Software for University Libraries 2.0 (SOUL 2.0)

Software for University Libraries (SOUL) is an state-of-the-art integrated library management software designed and developed by the INFLIBNET Centre based on requirements of college and university libraries. It is a user-friendly software developed to work under client-server environment. The software is compliant to international standards for bibliographic formats, networking and circulation protocols. After a comprehensive study, discussions and deliberations with the senior professionals of the country, the software was designed to automate all house keeping operations in library. The software is suitable not only for the academic libraries, but also for all types and sizes of libraries, even school libraries. The first version of software i.e. SOUL 1.0 was released during CALIBER 2000. The database of the SOUL 1.0 is designed on MS-SQL and is compatible with MS SQL Server 7.0 or higher. The latest version of the software i.e. SOUL 2.0 will be released by the end of the year 2008. The database for new version of SOUL is designed for latest versions of MS-SQL and MySQL (or any other popular RDBMS). SOUL 2.0 is compliant to international standards such as MARC 21 bibliographic format, Unicode based Universal Character Sets for multilingual bibliographic records and NCIP 2.0 based protocols for electronic surveillance and control.

Major Features and Functionalities

Following are the strong features of SOUL 2.0:

- UNICODE based multilingual support for Indian and foreign languages;

- Compliant to International Standards such as MARC21, AACR-2, MARCXML;

- Compliant to NCIP 2.0 protocol for RFID and other related applications especially for electronic surveillance and self check-out & check-in;

- Client-server based architecture, user-friendly interface that does not require extensive training;

- Supports multi-platform for bibliographic database such as My SQL, MS-SQL or any other RDBMS;

- Supports cataloguing of electronic resources such as e-journals, e-books, virtually any type of material;

- Supports requirements of digital library and facilitate link to full-text articles and other digital objects;

- Support online copy cataloguing from MARC21 supported bibliographic database;

- Provides default templates for data entry of different type of documents. User can also customize their own data entry templates for different type of documents;

- Provides freedom to users for generating reports of their choice and format along with template and query parameters;

- Supports ground-level practical requirements of the libraries such as stock verification, book bank, vigorous maintenance functions, transaction level enhanced security, etc.;

- Provides facility to send reports through e-mail, allows users to save the reports in various formats such as Word, PDF, Excel, MARCXML, etc.;

- Highly versatile and user-friendly OPAC with simple and advanced search. OPAC users can export their search results in to PDF, MS Excel, and MARCXML format;

- Supports authority files of personal name, corporate body, subject headings and series name;

- Supports data exchange through ISO-2709 standard;

- Provides simple budgeting system and single window operation for all major circulation functions;

- Strong region-wise support for maintenance through regional coordinators. Strong online and offline support by e-mail, chat and through dedicated telephone line during office hours; and

- Available at an affordable cost with strong institutional support.

Modules

The SOUL 2.0 consists of the following modules. Each module has further been divided into sub modules to cater to its functional requirements:

Acquisition

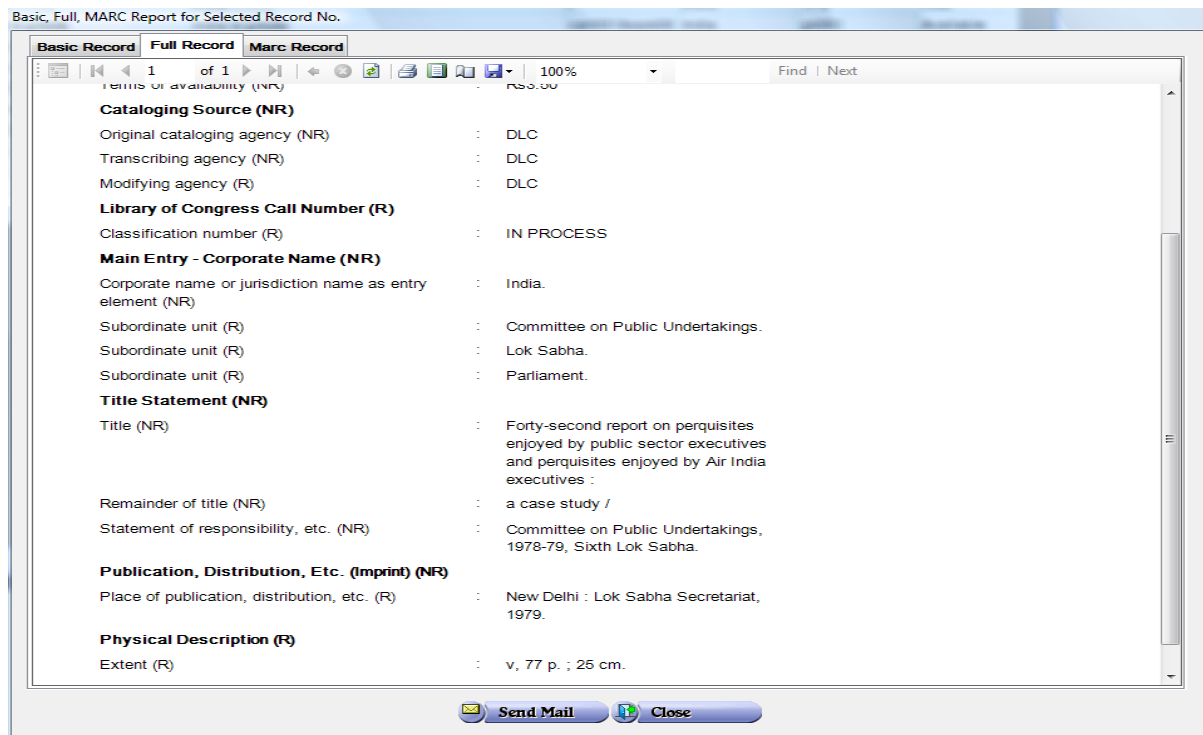The module enables library staff to handle all the major functions, such as

- Suggestions management;
- Order processing, cancellation and reminders;
- Receipt, Payment and budgetary control;
- Master files such as currency, vendors, publishers etc.; and
- Reports.

Catalogue

Catalogue module is used for retrospective conversion of library resources. It also facilitates library staff to process of the newly acquired library resources. The strong features of catalogue module are:

- allows cataloguer to create their own templates for data entry of different library resources;
- different templates for leaders and fixed fields of MARC21;
- allows user-generated customized reports;
- facilitates authority database of person name, corporate body, subject headings and series name;
- supports copy cataloguing in MARC21 format by using ISO-2709 standard;
- master database of publishers;

- multi-lingual database by using Unicode Character set; and
- supports full MARC 21 bibliographic format.

Full MARC Record Displayed in one of the Report of Catalogue Module

Circulation

This module takes care of all possible functions of circulation. Sufficient care has been taken in designing this module starting from membership management, maintenance and status of library items, transaction, ILL, overdue charges, renewals & reminders, search status and report generation according to the status of the items. The circulation module is fully compliant with the NISO Circulation and Interchange Protocol (NCIP) version 2.0 for electronic surveillance and RFID based transaction of the items. Major functions of the circulation module:

- Membership;
- Transaction;
- Inter-library loan;
- Over due charges;
- Reminder;
- Search status;
- Maintenance of the items such as binding, lost, replace, missing, withdrawl, etc.; and
- Report generation based on the various requirements.

On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

One of the major attraction of SOUL is its robust On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The OPAC has simple and advanced search facility with the minimum information of the item by using author, title, corporate body, conference name, subject headings, keywords, class number, series name, accession number or combination of any of two or more information regarding the item. Major functions provided in the module are:

- Simple Search;
- Boolean Search;
- Advanced Boolean Search;
- Displaying and downloading of records in MS Excel, PDF or MARCXML; and
- Search support for the items that are in the acquition process in the library.

An example of search by title using the advanced search in the software is shown below:

Serial Control

Managing serials is the most complicated job for a library. The module keeps track of serials in the library effectively and efficiently. The searial control module is developed based on the KARDEX system and has following functions built into it:

- suggestions;
- master databases;
- subscriptions;
- check-in of individual issues of journals;
- payment, reminder, binding, and title history;
- export / import by using ISO 2709 bibliographic exchange format;
- article indexing of journal/book articles;
- cataloguing of electronic journals; and
- keeps track of the history changes of the journals.

Administration

In addition to the features available in the Administration Module of the SOUL 1.0, some more features have been added to the administration module of the SOUL 2.0. With the inputs from the

various SOUL users and requirements of the library staff and their user rights. The module has been divided into three major sections for accommodating the new features; those are User management, System Parameters and Masters. The administration volume provides the following These Administration module include following features:

- grouping of users based on the policy;
- transactional rights over the systems;
- transaction level security to users;
- various configuration settings such as labels, e-mail and other parameters related to the software use; and
- common master databases being used in modules.

SOUL Helplines

Phone : 079-2630 0007 (office hours from 9.30 to 6.00pm)

Google Chat @ SOULHelp0007

SOUL User Forum: http://lin.inflibnet.ac.in/mailman/listinfo/soul

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