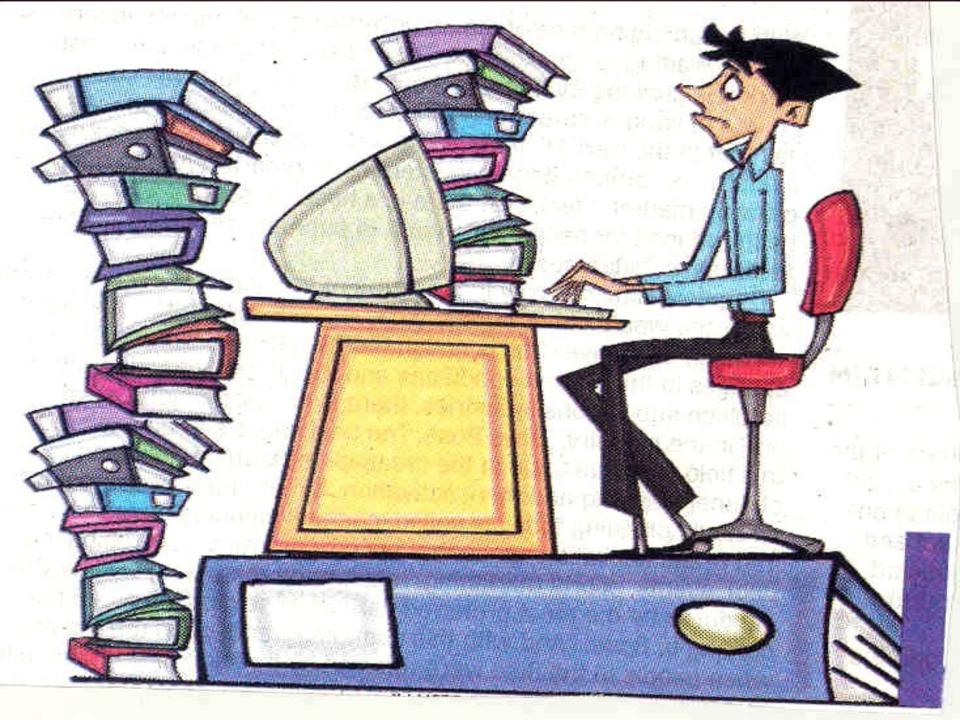
# Need and Importance of Library Automation in Public Libraries

Dr. Manish V. Pandya Sci./Engr. SF (Library) Library & Documentation Division Space Applications Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad

- ☐ Traditionally public libraries have been catering to the document needs of their users
- Public libraries also provide their library and information services to their users by allowing them to have access and use of books, journals, magazines, maps and atlases, reference books, audio and visual documents, and other such printed and non-printed documents.
- Public libraries have to provide their valuable library and information services to the large community of society as it comes under their duty of social obligations.



# Public libraries have various categories of library users like

- □ students,
- □ housewives,
- □ managers,
- senior citizens,
- □ children,
- □ Housewives,
- □ Lawyers,
- doctors,
- architects and other strata of the society.

# Services of Public Library

- Information Literacy
- Open Courseware
- Internet Facilities
- Implementation of Government policies, educational policies and facilities as a nodal point, e.g. "Vanche Gujarat".
- Career Councelling
- Vocational training

**Document Delivery** Information Dissemination **Arranging Public Lectures Meet the Expert Human Library System** Story telling to the children members Women's/Housewives Programmes Mobile library services **Arranging Book exhibitions** Special Day Celebrations e.g. Labour Day, Women Day, Children Day etc.

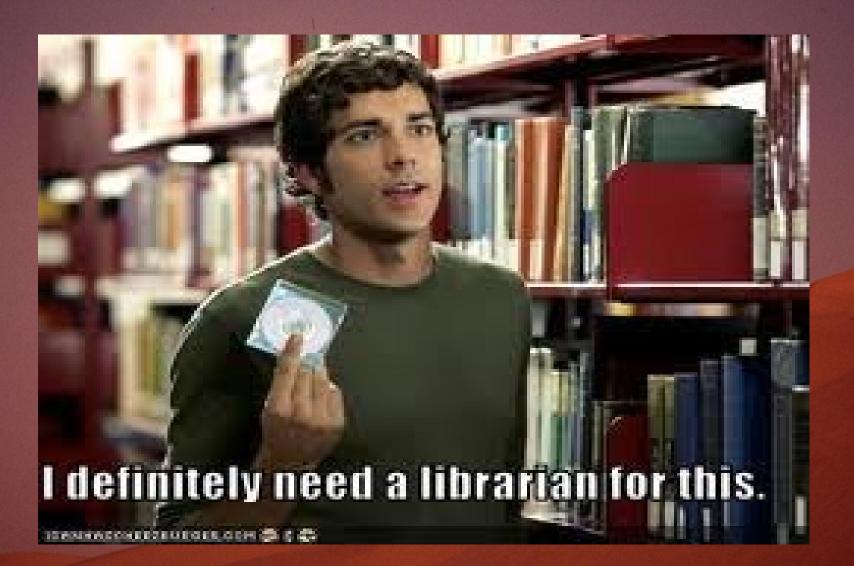


Computers are being used in every field of human activity because of its speed, accuracy and capability of large scale processing. Computers have literally invaded and entered into library and information services for the effective use and for the benefit of the library users. It is space saving device as well because information stored on computer readable devices takes much less space than the conventionally stored systems Libraries and information centres have devised library automation efforts and practices in order to provide their better library and information services to the right users in right time at the earliest.



#### What is Library Automation?

- ☐ It implies a high degree of mechanization of various routine and repetitive tasks to be performed by human beings.
- □ It is principally the use of computers, associated peripheral media (disks, optical media, magnetic tapes, storage devices, etc.) computer based products and services in library work.
- Library automation requires planning, designing and implementation. Library automation reduces the drudgery of repeated manual efforts in library routine. The use of library automaton helps in eases and comfort in collection development, storage, administration, processing, preservation, and communication etc. It increases productivity in terms of both works as well as in services



#### **Definition of the Library Automation**

- ☐ The application of computers to perform traditional library house keeping activities and operations such as acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, and the reference service and serials control.
- Automation is used to reduce to the amount of staff time devoted to repetitive (and more often less challenging) activities that must be done in any properly functioning of the library activities and services.
- According to the Webster's dictionary "automation is the technique of making an apparatus, a process or a system operates automatically". In other words, it is the machinery that mathematically manipulates information storing, select, presents and records, input data or internally generated data. Automation word is used for automatic technical process.

- Automation is a technique to make a system automated means self-active. For these electronic machines are used to automate the libraries.
- Library automation means the application of machines to perform the different routines, repetitive and clerical jobs which involve various functions and services of the libraries.

### Objectives of the library automation

To improve control over the library collection To have an effective control over the entire operation To share effectively the resources among various libraries at a local, regional, and national level and international level To avoid duplication and repetitive work/tasks To obtain various services of the existing staff effectively

#### Importance of Library Automation

More time towork with the library users Speedup of searching for users Better access to the collection Allows easy sharing of resources sharing with other libraries More interface with the library users with other information resources Better facilities for the users as other libraries are also automating **Enhances consistency in the collection,** streamlines circulation Time saving of clerical and repetitive tasks Ease of maintenances of statistics and overdues Report to the management

## Advantages of library automation

Provides users with timely access to various library materials Eliminates routine and repetitive tasks or performs them more quickly and effectively Reduces the amount of time spent on material acquisition, serials, etc. Management, budget administration and record keeping Supports new means of information retrieval by introducing library users to global information Allows library users to use search strategies that exceed those that can be used with card catalogue Also allows library users to search library's collection from locating outside the library's walls

☐ It motivates users equip them with problem solving and information retrieval skills and
provides them with the life long learning
experience
☐ It increases productivity in terms of both
work as well as in service
□ Professional staff need not spend much time
to the routing work
☐ Eliminates human errors while performing
routine library work
☐ Improved computer awareness among users
☐ Cataloguing is faster, instant access to non-
records
□ Excellent control over circulation



Thank You iii.