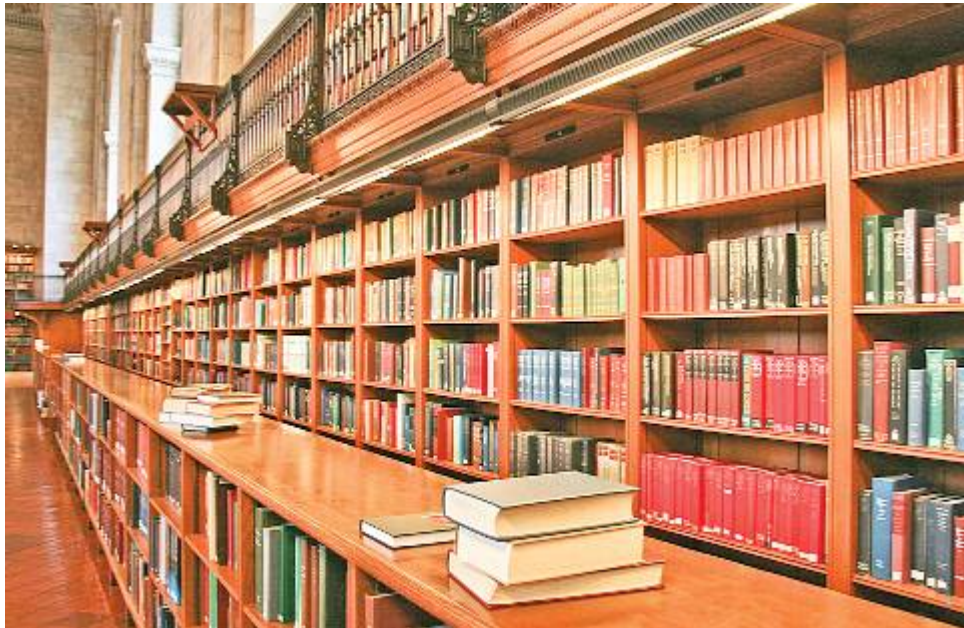


Library and info-centre modernisation by applying SLiMS and RFID

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Senayan Library Management Software (SLiMS) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology are gradually being introduced in many of the libraries. SLiMS won Indonesian ICT Award 2009 in open-source category. One workshop was conducted at South East University in collaboration with BALID Institute of Information Management (BIIM) on April 24, 2014 of the above mentioned topic. More than seventy library and information science professionals were presented in the workshop. Many university libraries are using RFID technology now-a-days like North South University (NSU), BRAC University, BUET, SUST etc. Few libraries are using MARC21-supported customised software few are using KOHA software. As per official website of SLiMS following libraries are using SLiMS in our country: PKSF, SEHD, Pabna Govt. Teachers' Training College, National Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (NINMAS). SLiMS modules has wide variety of options OPAC, Bibliography, Circulation, Membership, Master file, Stock taking, Reporting, Serial Control, Languages and variety of others features. Each option has different sub features. SLiMS Bangladesh coordinator AKM Nurul Alam says: 'Typical open source software uses in Bangladesh has single option of either digital repository or bibliographical database. But SLiMS support both the effects. So, there's no need to install two software applications for both the said purposes.' There is a number of ILS available around the world. Some of them are popular as well. Then why SLiMS? Let's see why we recommend SLiMS. It has Cross platform'web-based, runs



on Linux, windows, Mac and others, apache server and mysql database, PHP scripting language, complete digital library support, books, documents, multimedia and serial publication cataloguing, single entry form, AACR2 standards, MARC support, OAI-PMH, MODS metadata, xml, rss, first-ever Bangla language supported ILS, first ever Bangla searching-supported ILS, digital repository, user-friendly, easy to customisation, easy to learn and many more. For library operation we have seen different challenges, few of them include increasing trend of pilfering, misplacement of resources, poor inventory correctness, poor stock verification procedure, shortage in security control, long queue in circulation desk and hassle of book return. The aforesaid problems have to be solved once we like to use RFID. The important thing is that RFID tag does not have to be visible for detection. It can be read even when it is embedded in an item, such as in the cardboard cover of a book or in the packaging of a product, hassle free automated issue/return of books since several books in a pile can be issued/ returned at a time, does not need the manual typing so ensuring accuracy in routine works, helpful in identifying misfiled items, no lines or greatly reduced lines at the checkout counter. So, we can get direct benefit of instant update of the databases, improved utilisation of resources like manpower, infrastructure, less time consumption as line of sight and manual interaction are not needed for RFID-tag reading, flexible library timings by use of Books Drop box for returning library resources, unique ID of RFID tag (it prevents counterfeiting) and the like. As only a handful of libraries are using this technology, professionals have a little opportunity to learn RFID. However, technology set up and their budget is also a big thing to know. In our country, we have not got formal training regarding this burning issue. To keep it in mind amid growing demand for professionals, Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists (BALID) have initiated to provide formal training with joint collaboration of North South University (NSU). BALID and BIIM Chairperson Dr. Mirza Mohammad Rezaul Islam said, 'We have successfully arranged more than fourteen training/workshop programmes for professional development of last two years. We are not only working as a bargaining agent with government for professional development, we are now too much eager on developing our skills to face the new challenges in terms of library management. This would be the first-ever offer on SLiMS and RFID hands-on training on 24-26 April, 2015 at NSU. For details, please visit www.balid.org. We hope library professionals will benefit from it.' In our country we have seen KOHA, SLiMS, DSpace, Greenstone, Mendeley, and Endnote X6, viewfind, Mirror, Drupal etc. View find is being used for discovery tool, DSpace and Greenstone are for digital/repository purposes, Mendeley and Endnote X6 are for reference management purpose, KOHA is for automation purpose and SLiMS as mentioned earlier for Digital Repository and Automation purpose as well. We like to inform people through website and Drupal is being used for this purpose. Indeed, eXe (eLearning XHTML editor) learning software helps library professionals to design, develop and publish interactive web-based learning modules on library instructions, information literacy, E-resource discovery, reference management, evading plagiarism and predatory journals and such. Still we have to go a long way for overall library development. Every organization, professional association and individuals can play a pivotal role. A good quality library can change the society rapidly and librarian is the key player for this pace. The writer, a library officer at IUT, can be reached at email 'ahasan@iut-dhaka.edu'

