

# Library Management Softwares : LIBSYS 7 & KOHA

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## Abstract

*Present paper describes the LIBSYS & KOHA library management software packages. Acquired result reveal that both software packages are useful. LIBSYS library software brings a high level of certainty. The solutions offered by company are delivered on-time, are within budget, and come with high quality, better efficiency, and responsiveness. Open source package KOHA is found most useful and gives highest level of satisfaction to its users. Both packages are providing best services. On the basis of evaluation criteria, KOHA is most useful for library automation.*

**Keywords:** Koha, Library Management Softwares, LIBSYS

## 1. Introduction

Library software has become the most powerful tool for changing the scenario of libraries from traditional to automated, from automated to electronic, from electronic to digital, and from digital to virtual. Software has become increasingly more sophisticated and the introduction of new applications has increased. Producing customized programs has become easier with software development packages. A number of software packages have been developed for use in the management and dissemination of information in libraries. Some have been developed by commercial agencies, others have been developed indigenously by institutions for in-house use and there is yet another category where customized applications have been generated on the basis of existing software. Some are also the open source code, which allows it to be freely modified by everyone.

All over the world, and even in India too, several commercial firms have developed library softwares, but these are expensive. Present paper tries to de-

scribe the open source library management software packages Koha and commercial package LIBSYS.

## 2. Objectives Of Research

- ❖ To collect and compile necessary information to describe open source and commercial library software and its operations.
- ❖ To find out best open source software and to set priorities for software selection.
- ❖ To evaluate LIBSYS & KOHA Library Management Softwares, and
- ❖ To point-out views of librarians and users about software which is used for automation.

## 3. Hypothesis of Research

- a) KOHA is the best software which is compatible to library needs.
- b) Priority for software selection, such as KOHA, LIBSYS.
- c) Most of librarians are satisfied with KOHA.



#### 4. Scope & Limitations

- a) Present study focused on only LIBSYS & KOHA softwares for evaluation.
- b) For identifying, evaluating a packaged software for library the following criteria suggested by GAROOGAIN are adopted:
  - Capabilities
  - Maintenance support
  - User friendliness
  - Documentation
  - Cost
  - Flexibility
  - updating and revision
- c) Present study confines itself to academic libraries.

#### 5. Research Methodology

Present research is a survey research in which random sampling method is used while collecting data. Primary and secondary information sources are also used for research work. Questionnaire method of survey research was selected as a tool for data collection. Structured questionnaires were analyzed with the help of SPSS (version 16.0).

#### 6. Data Collection Procedure

Automated libraries were chosen as a sample for data gathering by mailing questionnaires. The sample included academic libraries in India. Due to mailing questionnaires by email, the response against the questionnaire was 32 libraries. Questionnaire send was entitled as '*Your Opinion about the library Software package*' was designed for data collection. Sections of this questionnaire consisted of general questions about the library and different aspects of software being used. It in-

cludes 58 attributes about software with responses asked for as EXCELLENT (Credit point-3), GOOD (Credit point-2), POOR (Credit point-1), & NOT APPLICABLE (Credit point-0), it is also calculated as per SPSS 16.0.

#### 7. Libsys System 7

LIBSYS team is highly knowledgeable, experienced, committed and believes in complementing our robust products with reliable services and support. Company passion for continuous growth is reflected in R&D efforts which have lead to the incorporation of latest technology features and globally accepted standards from time to time.

LIBSYS is an integrated library management software package designed and developed by LIBSYS Corporation, New Delhi. It was initially developed in COBOL language but is now converted into C language and covers all the activities of library related to acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, serial control, articles indexing, abstracting, OPAC, etc. LIBSYS follows international standards such as CCF, MARC, etc. LIBSYS has been installed at about 70 libraries in the country. It has following special characteristics, viz. Interactive and screen oriented, menu driven, powerful editing facilities, user defined security, help and multilingual etc. the package available under UNIX, VMS, PCAT and minis.

The Cataloguing system makes available various catalogues/indexes online for instant reference. It has powerful data entry facility which also provides option to accept data in standard machine readable format such as CCF (ISO : 2709), MARC (ANSI-Z39), etc.

The Circulation system maintenance facilitates up-to-date membership records and the latest status of

collection meant for circulation. It performs all the functions related to circulation providing suitable checks at every stage. It takes care of infrequent but routine functions such as bindery record management, display of recent additions, and so on.

The Serial system provides control of periodical subscription and subsequently the schedule of arrival of individual issue. It maintains record of budget sanctioned for serials under different categories, amount encumbered and expended, thus providing complete budgetary control. This also handles serials which may be received on grants or exchange.

### 7.1 Criteria Wise Evaluation

**Table 1 : Means and SDs of Evaluation criteria of LIBSYS**

| Evaluation Criteria | Mean | Std. Deviation | N  |
|---------------------|------|----------------|----|
| Capabilities        | 2.21 | .66            | 32 |
| Maintenance         | 2.13 | .61            | 32 |
| User friendly       | 2.03 | .54            | 32 |
| Documentation       | 2.28 | .46            | 32 |
| cost                | 1.59 | .50            | 32 |
| Technical support   | 1.53 | .51            | 32 |
| Updation            | 1.28 | .81            | 32 |

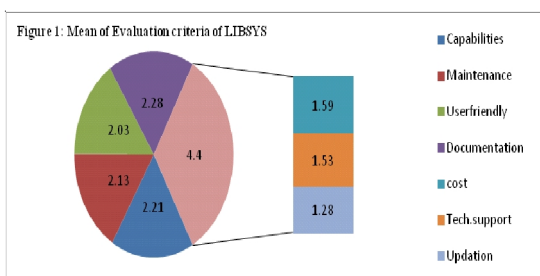


Table 1 and Figure 1 present the mean and Standard Deviation values of the evaluation criteria of LIBSYS for various library management software packages. It can be observed from the table 1 that the mean

score of Documentation (2.28) is significantly higher than Capabilities (2.21), Maintenance (2.13), User friendly (2.03), cost (1.59), Technical support (1.53) and Updation (1.28) on LIBSYS. On this observation it can be concluded that the difference between these means is sufficiently large to expect that the groups might differ significantly from each other.

### 8. KOHA

Koha is the most advanced open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. The development of Koha is steered by a growing number of libraries throughout the world. These libraries, either on their own, or collaborating in groups, sponsor the development of new features to support their workflows. Koha's impressive feature set continues to evolve and expand to meet the needs of its sponsoring libraries. Everyone may not use the same features. This freedom to pick and choose from features, through the administration of system preferences, offers librarians the opportunity to tailor their Koha instance to match their specific workflow needs.

Since the original implementation in 1999, Koha functionality has been adopted by thousands of libraries world-wide, each adding features and functions, deepening the capability of the system. With the 3.0 release in 2005, and the integration of the powerful Zebra indexing engine, Koha became a viable, scalable solution for libraries of all kinds. Koha is built on this foundation. With its advanced feature set, Koha is the most functionally advanced open source ILS on the market today.

Features of Koha are:

- ❖ Easy-to-use circulation policies, strong patron management, intuitive navigation, and extensive permissions for staff accounts.

- ❖ Parent-child relationship for patron records, as well as a ‘copy’ patron feature to quickly add families.
- ❖ A Clubs and Services feature that allows libraries to manage reading groups, book clubs, and other community outreach programs. This feature is easily managed by library staff.
- ❖ Extensive support for holds, including an option to ‘suspend’ and ‘reactivate’ a hold, an option to place holds from a patron’s OPAC account, an option to allow staff to re-organize the holds queue, and an option to place holds at either the title or item level.
- ❖ Enhanced matching policy rules for the 001 and 035 tags, allowing libraries to update older records with a newer version.
- ❖ Libraries to ‘undo’ entire import batches from the catalogue in a single click, rather than having to delete on a one-by-one basis.
- ❖ SIP2 configuration for a wide variety of vendors and their products, including ITG, 3M, Envision Ware, Talking Tech, Overdrive, Tech Logic, and Librarica. Koha also works with Ez Proxy as a dual authentication source for remote database access.
- ❖ OPAC, staff, administrative features and self-checkout interfaces are all based on standards-compliant World Wide Web technologies—XHTML, CSS and Javascript—making Koha a completely Web-based solution.
- ❖ Support for industry standards and guidelines - Z39.50, SRU, and SIP2 XML-tagged MARC record storage provide quick access to data

- ❖ Fully developed ILS functionality - including Course Reserves, Acquisitions, Serials Control, etc.
- ❖ Support for third party Debt Collect, Telephone Notices, etc.

### 8.1 Criteria wise Evaluation

**Table 2 : Means and SDs of Evaluation criteria of KOHA**

| Evaluation Criteria | Mean | Std. Deviation | N  |
|---------------------|------|----------------|----|
| Capabilities        | 2.47 | .51            | 32 |
| Maintenance         | 1.00 | .95            | 32 |
| User friendly       | 2.59 | .50            | 32 |
| Documentation       | 2.66 | .48            | 32 |
| Cost                | .00  | .00            | 32 |
| Technical support   | 1.81 | .74            | 32 |
| Updation            | 1.28 | 1.20           | 32 |

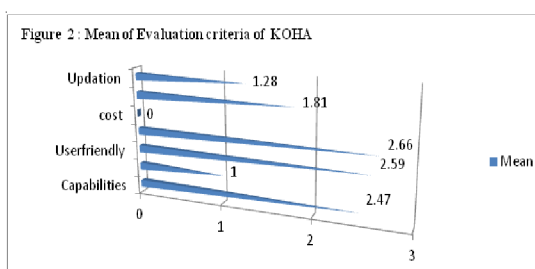


Table 2 and Figure 2 present the mean and Standard Deviation values of the evaluation criteria of KOHA for various library management software packages. It can be observed from the table that the mean score of User friendly (2.66) is significantly higher than Updation (1.28), Technical support (1.81), Documentation (2.66), Capabilities (2.47), Maintenance (1.00) and cost (0.00), on KOHA. On this observation it can be concluded that the difference between these means is sufficiently large to expect that the groups might differ significantly from each other.

**9. Purpose Of Preference Of A Software Package****9.1 KOHA**

- 1 Easy to access.
- 2 Source code is available.

**9.2 LIBSYS**

- 1 Customer care and all over India based software
- 2 User friendly software
- 3 Network base Support
- 4 It is best for higher user strength

**9.3 Problems faced while using the software packages****9.3.1 KOHA**

- 1 In depth training is required
- 2 Installation in LINUX and lot of changes will be required.

**9.3.2 LIBSYS**

1. MARC 21 sheet and Z39.50 protocol.
2. Report not generated as per requirement.
3. Problem in Uploading user photo in member record and user searching.
4. Migration of data.

**9.4 Best Things Noticed****9.4.1 LIBSYS**

- 1 Cataloguing, user friendliness
- 2 Database and Circulation
- 3 Data import facility from OCLC
- 4 Technical support

**9.4.2 KOHA**

- 1 Easy to access.
- 2 Source code is available.

**9.5 Suggestions about changes and replacement of software packages****9.5.1 KOHA**

- 1 Concentrates on Acquisition section.
- 2 It can be installed in any operating system.

**9.5.2 LIBSYS**

- 1 Information retrieval protocol (Z39.50) flexibility.
- 2 MARC 21 sheet as per requirement.

**10. Conclusion**

Following conclusions are based on the literature review and findings of the study:

- ❖ A variety of softwares are being used by the libraries in India.
- ❖ LIBSYS is the best library management software for automation.
- ❖ Commercial library software LIBSYS and open source software KOHA is also efficient.
- ❖ Due to high cost of standard software, most of the libraries are using open source software. KOHA is available free of cost but is not providing all desired software modules, such as updation and technical support and LIBSYS is best for cataloguing module. Therefore, both softwares have high priority on the basis of cost and efficiency. As per priority list, priority for software selection is either LIBSYS and KOHA.

- ❖ KOHA open source software is more popular than commercial software packages.
- ❖ OPAC service is available in both softwares.
- ❖ Most of librarians are satisfied with LIBSYS.
- ❖ Serial control module of KOHA is also effective.
- ❖ Librarians found it difficult to enter the bibliographical details of entire collection and shared cataloging is not found.

Acquired results reveal that software packages fulfilling needs of client and it is found that open source package KOHA is most useful and provides highest level of satisfaction to their users. All packages are providing OPAC service. On the basis of evaluation criteria, technical support and updation, LIBSYS is most useful for library automation.

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