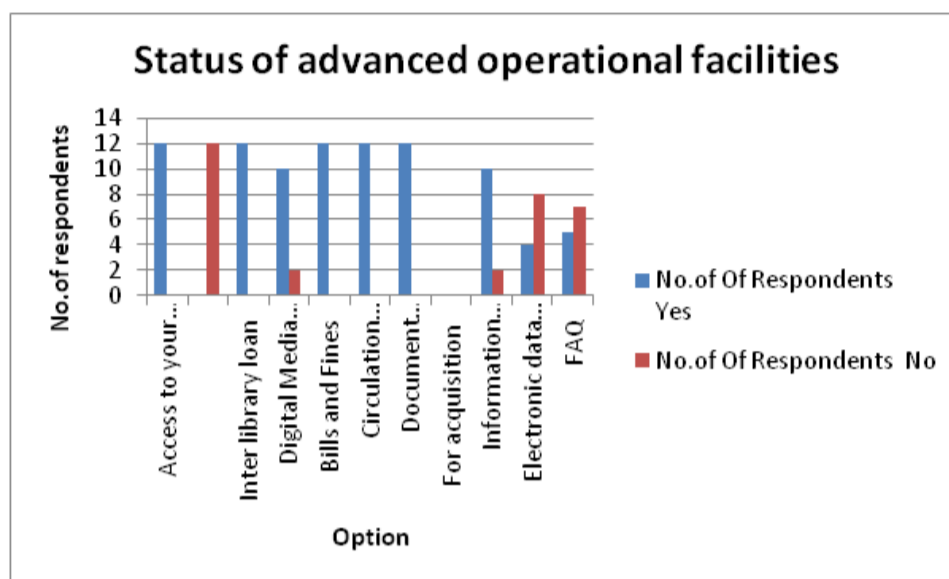


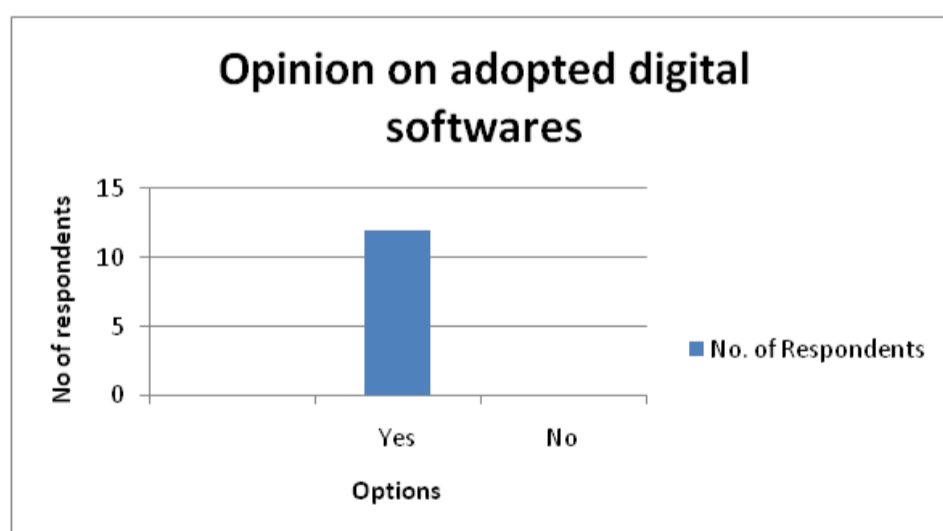
Table No-7 shows that status of advanced operational facilities in CKC library. The respondent gives their opinion about advanced facilities based on their application software. They told that Access to your library OPAC facilities 12(100%) are available and Bibliographic and inventory control is not available Nil. Inter library loan facilities are available 12(100%) and Digital Media archive system are available 10(83.4%), But 2(16.6%) respondents are gives their opinion that these facilities are not available. In the same time respondents reveals that Bills and Fines 12(100%), Circulation control 12(100%), Document recommendation For acquisition 12(100%) facilities are available, Information Gateway 10(83.4%) facilities are available, 2(16.6%) facilities are not available. But Electronic data interchange (EDI) facilities are only 4(33.4%) are available and 8(66.6%) facilities are not available. FAQ facilities are available to library users 5(41.6%) and 7(58.4%) not available.

Opinion on CKC library adopted digital softwares

In the presents era digitalized databases are being compiled in majority of the CKC library services which are based on information technology as well as resources available in Electronic formats. In order to manage all kinds of resources of and information, libraries require high quality integrated software, along with cutting edge retrieval tools.

Table -8:

Options	No. of Respondents
Yes	12(100%)
No	Nil
Total	12

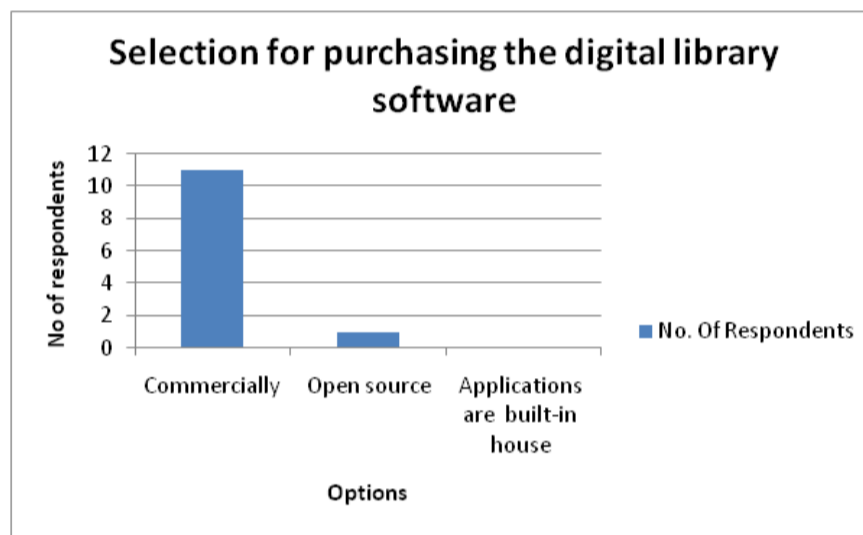


The present table – 8 represents that CKC library adopted digital software 12(100%) maximum out of 12 college respondents. Most of the librarians are used digital software packages to retrieval system.

Purchasing the digital library Software used in CKC library/information Centre.

Table -9:

Sl. No.	Selection of purchasing digital library software	No. Of Respondents
1.	Commercially	11(91.6%)
2.	Open source	1(8.4%)
3.	Applications are built-in house	Nil
Total		12

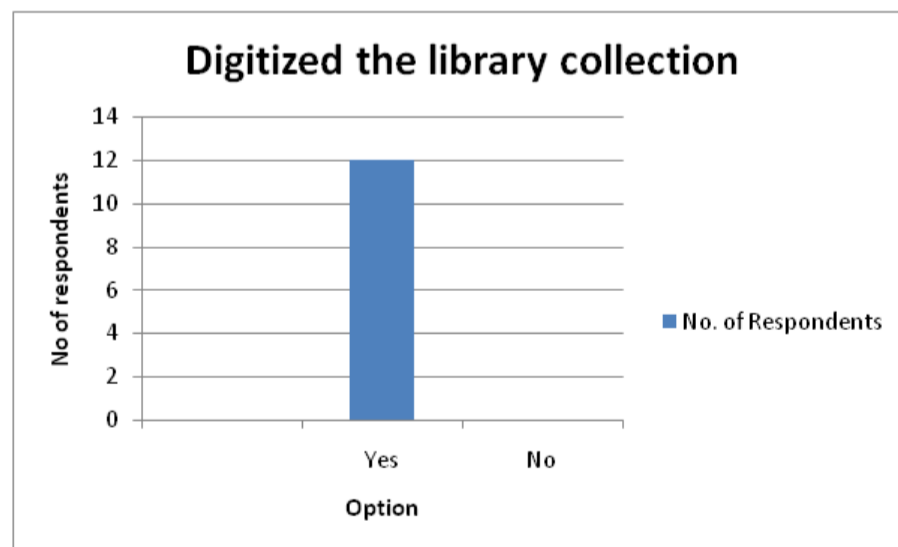


Above table-9 shows that the respondents give their opinion that selections of purchasing digital library softwares are 11(91.6%) commercial and only 1(8.4%) are open source. But applications are built in house Nil.

Information about digitized the library collection in CKC library

Table -10: Digitized the library collection

Options	No. of Respondents
Yes	12(100%)
No	Nil
Total	12

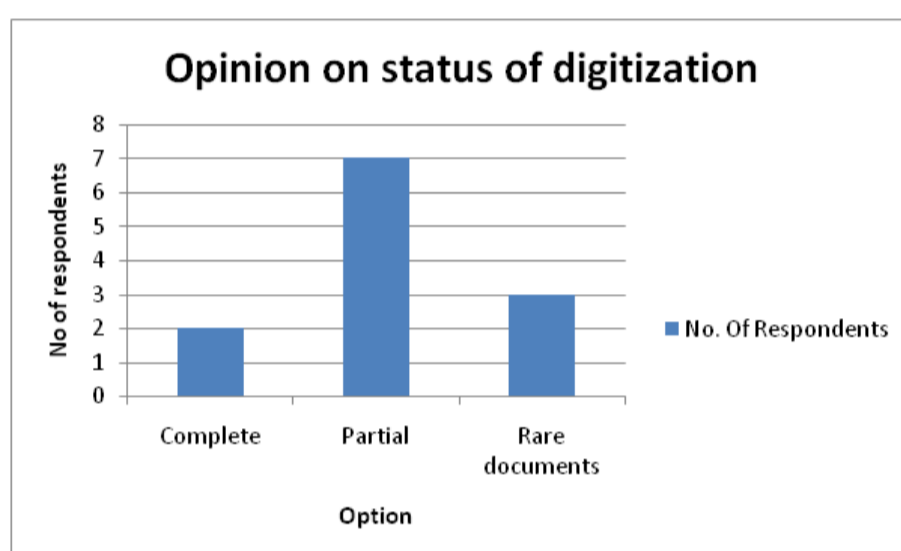


The above table-10 shows that out of 12 maximum no. of respondents stated that 12(100%), CKC libraries are digitized the library collection

Opinion on status of digitization

Table – 11:

Sl. No.	Selection of purchasing digital library software	No. Of Respondents
1.	Complete	2(16.6%)
2.	Partial	7(58.4%)
3.	Rare documents	3(25%)
	Total	12

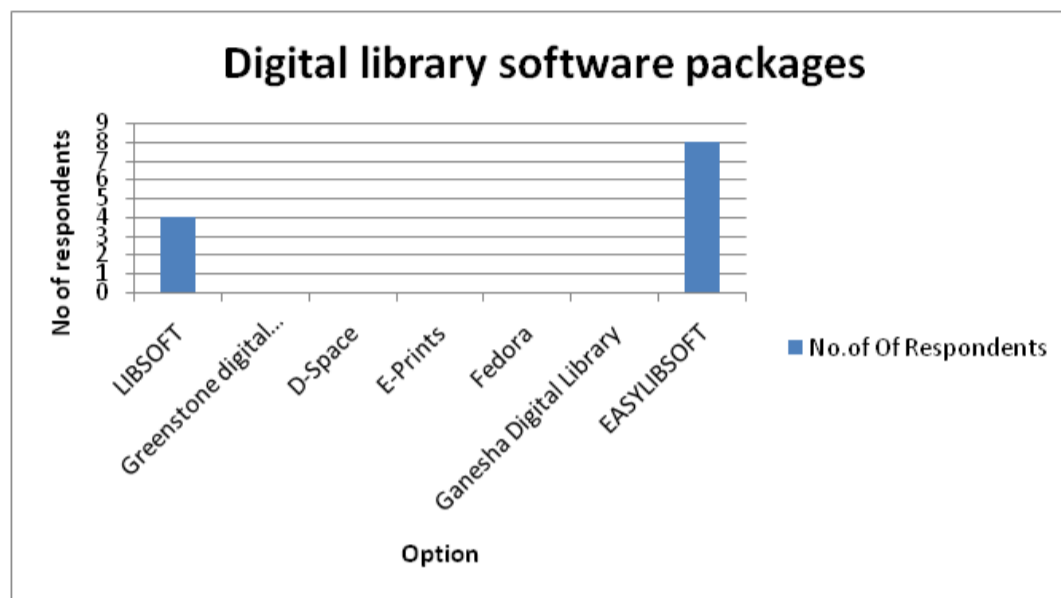


The above table reveals that the respondents of CKC library give their opinions that only 2(16.6%), library collections are fully or completely digitized. 7(58.4%) library collections are partially digitized and 3(25%) only rare document collections are digitized.

Information about digital library software packages are used in CKC library.

Table-12:

Sl. No.	digital library software packages	No.of Of Respondents
1.	LIBSOFT	4(33.4%)
2.	Greenstone digital Library	Nil
3.	D-Space	Nil
4.	E-Prints	Nil
5.	Fedora	Nil
6.	Ganesha Digital Library	Nil
7.	EASYLIBSOFT	8(66.6%)
	Total	12



The above table -12 shows that in CKC library the digital software EASYLIBSOFT are more used. The respondents of CKC library gives their opinion that EASYLIBSOFT 8(66.6%) is more used and LIBSOFT 4(33.4%) is less used. Then they also told that Greenstone digital Library, D-Space, E-Prints, Fedora, Ganesha Digital Library are not used.

CONCLUSION

Library automation is an important activity therefore while automating a library, the decision to select or reject a particular setup, hardware and software has to be taken based on several considerations. Careful thought must as to be given to several aspects of the library before arriving at any decision regarding the system to be used in automating a library. The basic approach to be followed is to analyze the actual requirement of a library. Each library differs from the others in terms of. Size of library collection. Number of users, level and interest of users, actual number of transactions, and range and variety of services their quality and complexity. Based on the size of collection and number of users, the library has to decide on the type of setting the library needs to go in for. But however the findings of survey reveals that most of college libraries of Costal Karnataka have not given serious thought while selecting and utilizing software packages for automating their libraries. The academic achievement of an institution is closely associated with the resources, services and the facilities provided by their respective libraries; therefore library automation invites a pragmatic approach which should be based on the needs and requirements of the user community. Therefore the library professionals should have a thorough knowledge of the different hardware and software options to opt for a feasible software package to ensure effective services and facilities to the library users and there should be a continuous monitoring system for automation activities to improvise and to cope up with ever changing technology.

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