

# Library Automation: A Case Study of the Central Library of BGS Institute of Technology, BG Nagara

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## **Abstract**

*The study focuses on the automation process in the BGS Institute of Technology, BG Nagara. Library automation is very important task for engineering college libraries, today is information technology era, we update to advance technologies in field of library and information science, major automation areas and outline the various factors needed to be considered by the librarians while doing automation work for their respective libraries. We have been using NewGenLib library management software in central library; successfully completed bar coding work for 30000 volumes of books, and have successfully completed library automation work.*

**Keywords:** *Library automation, engineering colleges, BGS institute of technology, central library, NewGenLib*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The main aim of BGS institute of technology central library is to provide access to proper information, to the right users in as possible as short time. In an environment of information explosion, due to growing demands of the user and shrinking of financial resources, library is not able to get all the study materials on needs. The only way to overcome this problem is resources sharing thorough networking.

The development of library services in engineering college libraries to cover advances of branch of knowledge include planning for acquisition, use of information management techniques, use of new technologies and regular updating etc. BGSIT central library is fully automated and is using advance technologies for users.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The review of related studies is an essential part of any investigation. The related studies are a crucial aspect of the planning of any study. A literature review is an account of previously published material by experts and researchers in the particular area of interest. It gives the author an opportunity to refer

previous research publications to provide strengths and weaknesses of the research. Azeez focuses on TKMCE library automation system; the system provides an overall perspective of the functions and the package is user-friendly and menu driven [1]. Special efforts have been made during the design and development stage to ensure data integrity and security. This project was done at the TKM college of engineering, Kollam, Kerala, using Visual Basic 6.0 as front end and MS Access 7.0 as back end, under Windows 98 environment. Mulla and Chandrashekara examined the effective use of web online public access catalogue (Web-OPAC) in engineering college libraries in Karnataka [2]. Understanding the importance of knowing various search facilities available on effective use of integrated library software packages and their services, the engineering college libraries have started using advanced information technology in providing services to the users.

Mulla and Chandrashekara have highlighted the Indian library automation. Many studies on library automation have been undertaken in the developed countries [3]. It gives a status on

the software packages used by the various engineering college libraries, and opinions of the librarians on the performance of the different modules of the software they have used. Gbadamosi examined the evolution of the college, the planning process and the implementation of library automation and e-library/Internet requirement [4].

The author looked at different phases to which the project was divided and provided a detailed overview of how each phase was designed and executed which can help librarians make decisions about automation and e-library projects. Few of the challenges encountered are also highlighted and solutions are offered.

Bachhav examined the status of library automation and major constraints faced by libraries while automating [5]. The study found that college libraries are still in the state of infancy with regard to automation and all of the libraries use local commercial software for automation. The study concludes with recommendations that would enhance and ensure effective and efficient use of the ICTs (Information and communication Technology)

enabling libraries to provide their clients better service.

## SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The study covers only NewGenLib automation software being used at BGSIT central library, BG Nagara.

## ACCESS THE FULL TEXT E-JOURNALS

BGSIT central library has provided access to various full text e-journals under the internet through local area network (LAN). We are uploading important e-journals in our central library OPAC and our institution has subscribed 7 e-databases through VTU consortium such as IEEE, Springer, ASCE, ProQuest, T&F online, Science Direct and Emerald (Figure 1).

## LIBRARY AUTOMATION @ BGSIT CENTRAL LIBRARY

We started automation work in the year of 2009 and completed in 2011, our library is fully automated; some of the automation work screenshots have been shown here (Figures 2 and 3).



Fig. 1: IEEE e-Database.



Fig. 2: NGL Launch Pad.

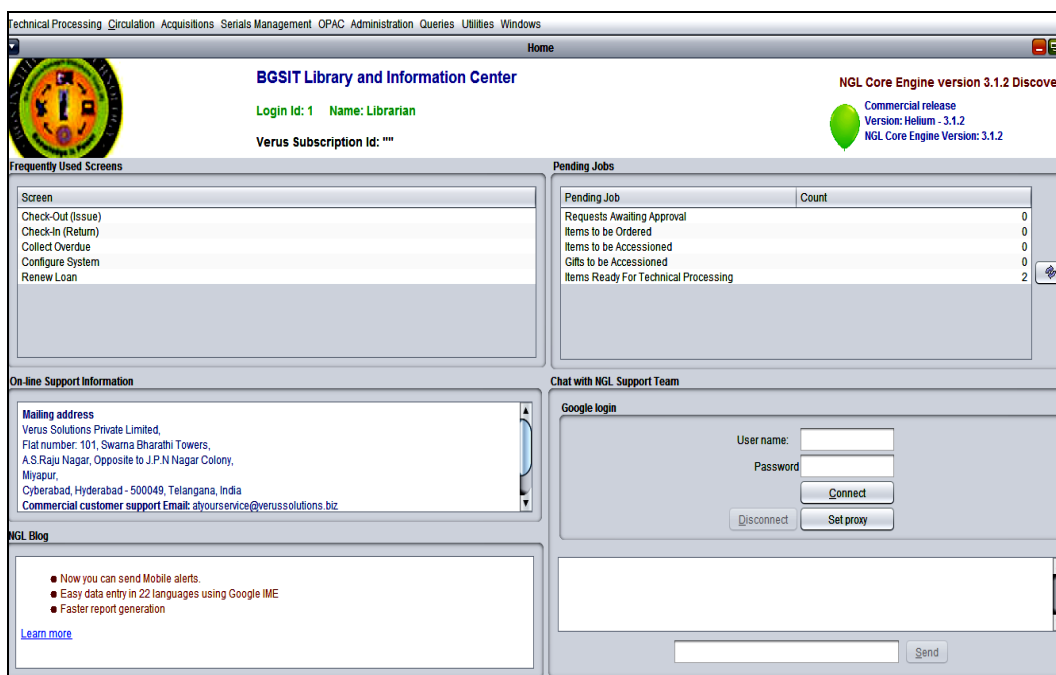


Fig. 3: NGL Home Page.

### Main Section of the NewGenLib Library Management Software

- Technical processing,
- Circulation,
- Acquisition,
- Serial management,
- OPAC,
- Administration,
- Queries, and
- Windows.

### Technical Processing

The module has several features which are important for the user to understand in order to make effective use of the functionalities in processing various types of document materials (books, serials, theses, etc.) and newer forms such as CD-ROMs, Web pages and video materials. The screen below shows the main menu options that are available in this module.

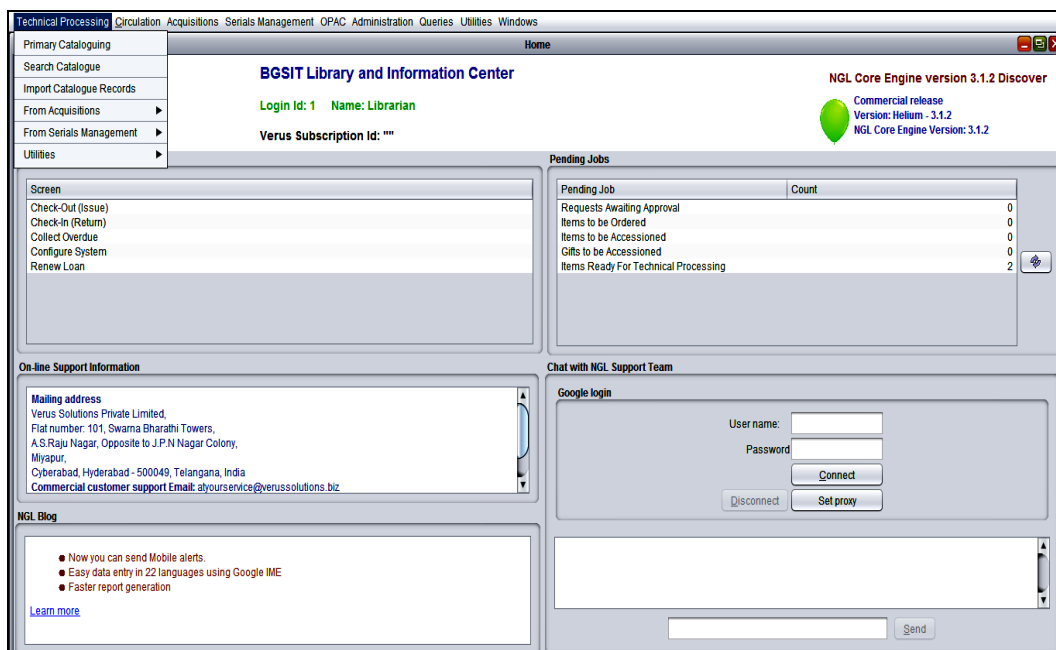


Fig. 4: Option in Technical Processing.

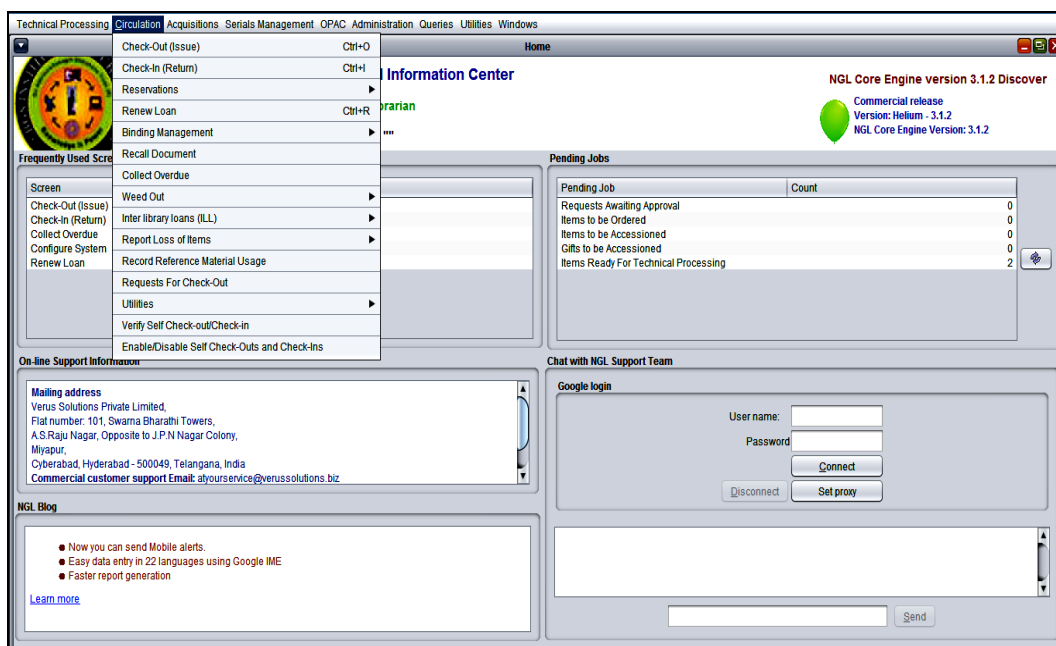


Fig. 5: Options in Circulation.

Each of these menu options and sub-options, their purpose and how to accomplish technical processing related tasks using these functions have been shown in Figure 4.

**Circulation Module**

Circulation provides service for UG students, PG students, research scholars and faculty members of the college to access information, resources, and responsive service. General staff and supervisors are present at all times to

assist the users’ requests for service or information. Stack maintenance and reserves are an integral part of circulation (Figure 5).

**Check-Out or Issue of Items**

Check-out function is a basic function in any circulation control module and is ensures that the items held by the library are securely and accurately checked out or issued out, this will bring up the screens shown below (Figures 6 and 7).

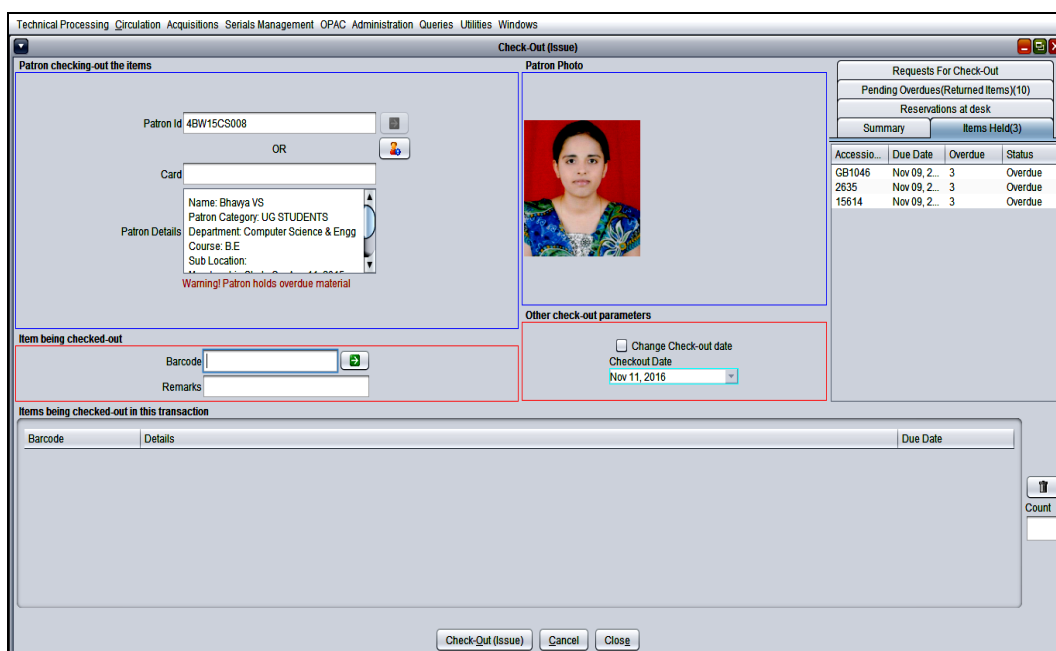


Fig. 6: Checkouts in Circulation.

### Check-in or Return of Items



Fig. 7: Check-in in Circulation.

### Acquisitions Module

The NewGenLib acquisitions module has all the futures that are typically required in libraries of all kinds. The screen below shows the main menu options that are available in this module (Figure 8). Each of these menu options and sub-options, their purpose and how to accomplish acquisitions related tasks using these functions are explained detail in what follows.

### Serial Management

Serial management is most important in all engineering libraries in India, the serials module in any library automation software is usually the most complicated in terms of development effort. The functionality in this module requires that the software must deal with several idiosyncrasies of the serial as a form of publication. Equally, there are issues related to the cataloguing of newly subscribed

serial titles, registration, display of serials holdings in the online public access catalogue (OPAC) and the prediction of the receipt of regular serials issues as well as that of supplements and indexes. Managing the subscriptions to serial titles in such a way that there is no interruption in the supplies is another important requirement. The binding of serials issues when the volume for a particular serial title has been fully received and ensuring that these are sent to binder are other tasks that

the module must help library staff to accomplish (Figure 9).

Figure 9 shows the menu options that are available in this module.

**Register Serials Issues**

Figure 10 shows the current subscriptions of the journals in BGS institute technology central library (Figure 10). Click the register serials menu option to see the screen shown in Figure 10.

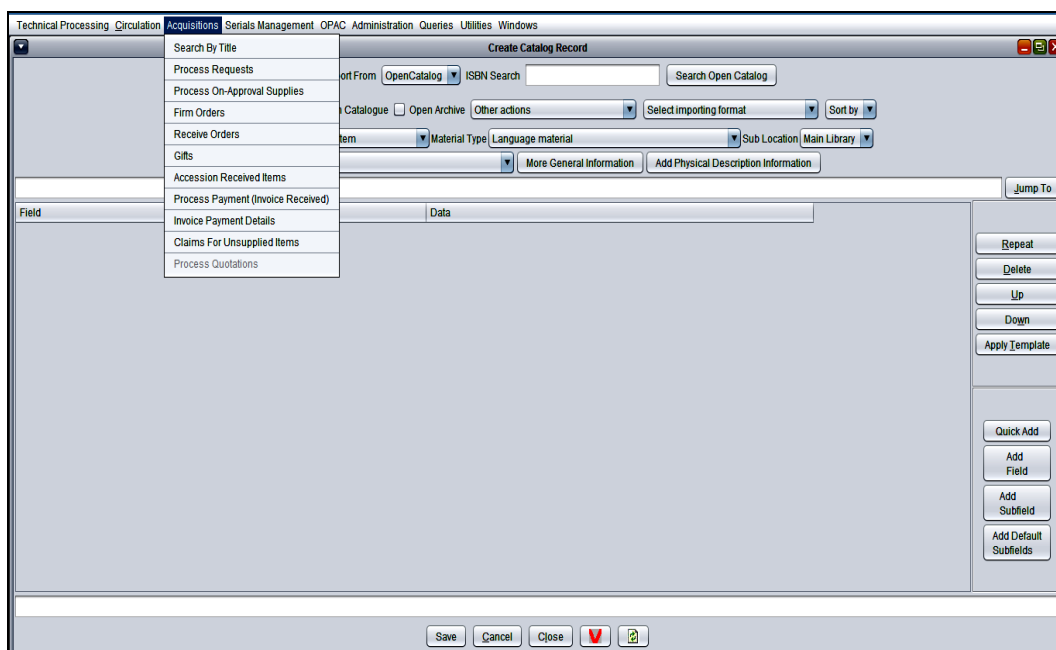


Fig. 8: Acquisition Menu Option.

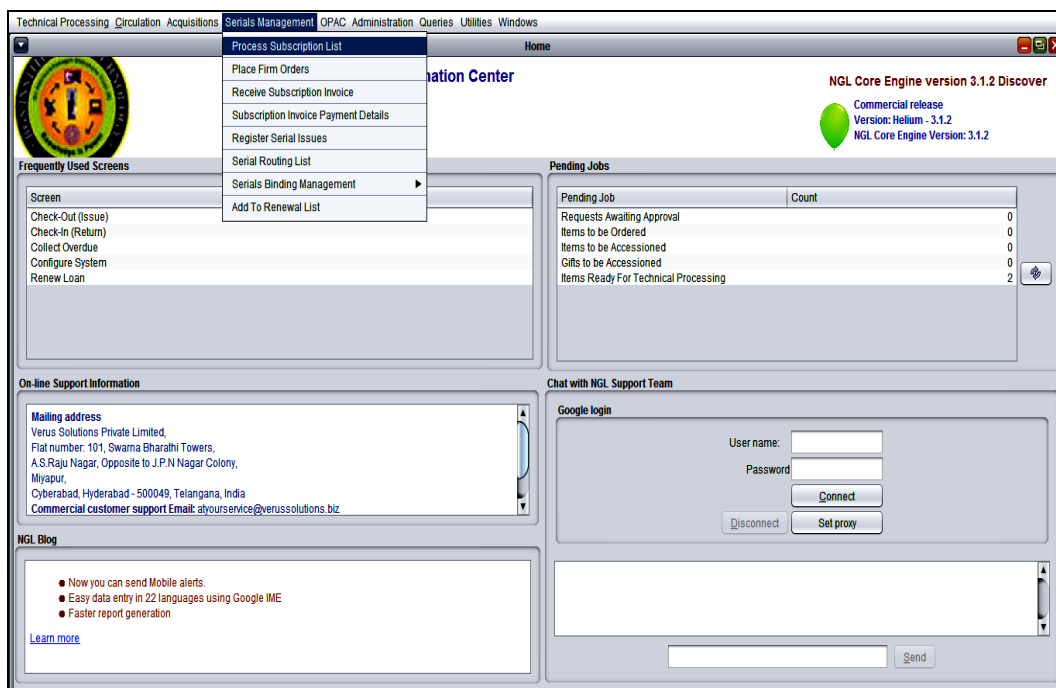


Fig. 9: Menu Options in Serials Module.



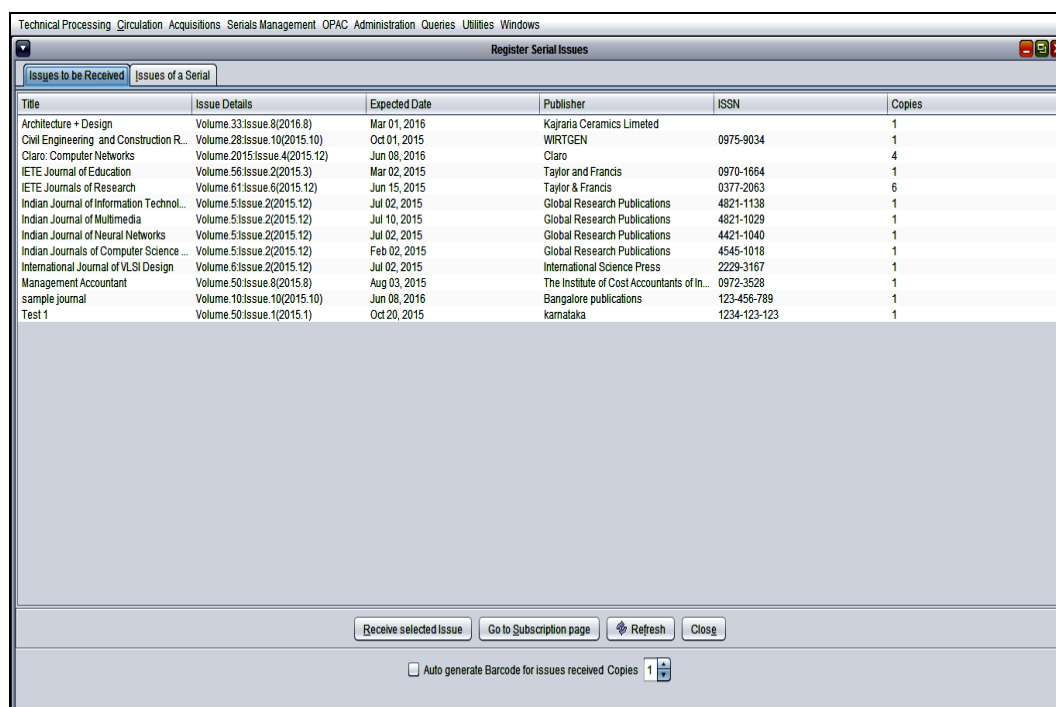


Fig. 10: Register Regular Issue of Currently (or a Previous) Subscribed Serial Title.

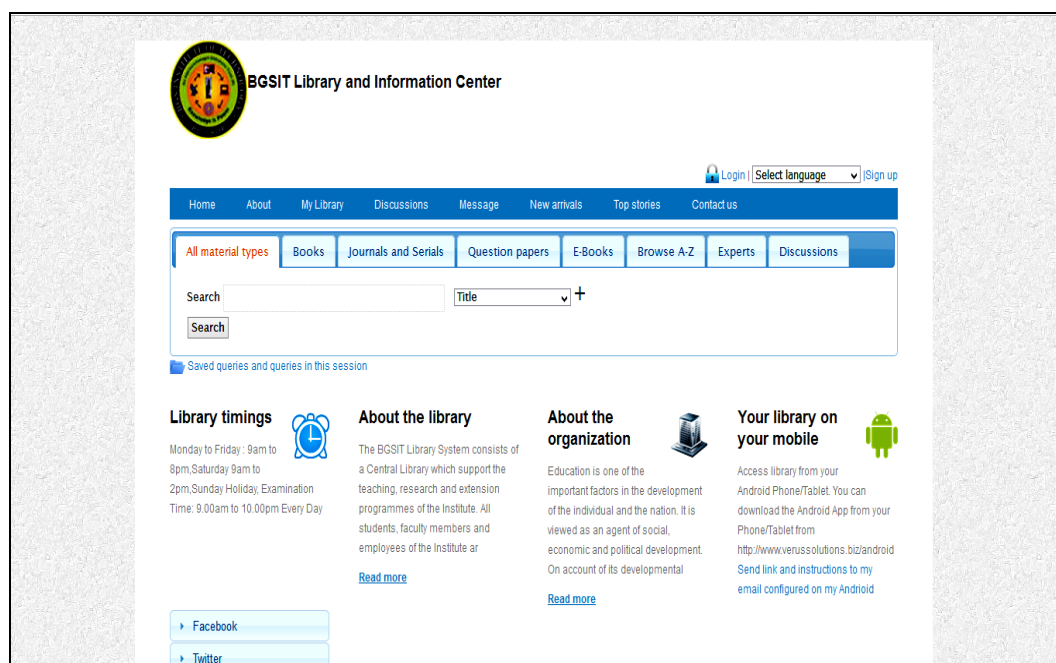


Fig. 11: OPAC (Open Public Access Catalogue).

### OPAC (Open Public Access Catalogue)

Open public access catalogue (OPAC) contains over 30,000 bibliographic records, with more records being added on a daily basis. We have uploaded question papers, e-books, e-journals, faculty publications, CD ROMS etc. to our central library OPAC. Users can access them 24x7 via library web page (Figure 11).

### Administration

The administration module of NewGenLib allows librarian to configure the software to suit the application environment of the library and so that it reflects the policies of the library in respect of its various operations, e.g., circulation policies, acquisitions modes, etc.

This is the first module that requires to be invoked before other functional modules such as acquisitions, technical processing, and circulation and so on are automated. The definition of various parameters is done only by engineers and system administrators at an installation who jointly work to define click the administration menu option. Figure 12 shows the menu options that are available when you click administration menu option (Figure 12).

**Configure System**

This is the menu option that allows the setting up of various parameters. Click this menu option to see the following screen (Figure 13).

**Queries**

Queries imply a desire for authoritative information or confirmation queried by a librarian about the book (Figure 14).

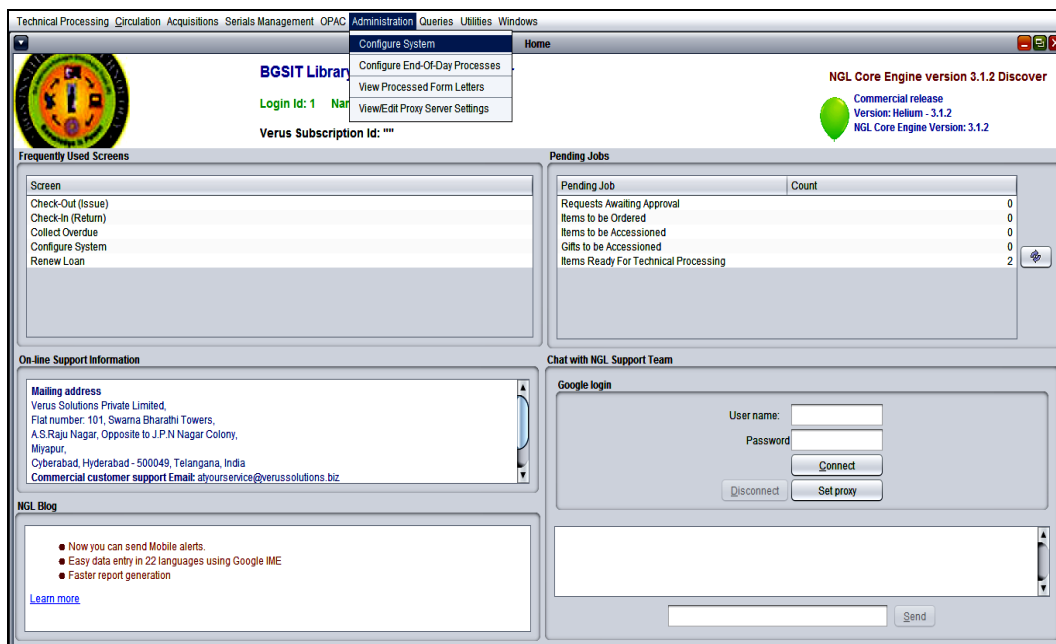


Fig. 12: Menu Options in the Administration.

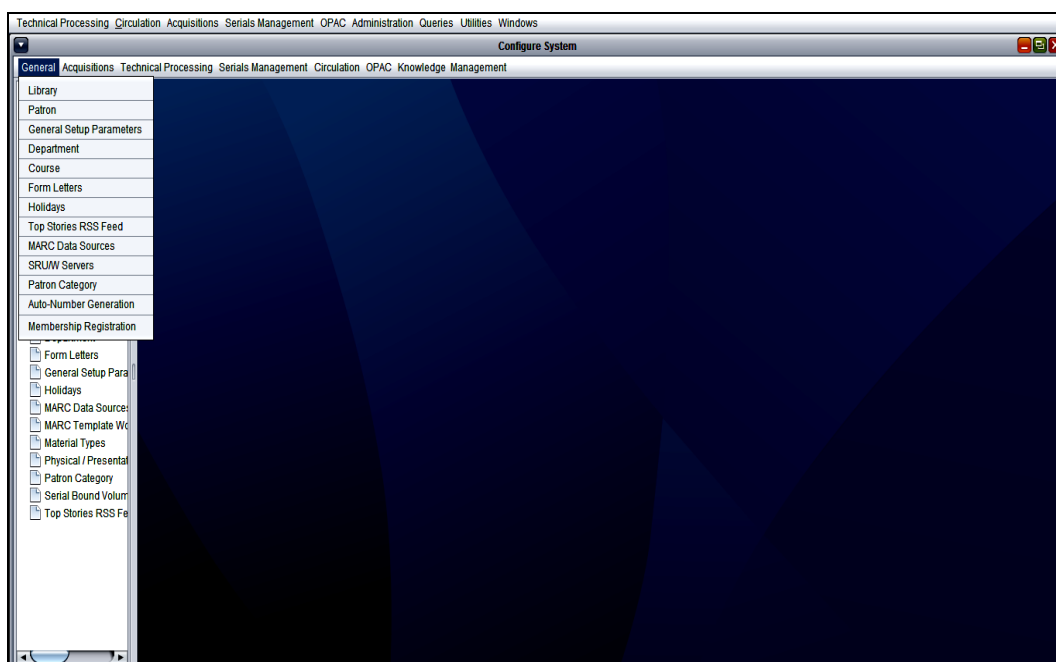


Fig. 13: Options in Configure System.



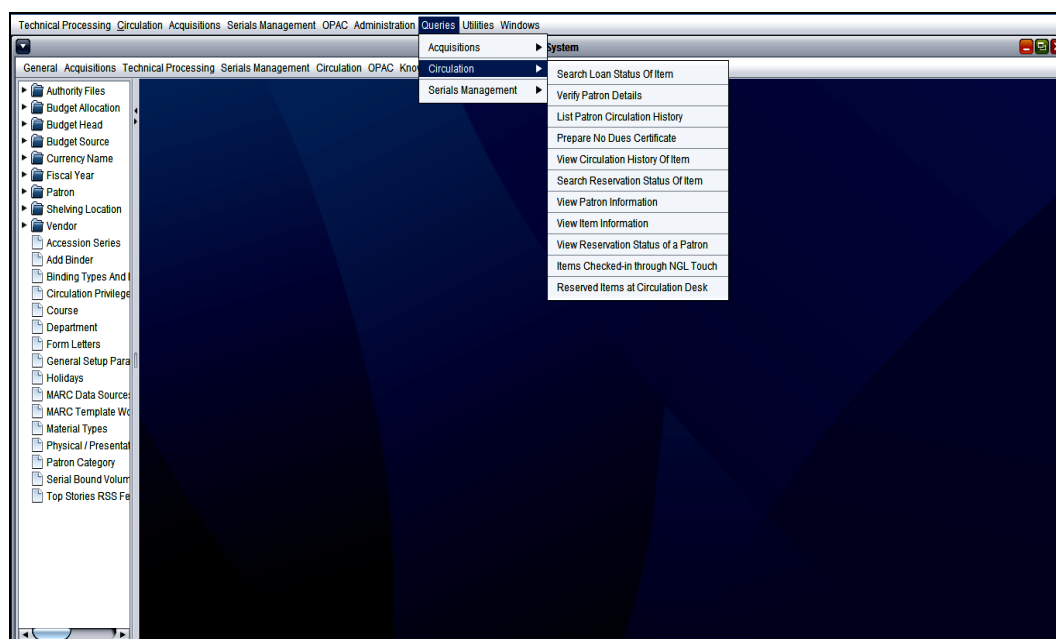


Fig. 14: Options in Queries.

## CONCLUSION

Library automation is one of the most important concepts in engineering college libraries in India. We can conclude that library automation is very much needed in libraries. Librarians need to have a well thought and discussed integrated automation strategy for library automation for their respective libraries. BGS institute of technology central library still gives much importance to the library automation even though there is high demand for effective library services. Our central library has successfully completed library automation and information support to end-users.

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### Cite this Article

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