Identifying the Issues Using the Machine Readable Cataloguing Standard for the Library Automation in University Libraries in Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

Most of the libraries in the world have used the Machine Readable Cataloguing (MARC) for the automation their libraries which is the adoption of Manual Catalogue into machine-based system. Some of the versions in MARC are MARC I, MARC II, Universal Machine Readable Cataloguing - UNIMARC and MARC 21. Fifteen University Libraries in Sri Lanka had used Open Source Library Management Systems (OSLMS) and Commercial Library Management Systems (CLMS) for automation. Five out of fifteen University Libraries were selected as the sample. Sixty library staff members had responded for the given a structured questionnaire. It could be pointed out that had no proper level or proper format of MARC in LMSs. The awareness level of staff on MARC and its use were very low. Making union catalogue will be a difficult task because not having unity with OPAC among the University Libraries that is the major problem of the research.

Keywords: Machine readable cataloguing, MARC, University libraries, Library automation, Library management systems

Introduction

Carrying out all library functions by using computers means Library Automation. Library automation systems have been developed for library in-house operations including acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serials controls, user controls, budgeting and reporting such as selective dissemination of information. Library Management Systems (LMS) had been used to automate the most university libraries in Sri Lanka. In 1960, Computers had been used for cataloguing purposes. Cataloguing function is used basically to organize the LMS. Machine Readable Catalogue (MARC) is not a kind of catalogue and is a method of cataloguing based on computer or machine and it is a scientific format for creating and identifying bibliographical information in LMS. In 1965 – 1966, MARC I was published under the project named "Pilot Project". MARC II was published on 1967 and MARC 21 was published in 1987. After the IFLA UNESCO conference in 1972, Publishing MARC 21 was started. UNIMARC, CANMARC, UKMARC, INDOMARC are some of the machine readable cataloguing standards were introduced in later.