OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (OSS) FOR LIBRARY MANAGEMENT - A STUDY

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. Lal Bahadur Chouhan, AIS Student (2008-2010) has prepared his dissertation entitled **"Open Source Software (OSS) for Library Management - a Study"** under my guidance for partial fulfillment for the award of Associateship in Information Science, a two year post-graduate level course, conducted by National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), CSIR, New Delhi, India.

To the best of my knowledge the work is original and has not been submitted elsewhere.

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PREFACE

This study presents the open source software (OSS) for library management- a study. It focuses on the evaluation of OSS on the basis of certain important checkpoints. It also highlights the importance of library automation, library activities and services.

Due to the enormous explosion of information, the quantity, variety and complexity of information is being increased rapidly in every field of knowledge. To control and dissemination of this overwhelming flow of information as well as to meet the requirements of the user community, a library professionals should apply the advanced technology in a library and information centers. Computer technology and the availability of electronic databases have increased access to information at an exceptional rate. All libraries must strategically plan in order to meet the demands of patrons wishing to use new technology to access information from databases worldwide.

Open source emerged as an alternative model of software development. It has revolutionized the development of software and offers a number of attractions for libraries, especially for developing countries. Open source software (OSS) is computer software whose source code is available under a license that permits users to use, change, and improve the software, and to redistribute it in modified or unmodified form.

Open Source Software represents in existing opportunity for libraries, and major shift in software design. Open Source allows that library to participate directly in the development of its systems and services in a manner consistent with the value of librarianship. Today, there is great demand, challenges and opportunities for librarians to develop library database for worldwide access not only bibliographic but also full text.

To offer the complete satisfaction of users and perform the library activities and functions, we must select competent and suitable software which can meet out our requirements. Therefore, librarians and information professionals must keep in mind some basic aspects before selection of library software. Therefore, an evaluation of appropriate software is very much needed for any libraries for user friendliness, efficiency and cost effectiveness. Comparison provides us the basis on which to choose between alternative. So an evaluation is basically a judgment of worth.

However, software selection is a very complicated issue, on the observation of experts the discussion should be made by the selection committee for its suitability. This study will provide guidelines in the selection or development of appropriate OSS to Nepalese librarians.

The present study examines the ways which library management software have changed the libraries in Nepal over the last few decades, and speculates about further changes to come.

The study has been divided in to seven chapters. Chapter one describes the background, introduction, objectives, problems, limitation, scope, importance and methodology of the study. Chapter second provides literature review of related topic published from the country and abroad. The knowledge and experiences of library professionals and specialists presented in documentary and electronic forms such as books, reports, articles, thesis, internet resources etc. are critically reviewed. The sayings and opinions of the experts are coated in different places according to their relevancy. The third chapter provides focus of the study, which are four libraries i. e. TUCL, SSBL, NNL, ICIMOD. Their introduction, objectives, used database etc. Chapter fourth presents the focus of the OSS which is being used in Nepal for library management. The fifth chapter represents research methodology. Chapter six represents analysis and presentation of data. Chapter seven has highlighted certain findings and conclusion of the study.

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List of Abbreviation

CAN:	Computer Association Nepal
CCF:	Common Communication Format
CDS/ISIS:	Computerized Documentation System Integrated Set of Information System
DBMS:	Database Management System
eIFL:	Electronic Information for Libraries
FOSS:	Free Open Source Software
FSF:	Free Software Foundation
GNU:	GPL: General Public License
GSDL:	Greenstone Digital Library Software
ICIMODL:	International Centre for Integrated Mountain of Development Library
ICT:	Information Communication Technology
IDRC:	International Development Research Center.
ILMS:	Integrated Library Management System
INASP:	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publication
ISIBC:	Indian Statistical institute, Bangalore Centre
KWIC:	Key Word in Content
LIBINFO:	Library and Information Science Students' Association
LISSA:	Library Information Science Students' Association
MARC:	Machine Readable Catalogue
NepJOL:	Nepali Journal Online
NISCAIR:	National Institute of Science Communication And Information Resources
NLA:	Nepal Library Association
OA:	Open Access
OAI:	Open Achieve Initiative
OAI-PMH:	Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting
OJS:	Open Journal System
OSS:	Open Source Software

PERI:	Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information
PKP:	Public Knowledge Project
RDBMS:	Relational Database Management System
Recon:	Retrospective Conversion
SDC:	SAARC Documentation Centre
SDI:	Selective Dissemination of Information.
SOPAC:	Social Online Public Access Catalogue
SOUL:	Software for University Libraries
SRU/W:	Search/Retrieve through URL or Web service
SSBL:	Social Science Baha Library.
TCP/IP:	Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TUCL:	Tribhuvan University Central library
TULSSAA:	Tribhuvan University of Library and Information Science Student Alumni Association
UKMARC:	United Kingdom Machine Readable Cataloguing
UNESCO:	United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIMARC:	Universal Machine Readable Cataloguing
XHTML:	extended Hyper Text Markup Language