

## **A comparative study of the automated software used in Sri Lankan university libraries**

RM Nadeeka Sanjeevani<sup>1</sup>

In the present day, Library work in Sri Lankan university libraries are being carried out through traditional, manual methods and Computerized systems. With the objective of providing a more effective service to the users, many countries in the world have automated library work through computerized systems. The process of computerizing house keeping may be referred to as library automation. In libraries, automation refers to the process of automating functions such as circulation, cataloging, or acquisitions. Therefore, the objective of this study was to identify the areas automated in Sri Lankan University libraries, to identify the software programmes used for the purpose, and to research into the weaknesses in the use of these software programmes. The software programmes namely Libsult, Libsys, ISURU, Alice for windows and Purna used in the libraries of the University of Kelaniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Ruhuna, the Open university and the University of Sabaragamuwa were studied. As my intention was to look at the features and capabilities of the software programmes, data was collected by giving a questionnaire to member libraries. A questionnaire was also given to users who used the University library software. The analysis revealed how certain library functions were automated through these software. It was also revealed that the absence of feasibility studies before purchasing the software, the money set aside for purchasing such software not being sufficient, and the lack of trained personnel were factors behind the limited usage of software in University libraries. Moreover, even though modern techniques existed, certain tasks were still accomplished through traditional manual methods. Therefore, this study revealed that softwares used for the automation of University libraries do not fulfill the entire automation goals.

**Key words:** University libraries, Library automation, Library software packages, Open source software, Commercial software

<sup>1</sup>University of the Visual and performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka