

LIBRARY AUTOMATION: CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

This Paper discussed about the term automation and Library –automation. Tries to describe the various issues/challenges in these day's related with library automation, which are directly or indirectly affect the library automation work/process in any institute. The Paper also traces and analyze problems area like lack of proper planning, lack of fund/economical resources, lack of resources and technology, lack of skilled or trained staff /professional and other related issues. The Paper briefly describes some point/remedies for proper implementation of library automation in library housekeeping and service sector.

Key Words: *Library Automation, Computerization*

1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries are complex systems that consist of many procedures and functions. Traditionally, these functions (subsystems) have included acquisition of materials, cataloging and classification, circulation and interlibrary loan, serials management, and reference services. The most important function, however, has been the provision of service to the users. For centuries, librarians have managed warehouses of documents by acquiring, cataloging, and classifying books, journals, and other materials, and circulating them to their clients. Computer and telecommunication technologies have empowered the new breed of information professionals to select, organize, retrieve, and transfer (SORT) the actual information effectively and efficiently to the users. In the age of ICT library scenario has been drastically changed in terms of collection, organization and services. Simultaneously, user's demands and attitudes have changed in its kinds. Also the information seeking behavior of user has dynamically changed. They want relevant, authentic information very quickly within a single place at their hand. This concept has posed challenges for library professionals for quick delivery of library services and information. This development in library field has brought the idea of Library Automation.

WHAT TO BE AUTOMATED

All routine works and services of the library can be automated through library automation. Besides in some automation software packages there are provisions for article indexing, abstracting etc. Basically these followings works of library are automated:-

- Online public access catalogue
- Circulati
- Acquisition
- Serial control
- Intranet
- Internet
- Digital Libraries

AUTOMATED LIBRARY SERVICES

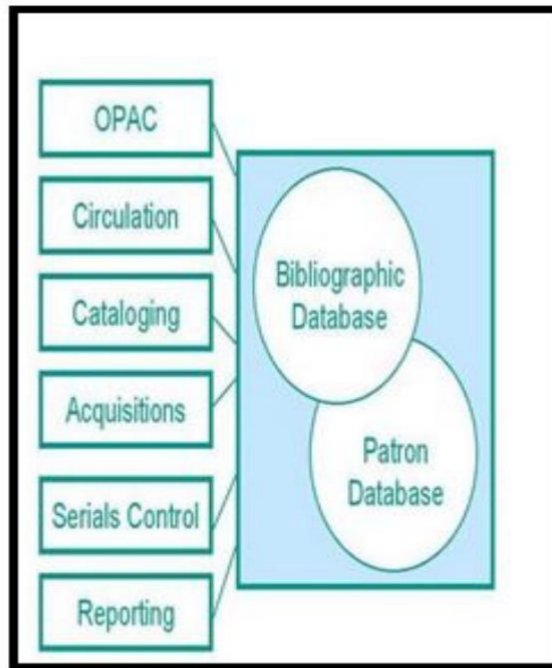
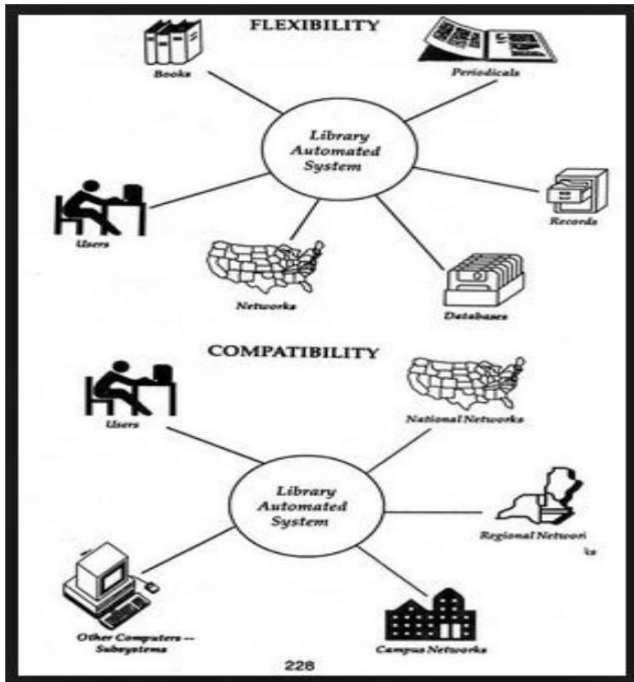
There are various types of automated services provided by the automated library. The automated services are:

1. Current awareness Service (CAS)
2. Online Search Service
3. Printed Indexes
4. Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)
5. Inter Library Loan
6. Stock Verification
7. Reference service

PROBLEMS FOR AUTOMATION

There are many inherent problems associated with library automation programme. The problems can be summarized as below.

- Initial investment for automation programme is very high.
- Library staff has to undergo intensive training on automation.
- The professionals are initially psychologically traced.
- Other departments of the organizations need to be systematic for successful running of the programme.
- Retrospective conversion of data for big libraries.
- Recurring expenditures needs to be bear positively approved by the authority.
- Regular update of the software package.
- Fear of adverse impact on employment.
- Apprehension that the technology could be too expensive.
- The library staff has to undergo extensive training.
- Lack of support from the management, may be owing to budget constraints.
- Retrospective conversion of data.



METHDOLOGY

In this research paper the questionnaire based survey method was used for data collection. List of questions were formulated keeping in view of the objectives of the study and the same was distributed to 15 institute’s librarians and the researcher obtains 12 (80%) response from librarian and further required information was collected from internet and college prospectus.

DATA ANALYSIS:-

Table No. 1 Status of Library

Sl. No.	Status	Yes	Percentage
1	Library Automated	07	58.33%
2	Legal License Copy of Lib. Software	07	58.33%
3	Computer trained library staff	03	25%

The table No. 1 show that 08 (66.66%) Arts college libraries are automated and providing services with using library software’s 08 (66.66%) libraries have a license copy of library software. 03.25% libraries have only computer trained library staff.

Table No. 2 Library Software

Sl. No.	Software	Yes	Percentage
1	Autolib	02	16.66%
2	Nirmal	01	8.33%
3	Libasoft	02	16.66%
4	In house developed	02	16.66%

The table no. 2 show that 02 (16.66%) engineering college libraries used Auto Lib. Library software for circulation and library management, 01 (8.33%) libraries used Nirmal software and 2 (25%) libraries used libasoft library software 02 (16.66) libraries used in house developed library software's.

Table No. 3 Areas of Library Automation

Areas	Yes	Percentage
Acquisition	07	58.33%
Cataloguing	07	58.33%
Circulation	07	58.33%
Serial Control	03	25%
Budget	0	0%
Administration	0	0%
OPAC	07	58.33%

Software The table no. 3 show that 07 (58.33%) Arts college libraries use library software for acquisition of library materials, 07 (58.33%) libraries also search / prepared catalogue on software, 07 (58.33%) libraries used software for circulation of library materials, 03 (25) libraries also use library software for serial control, not a single library use library software for budget control and administration, 07 (58.33%) libraries used software for OPAC.

Table No. 4 Barrie in Library Automation

Sl. No.	Software	Yes	Percentage
1	Finance	05	41.66%
2	Human Resource	05	41.66%
3	Lack of Training	03	25%
4	Lack of Infrastructure	02	16.66%
5	Lack of IT knowledge	02	16.66%)

Table No. 4 show that 05 (41.66%) Arts college libraries are not done library automation due to lack of finance 05 (41.66%) libraries are facing trained human resource for library automation, 03 (25%) libraries facing problem for training of library automation, 02 (16.66) college libraries provide good infrastructure for library automation, 02 (16.66) library personnel feel that they have not knowledge about library automation and information technology

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the automation of the library has brought increased enhancement First, manually operated housekeeping chores such as the borrowing and returning of books and materials have become fast, easy, and reliable. Also, generation of reports regarding transactions is also done easily and quickly by the click of a button. This helps in efficiently administering the Library, as well as cataloguing and circulation of books and other library materials. It also helps to trace, with ease, any overdue material or book borrowed. But the success of any library automation programme depends upon its proper planning and execution. Hence library professionals need to take right initiatives in right direction.

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