Inside

Editorial Board

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From Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

The year 1999 has been an eventful year for INFLIBNET Centre. Number of new initiatives were taken during this year. Major thrust has been on the development of the library management software - SOUL. The entire team spent their time in giving the final shape to this software. Beta testing was done at four universities in Hyderabad to check its versatility. I am happy to mention here that, one and half year's continuos effort has finally given us a good result in the form of a state-of-the-art library management software - SOUL. This software will be launched during CALIBER-2000 at Chennai for providing it to universities and other institutions. I am sure this will provide much needed boost for the automation of libraries. Other major initiative has been in the area of collaboration with NASSDOC. The preliminary discussions have been held and the areas for collaboration have been identified mutually. As a first step, INFLIBNET conducted a workshop in collaboration with NASSDOC on 'Internet and Social Science Information' from December 13 – 16, 1999. As in past, this year also, 18 more universities have been funded, who will soon be acquiring the systems and begin their automation work. The CALIBER-2000 is going to be held at Chennai in collaboration with University of Madras. We are going to introduce a new feature of tutorials. Two tutorials on a contemporary topics are proposed to be held by experts. This, we feel, will enhance the skills of the Librarians on IT applications.

Like in the past, universities continue to show the active interest in the automation and networking. I am sure with this continued keen interest, together, we will be achieving the desired goal in the next Millenium. I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2000 and the New Millenium

Pramod Kumar
Director

SOFTWARE FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES (SOUL)

The SOUL is a state-of-the-art library automation software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET. It is user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment. Although looking at the name of the software, one may think that it is meant for University libraries only, but in fact it is flexible enough to be used for automating any type or size of library in India. While designing this software, the international standards, bibliographic formats, networking protocols, and typical functions of all types and sizes of libraries, particularly at university level, have been taken into account. The functions have been grouped into six categories, looking into the functional divisions of Indian University libraries. At present, SOUL uses RDBMS on Windows NT operating system as back end to store and retrieve the data. However, keeping in view the trends in IT towards Linux operating system, efforts are under way also to provide SOUL to work on Linux platform. The inputs received from expert team consisting of practising librarians and the feedbacks received from users of our earlier software, ILMS, have given a strong base for designing this software. SOUL is near total solution offered by INFLIBNET to Indian libraries. It puts library staff at ease in exploring all the functions to their advantages with the help of professionally prepared manual.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIRED :

The minimum hardware and software configuration required to use the SOUL is given below.

Server:
Pentium @233 MHz with 64 MB RAM
1.2 GB HDD
32 x CDROM Drive
1.44" Floppy Drive
Colour Monitor (SVGA)
Ethernet card 10/100 Mbps
Windows-NT Operating System
MS-SQL Server 6.5

Client :
Pentium @233 MHz with 32 MB RAM
1.2GBHDD with 10MB Free space
1.44" Floppy Drive
Colour Monitor (SVGA)
Ethernet card 10/100 Mbps
Windows-95 Operating System

STRONG FEATURES OF SOUL

Following are few of the strong features of SOUL, which should induce librarians to use SOUL in their libraries.

➢ Windows based user friendly software.
➢ Well-designed screens, logically arranged functions with extensive help messages make the software user friendly.
➢ It is based on client server architecture allowing scalability to the users.
➢ It uses RDBMS to organise and query the data.
➢ SOUL does not need an extensive training. With very little familiarity, one can begin using it.
➢ It is specially designed to work in the large academic libraries, capable of handling large number of records.
➢ It is a multi-user software and there is no limit on simultaneous accesses.
➢ Supports internationally known standards such as CCF and AACR II. etc.
➢ Provides export and import facility and adheres to ISO 2709 format.
➢ Incorporates all required features to work in a networked environment i.e.. LAN and WAN.
➢ OPAC is versatile and very user-friendly with all options in-built.
➢ OPAC is accessible over the web using any GUI based browsers.
➢ Provides comprehensive list of reports, master databases and authority files.
➢ Provides facility to create, view and print records in regional languages.
➢ Functionally it covers every conceivable operation of University library.
➢ Available at affordable cost.
➢ SOUL has been fully tested at a number of university libraries and critically evaluated by team of experts and practising librarians.

MODULES

The SOUL has been divided into following six broad modules as shown in the **Figure-1**

- Acquisition
- Serial Control
- Cataloguing
- OPAC
- Circulation
- Administration
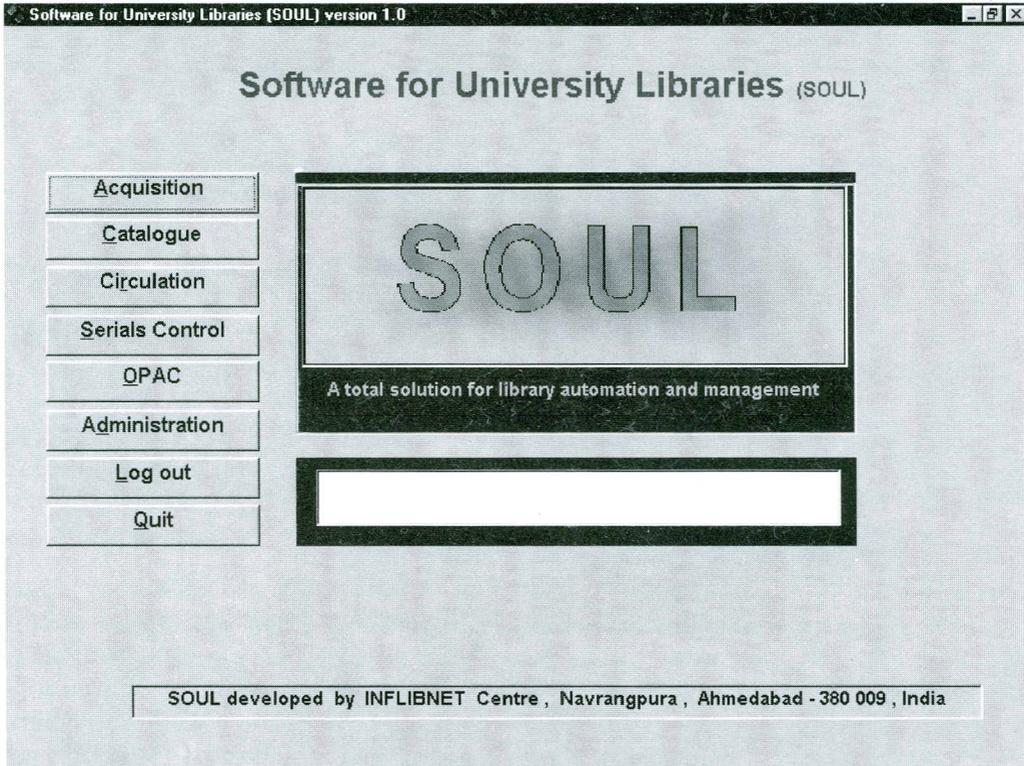
Figure - 1

These modules have further been divided into sub-modules looking at the nature of functions handled by various functional divisions in University libraries. Brief description of the same along with first screens have been given in the following pages.

1.   Acquisition Module

This particular module provides facilities to handle work relating to acquisition of reading materials of all types except serials, starting from suggestion / recommendation by faculty till accessioning, invoice processing. Acquisition module comprises following six broad sub-modules as given in the **Figure 2**.

- Suggestion
- Payment
- Order processing
- Master Databases
- Accessioning
- Reports
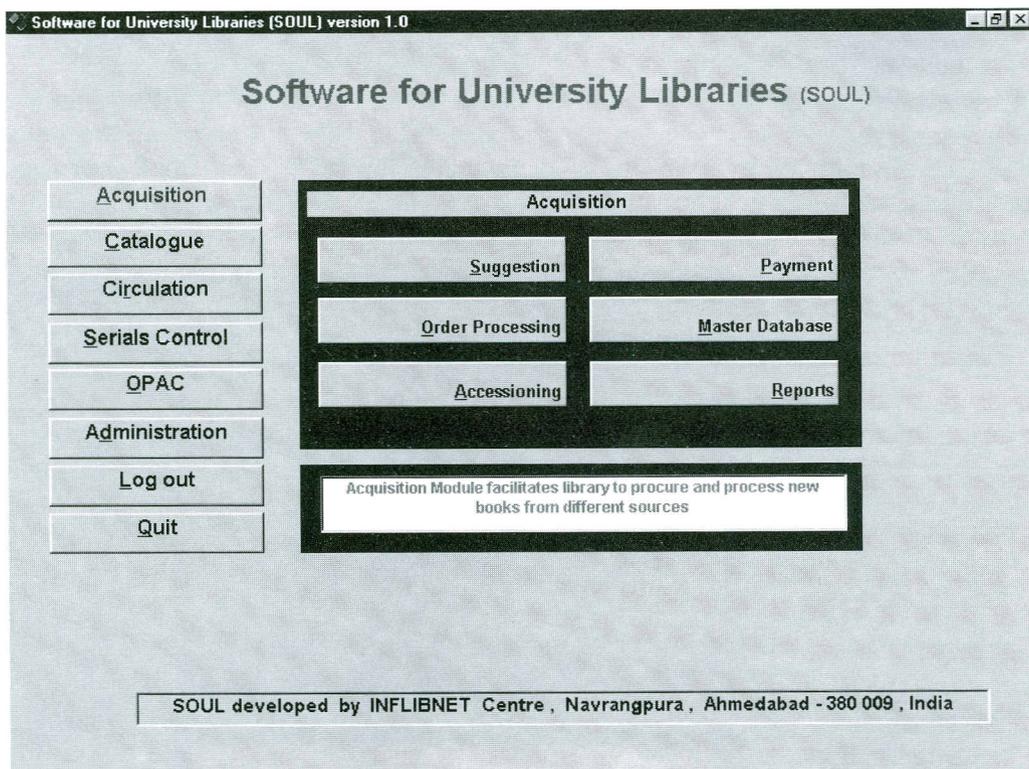
Figure - 2

Suggestion sub-module enables creation / updation of databases of new items suggested by a faculty member along with bibliographical details and also suggestor's details such as name, department, user code, budget code etc. Books received through placement of purchase orders as well as those received as gratis are handled from this module. Selecting items for approval, incorporating further details like approval date, budget head, approver's name, rejected items, its date and reasons for rejection are also handled here. Number of required reports having combination of several fields can be easily generated.

Order Processing : Selecting the items for ordering, vendor/publisher selection, assigning order and reference number, setting deadlines for supply and other details can be done under this sub-module. Facilities for sending reminders, cancelling orders, generating certain reports specific to these modules, are provided.

Accessioning : This function supports cross checking with order, receiving partial/ full supply of items listed in order, duplicate checking with an existing title, assigning accession numbers along with further necessary details required and merging the records with existing database, if items are already in the collection.

Payments: Payments sub-module allows processing of the regular invoices, advance payments, and recording of every information pertaining to each invoice including conversion rates, handling charges discounts etc. Facility for generating reminders to supplier or publisher. Searching the status of payment and generation of reports are other strong features added in this sub-module.

Master Databases: Publisher, vendor, currency and budget codes (both source wise and department wise) are few major master databases that are frequently handled/created here. Updation, deletion of all this is possible from here.

Reports : There are 13 major reports relating to acquisition that can be created with number of parameters.

Acquisition module is capable of handling almost every function that is being carried out in acquisition division of university libraries.

2.   Catalogue Module

Catalogue module function begins with selecting the items that have already been accessioned in the previous module and furnishing rest of the information as per AACR-II rules. Providing user services such as recent addition services, CAS, creation and updation of authority files etc. are other major functions supported by SOUL. A comprehensive worksheet covering almost every field facilitates data entry of all types of books, conference proceedings, theses etc. Facility to create database in the regional languages, using respective scripts is also provided. This module allows the library staff to conduct comprehensive searches for existing items before cataloguing new items and has provision of import and export of records and retrospective conversion. Functionally, this module has been organised into following sub-modules as given in **Figure 3**.

- Cataloguing Process
- Authority file maintenance
- Catalogue search
- Retrospective Conversion
- User services
- Reports
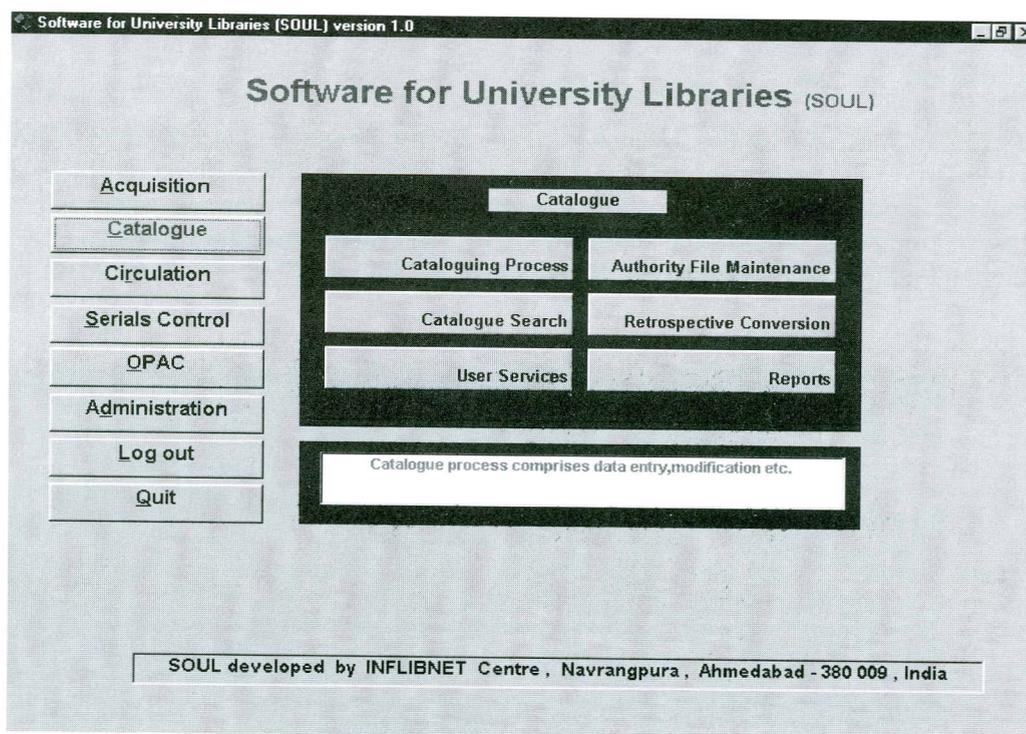
Figure-3

Catalogue Process function allows to pick-up the accessioned item, under process, for the cataloguing purpose. Here one can add remaining information as per specified standards, such as additional bibliographical information, subject headings, classification number etc. Editing of existing records for maintaining consistency can also be done here.

Catalogue Search enables search of the existing items, its status, identifying duplication etc. for the purpose of day-to-day cataloguing. This is similar to OPAC.

User Services sub-module has three major functions *viz.*, generating current awareness list (by

date, subject etc), compiling of bibliographies with various combinations and alert services to individual users.

Authority File Maintenance includes creation, updation and use of major authority files for names such as publisher, languages, corporate bodies, meetings, authors, physical media, types of material and also for subject descriptors. This is a unique feature added to this software taking into account the consistency that each library needs to maintain while creating records.

Retrospective Conversion has two major functions *viz*. data entry of old collection with minimum information without going to first sub-module and import and export of data from and to external sources. By using this function libraries can download the matched records from INFLIBNET union catalogue or other sources and export the records for contributing to union catalogue etc. A versatile ISO2709 interface developed at INFLIBNET, which is built-in to this module, enables to carry out the job.

Reports module allows generation of catalogue cards as per AACR-II, generation of recent editions reports (subject and class number wise) and other related reports.

The catalogue module basically supports all major functions relating to technical processing and has been designed as per the international standards.

3.   Circulation Module

Circulation being vital front-end function of any library, sufficient care has been taken in designing this module to achieve transactions within minimum possible time. This module has provision for all possible functions handled in a typical academic library, i.e. membership, issues, returns, ILL, reminders, over dues, reservations, recall etc. All these functions have been organised into following eight logical sub-modules as given in **Figure 4**.
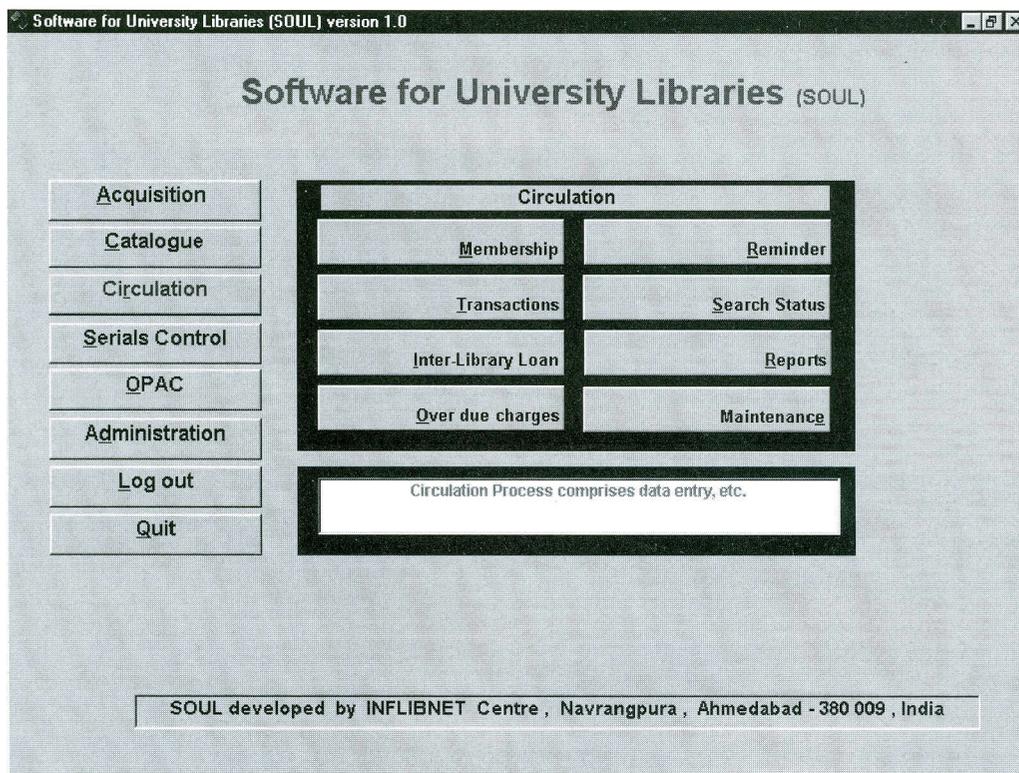

Figure 4.

- Membership
- Overdue charges
- Reports
- Transactions
- Reminder
- Maintenance
- Inter-Library-Loan
- Status Search

Membership sub-module provides the facility to create all types of member records, assigning unique membership code, borrowing privileges, renewal, issue of no-due certificates, master databases for codes etc, searching the status of membership or an item, suspending the membership and generating related reports.

Transactions handles all major functions such as issue, return, renewal, reservation, recall or reminder of an item etc. This module also handles cancellation of reserved books, lost/missing books, searching the member status and searching catalogue module etc. Transaction is based on Accession number and Member code. This module supports generating and reading of barcode labels. A unique facility in this module allows one to see simultaneously the details of members, items borrowed, dues etc. while the transaction process is on. This enables issue counter staff as well end-user to know the exact status of the members borrowing.

Inter Library Loan allows lending of items to specified member library and also borrowing items from other libraries, issues, reminders etc. This sub-module has been developed comprehensively to take care of all the details of user libraries, individuals and items loaned.

Overdue Charges facilitates collection of overdue charges in full or in part, providing receipts, keeping up-to-date accounting and tallying totals, etc. Using this function one can generate daily, weekly, monthly reports to find out as to how much overdue charges have been collected.

Reminder module handles individual and group reminder generation for all overdue materials. Comprehensive listing of materials that are overdue can also be generated within a specific period giving from and to dates.

Search status enables the library circulation desk staff to check the status of a member or items borrowed by a user and overdue items.

Maintenance is yet another comprehensive sub-module, which covers binding, lost and cost recovery of books, damaged books, withdrawn books etc.

Reports sub-module allows the generation of as many as 16 major reports and with many combinations. All possible reports that a large library expects are provided for.

Above all this module is capable of handling large transactions. If various functions built in this module are effectively put to use, the library staff will save lot of time and avoid repetitive jobs.

4.   Serials Module

This module allows one to create an exclusive database for different serials. Handling serials is most complicated job for the library staff. This module has been designed to deal with all these complicated jobs quite effectively. It helps in keeping track of every title received in the library. All functions starting from suggestions, master databases, subscriptions, checking, payment, reminder, binding title history export/import etc., have been covered. For the convenience of users, these functions have been grouped under following logical sub-modules as given in **Figure 5**.
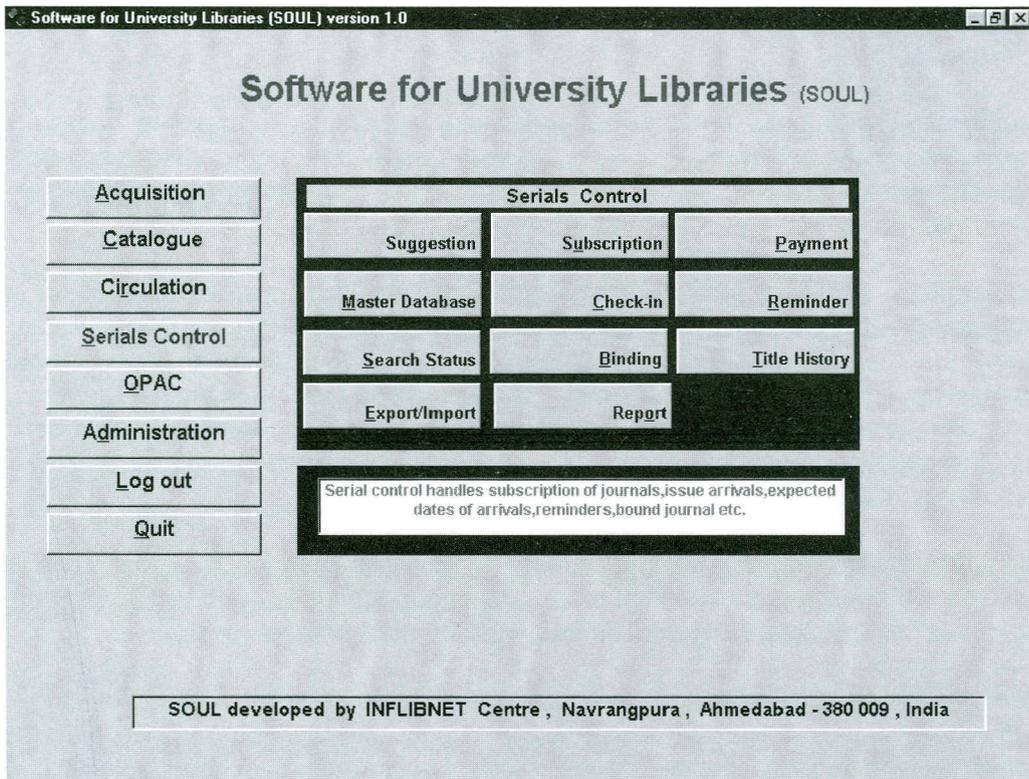
Figure-5

- Suggestions
- Master Database
- Search Status
- Export / Import

- Subscription
- Check-in
- Binding
- Report

- Payment
- Reminder
- Title History

Suggestion Sub-module enables one to record and keep a track of all the suggestions received for subscribing to a serial. Selection of these titles for approval, preparing budget estimates and generation of related reports are covered under this sub-module.

Subscriptions module takes care of ordering/renewal of serials, follow-up relating to the same, sending reminder, if invoices are not received, generating orders by supplier or publisher are included under this option.

Payment function supports processing and recording of all details relating to each invoice, including supplementary invoice such as invoice processing, credit notes processing, reports generation etc.

Master Database option allows creation of large number of frequently used master databases viz. title entry, language, class number, publisher, binder, country, department, currency, frequency, budget heads, binding type, delivery modes, reports etc. Of these, title entry is main. It is here that the creation of database for each title with bibliographic information begins in the serial module.

Check-in is crucial function to record the receipt of each issue of serial and its accompanying material. To enable one to record the issues, system has a facility to generate schedule in advance for each title by providing necessary inputs *viz*. Vol. no(s), Issue no(s), frequency, date of publication of first issue, mode of delivery, total number of issues etc.

Sending reminders for non-receipt of issues or issues that are overdue etc for single or all titles by supplier, publisher etc can be done using this sub-module.

Binding supports making sets, generating order, payments, accessioning bound volumes etc.

Status search option facilitates one to find out the status of every thing starting from subscription to check-in of issues.

Title history is provided to keep record of ceased, suspended, discontinued titles and also title change, splits, mergers along with holdings information for each and every title in the database.

Export/Import of data in ISO2709 format is also provided to enable library to transfer the existing records in to SOUL and also contribute data to INFLIBNET union database.

Reports is a comprehensive function which has more than 15 built-in reports of all types with different combinations. This adds to the strength of serial module.
Serial module is designed to handle large number of titles, with many options giving maximum flexibility to user libraries.

5. Online Public Access Catalogue Module (OPAC)

One of the major attractions of SOUL is that it has a powerful Online Public Access Catalogue as given in **Figure 6** with a choice of search options and variety of display formats. OPAC is a dynamic information desk that allows library staff to post library calendar, library rules and regulations, announcements, or any other information of user interest. SOUL increases the functionality of library's OPAC terminals by allowing the users to access the internal as well as external resources. This enables the users to access various databases developed at INFLIBNET. Library can keep entire collection available at users fingertips. This powerful, yet easy-to-use and user friendly searching tool allows user to quickly find the materials in the library. Some of the major features of OPAC are:

- SOUL includes Boolean operators when more than one search option is to be used.
- Search results can be sorted according to the preference of search item.
- User has option to select variety of display formats.
- Display of records according to AACR-II format.
- Easy and quick searches with options.
- Status of each book starting from acquisition module is reflected.
- Search key fields, such as, author, title, keywords, class number, accession number, etc.
- Accessible through the GUI based web browsers like Netscape Communicator, Internet Explorer etc.
- User can see the status of currently borrowed items by entering his/her borrower number.
- Search results can be saved and printed.
- Selection of databases can be made according to the choice of users.
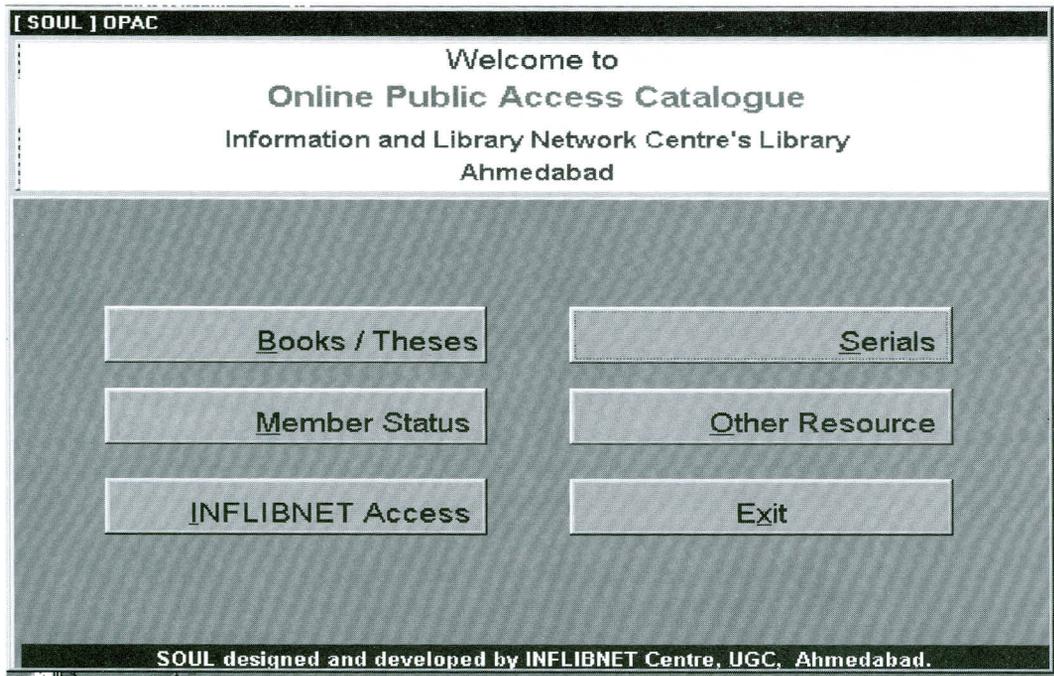
Figure-6

6. Administration Module

Administration module as given in **Figure 7** has been designed to authorise users i.e., the library staff to use various modules. Assigning login and password to use each module of the system is done by the system administrator. The security function, backups, recovery of data and other utility functions are some of the features added under this module. Users have been categorized into three levels looking into nature of functions handled by the staff at different levels.
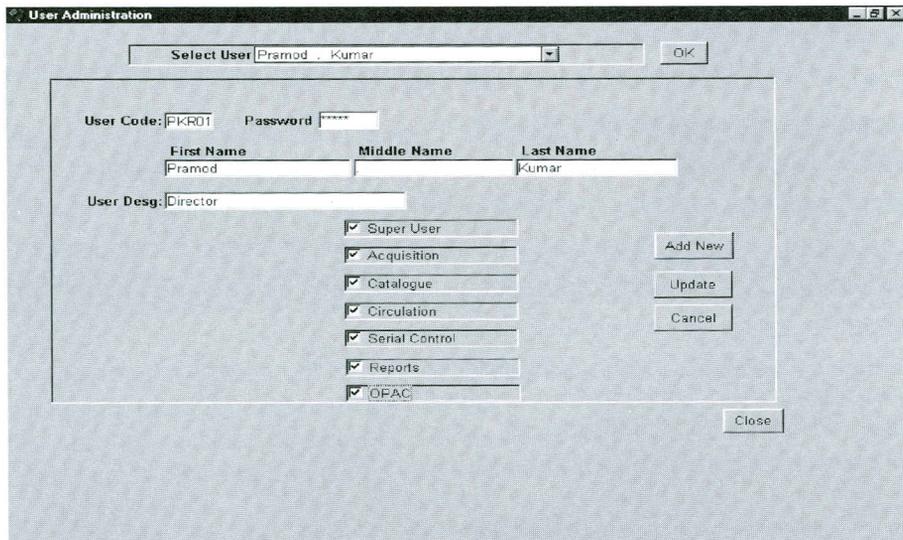
Figure - 7

BETA TEST OF THE SOUL AT FOUR SITES

To ensure the suitability of all built-in functions, working of development tools used, handling of large number of records and simultaneous transactions of various functions, it was decided to have a Beta Test of SOUL in real time environment. Accordingly, following four university libraries were selected and tests were carried out during 7-26th June, 1999.

1.   University of Hyderabad
2.   Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad
3.   Kakatiya University, Warangal
4.   Osmania University, Hyderabad

These four University libraries were selected, mainly because of their locations in same place, convenience of the staff of INFLIBNET to handle the tests at one place, availability of required hardware and software and willingness of the libraries to invest their precious time for testing and critically evaluating this software. The meticulously planned three weeks tests at these four sites were carried out by an expert teams consisting of six colleagues from the INFLIBNET and with the active involvement of Librarians and their senior staff who are involved in managing respective functions in these four libraries. It is because of full involvement and critical evaluation of each and every functions in SOUL by the library staff that, we can now confidently say that this software is quite suitable and workable solution for the automation of University libraries. These tests indeed gave an opportunity to understand thoroughly the requirements of the university libraries and analyze the shortcomings in the SOUL. All the general and critical inputs, modifications suggested by these universities were discussed threadbare after the tests and been duly incorporated in the first version of SOUL to be released. After the rigorous Beta Test, we are confident that, SOUL offers near total solution for library automation.

This software is intended to be provided to all the university libraries, who have been covered under INFLIBNET for which a separate agreement will have to be signed by each library. An extensive training in SOUL will be provided to the library staff on-site upon its installation by the INFLIBNET staff. For others who are interested in using this software, particularly public funded organizations, separate modalities are being worked out including pricing, support, training etc. In due course different versions to work on different platforms suiting the needs of other libraries will be brought out. We hope that, with the release of first version of SOUL, the university library automation will get a much needed boost.

For further details please write to:

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INFLIBNET has recently acquired 64 kbps Radio Link Internet connection to provide high speed access to its website. Use the URL http://202.144.20.250 to have faster access to union databases and other resources hosted on different servers at INFLIBNET website.

ICSSR Workshop on Internet and Social Science Information

A four days Workshop on **Internet and Social Science Information** was held at INFLIBNET Centre in collaboration with National Social Science Documentation Centre(NASSDOC) of ICSSR New Delhi, from 13-16 December, 1999. This Workshop was sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi and The Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research, The Hague (WOTRO). It was held under the series of workshops that are being planned by NASSDOC to be held in different parts of the country to create the awareness about the social science information usage. In all, seventeen participants registered for this workshop consisting of students, teachers and librarians who took active part in both lectures and hands-on-use of Internet. There were nine lectures on the following topics spread over on four days.

- Impact of INTERNET on Social Science Research
- Introduction to INTERNET
- Introduction to Information Sources on INTERNET
- How to Search the Information on INTERNET
- Digital Databases in the Area of Social Sciences
- Social Science Information Sources on INTERNET – I (Primary Sources)
- Social Science Information Sources on INTERNET – II (Secondary Sources)
- Role of NASSDOC in Dissemination of Social Science Information
- INFLIBNET Service to the Academic and Research Community

The renowned social scientist and currently the Director of TALEEM. Dr. Binod Agarwal delivered an invited lecture on **Impact of Internet on Social Science Research** and shared his own experience of using Internet for research. Ms. Nutan Johry, Ms. Indira Kaul, both from NASSDOC and Mr. S M Salgar, Dr. T S Kumbar, Mr. S K Hasan, Mr. V S Cholin and Mr. Premchand of INFLIBNET delivered lectures on different topics mentioned above.

The workshop focussed on practical usage of Internet and retrieval of social science information. Participants were provided with sufficient course material consisting of more than 250 pages with large number of websites including that of Subject Gateways, Virtual Libraries, Search Engines etc dealing with social science information.

The well equipped computer lab with one PC per participant with Internet connectivity was made available during the workshop to provide the hands-on-experience. The technical team consisting of INFLIBNET and staff provided valuable guidance during the practical sessions.

While inaugurating the workshop, Shri. Pramod Kumar, Director, INFLIBNET spoke about the importance of IT, particularly the Internet in social science research and called upon the participants to make best use of this new tool in their research work. Mr. S M Salgar and Ms Nutan Johry introduced the activities and services of INFLIBNET and NASSDOC (ICSSR) respectively, to the participants.

This Workshop created lot excitement among the participants and they looked very satisfied at the end, which they candidly expressed during the feedback session held at the end. Workshop ended at 6.00 p.m. on 16th December and Shri Pramod Kumar, Director INFLIBNET graced the concluding session and distributed certificates to the participants. Dr. Kumbar Co-Ordinator of the workshop profusely thanked the sponsoring agencies viz. ICSSR and WOTRO and the participants for making the workshop a success.

Open University Vice-Chancellors Visited INFLIBNET Centre.

INFLIBNET Centre activities and services continue to attract the attention of top academic administrators in the country. Three Vice-Chancellors of Open Universities took off some time from their busy schedule in the city and visited INFLIBNET Centre on 23rd October 1999 along with their colleagues. They are Prof. H.P. Dikshit, Vice-Chancellor, M.P. Bhoj University, Bhopal, Prof. K.D. Vasava, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B.A. Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad and Principal A.P. Pradhan, Vice-Chancellor, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik. They had an hour long discussion with Shri. Pramod Kumar, Director, INFLIBNET and other senior colleagues and got

acquainted with the various activities of the Centre. As usual, the enthusiastic staff of INFLIBNET Centre took this opportunity and demonstrated the Software for University Libraries (SOUL), a state-of-the-art library management software and On-line Access to the Union Databases using Search Engines developed at INFLIBNET. They were also shown the university homepages and other resources available at the Centre. The discussions and demonstrations created keen interest in the Vice-Chancellors and they were very appreciative of the work being carried out at INFLIBNET. "The demos that we saw at the Centre are very important and enrichment of our Institutions. Prof. Pramod Kumar and his colleagues deserve all congratuations for the excellent work being done here" was the impression of all the three Vice-Chancellors. The Vice-Chancellors also expressed their strong desire to actively participate in INFLIBNET activity by providing full support from their end and avail of these services to the academic community.

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VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

- Four faculty members from Dr. Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharastra Open University, Nashik involved in designing MLISc course lead by Dr. S R Ganapule (Ex Librarian of University of Mumbai) visited INFLIBNET Centre during 25-26th October, 1999. The purpose of their two days visit was to study the library management software SOUL developed by INFLIBNET from the point of view of including the same as part of MLISc curriculum. They spent both the days studying minutely all functions and features of SOUL and at the end, expressed their desire to have it covered under the curriculum. Also they expressed happiness over the versatality of this software.

- Thirteen MLIS students from Department of Library and Information Science, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga visited the Centre on 26th October, 1999. They were lead by Mr. PG Tadasad, Lecturer. The Director, INFLIBNET addressed the students and briefed them about INFLIBNET's activities and services. Later demonstrations were arranged to access union databases and SOUL software.

- A group consisting of 40 BLIS students from Agnihotri College of Library and Information Science, Wardha visited INFLIBNET Center on 14.12.1999. Demonstrations were arranged on SOUL Software and union database access and were also shown the entire facilities.

- Fifty students of university of Mumbai, both BLIS and MLIS also visited the Centre on 20th December, 1999 on study tour lead by Mrs. Rajahans. University Librarian and Ms. Parvati Iyer, Asst. Librarian. Director, INFLIBNET addressed the students and highlighted the important activities of the Centre. Students were also shown SOUL software and online access to union databases.

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PROFILE

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Jawaharlal Nehru University was established in 1969 under the JNU Act, 1966 (53 of 1966) as a national memorial to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India and a distinguished personality. The objectives of the University, in terms of Section 4 of the JNU Act, shall be to disseminate and advance the knowledge, wisdom and understanding by teaching and research and by the example and influence of its corporate life and in particular the objects set out in the schedule.

The University has at present seven Schools with number of Centres attached to each School, few specialized Centres and fourteen recognized institutions. The jurisdiction of the university extends to all over country with annual enrolment exceeding 4000 students covering all disciplines.

Library :

Since the inception of the University, the library has been serving various components of the university community viz. faculty, students and staff, towards fulfillment of the objectives. The library started functioning with a very small collection since 1969 from Vigyan Bhavan Annexe, New Delhi. During the last 30 years, the collection has grown upto 4.68 lakhs (books and back volumes of journals) and now housed in a eight storey high-rise building in the university campus. The readership of the library, now numbered around 6600 consists of teachers, students, staff and a few

special members. Besides, some visitors from outside are also provided with consultation facility.

Collection :

The library presently subscribes to 795 periodicals (1998) and receives another 205 on gift and exchange basis. Besides, there are special collections of non-print materials like microfiche, microfilms and a small number of CD-ROMs. The information resource base has been further strengthened by a huge collection of press-clippings.

Collection development has been done keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of study in this premier university. Collection covers subjects from all branches of Social Sciences i.e. Geography, Education, History, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Sociology, Law, Humanities, Literature and Languages, (foreign as well as Indian) Life Sciences i.e. Biotechnology, Physical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Computer & System Sciences.

JNU Library actively participates in Information and Library Network of UGC (INFLIBNET) and Delhi Library Network activities.

Services :

In addition to conventional library services, such as Reference, Circulation, etc. the library provides the following special ones :

1. On-line Access to Library Catalogue of books, periodicals and articles.

2. Internet Access.

3. Documentation services along with a monthly publication of "Suchika", a list of serial articles.

4. Press clippings services.

5. Access to INFLIBNET & DELNET databases.

6. Special services to visually handicapped students by making available a special multi-media softwares and kits, which enables the documents to be scanned and converted to ASCII character and voice.

Automation :

The work of automation of library functions and

services was initiated in the year 1989 with the purchase and installation of HP3000 mini-computer and MINISIS software. The computer was used to develop in-house computer databases of books periodicals and articles.

Later in the year 1998, a new HP9000 server along with 16 Pentiums have been acquired. Commercially developed library automation software has been installed in the server. All the library functions are being carried out using this software. Entire library is connected internally through a LAN which is a part of the University Wide Area Network. All the Schools and Centres and important offices of the university are connected to the library server through the network. A multi-media software for visually handicapped students has been installed and is being used by them regularly.

Initial steps for full scale automation, viz. retro-conversion of bibliographical records of books and periodicals, barcoding of documents, creation of membership database have already been undertaken. Internet facility has been provided for readers. The library has been actively participating in Information and Library Network of UGC (INFLIBNET) and the Delhi Library Network (DELNET) by contributing data to the respective databases. It turn, INFLIBNET & DELNET databases are made available to readers through Internet. More than 1,20,000 records representing library holdings area accessible through OPAC at present.

INFLIBNET Support :

With the financial assistance provided by the INFLIBNET in 1994, the library purchased one 486 and six 386 PC-AT based systems and started retro-conversion of bibliographical records with CDS/ISIS software, employing four data entry operators and one computer operator. The work continued for quite some time. Whole of the retro-converted records were sent to INFLIBNET for merger in their database.

Later, with the help of financial assistance received from the UGC for modernization of library system, the university has established a Wide Area Network and Local Area Network for the library (a part of the WAN). The library is equipped with a RISC based server (HP9000), Pentiums, Printers, Scanners, Multimedia kits, CD-ROMS, Bar-code

Virtual Libraries on World Wide Web

1. ADAM : Art, Design , Architecture and Media Information Gateway

    http://www.adam.ac.uk/

2. The Argus Clearing House

    http://www.clearinghouse.net/

3. BUBL : Bulletin Board for Libraries

    http://bubl.ac.uk/

4. Cyberstacks

    http://www.public.iastate.edu/ ~CYBERSTACKS

5. Infomine : Scholarly Internet Resources Collection

    http://lib-www.ucr.edu/

6. The Internet Public Library

    http://www.ipl.org/

7. Librarian's Index to the INTERNET

    http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/internetindex/ index.html/

8. The SCOUT Report

    http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/

9. SOSIG – Social Science Information Gateway

    http://sosig.ac.uk

10. WWW Virtual Library

    http://vlib.org/home.html

The Director and Staff of INFLIBNET wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2000

1. Annual Seminar on **Electronic Sources of Information** is being held during 1st – 3rd March , 2000 at Documentation Research & Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, 8th Mile, Mysore Road, Bangalore – 560059. The seminar is designed for librarians, information managers, teachers and research scholars in information field. For further details contact Dr. I K Ravichandra Rao, Prof. & Head, Documentation Research and Training Centre, at the above address.

Following proceedings of CALIBER are available for purchase :

1. Academic Libraries in INTERNET Era: Proceeding of the CALIBER 1999. Price Rs. 500+Postage.

2. Information Management in Academic and Research Libraries : Proceeding of CALIBER 1998. Price Rs. 350+Postage.

3. Information Technology Application in Academic Libraries: Proceedings of the CALIBER 1997. Price Rs. 300+Postage.

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The Editorial Board requests the librarians, and others to contribute news items pertaining to important activities and events taking place in their universities. We also solicit your comments, suggestions in making this newsletter an effective media to communicate INFLIBNET activities.