

# ASSESSING THE CHALLENGES AND ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTING LIBRARY AUTOMATION IN LIBRARY: A STUDY

Gaurav Kumar Jaiswal <sup>1</sup>✉, Praveen Kumar Pandey <sup>1</sup>✉

<sup>1</sup> Department of Library and Information Science Mangalayatan University, Beswan, Aligarh-202146, Uttar Pradesh, India



## Corresponding Author

Gaurav Kumar Jaiswal,  
[gaurav.kr.online@gmail.com](mailto:gaurav.kr.online@gmail.com)

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## ABSTRACT

"This paper explores the concept of library automation, its evolution, benefits, challenges, and applications in modern libraries. It delves into the historical development of automated systems, examines current technological implementations, and discusses the issues faced during the transition from manual to automated processes. The study also highlights the impact of automation on library services and user experiences, Challenges, issue, implication and recommendations for effective implementation. The library automated is provide the as cataloging, circulation, and acquisitions to books, reducing manual workload of staff and minimizing errors. This efficiency allows staff to focus more on user engagement and service improvement. Library Automation ensures accurate record-keeping and facilitates the generation of detailed reports on various aspects of library operations. These insights support informed decision-making and strategic planning."

**Keywords:** Library Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Digital Library, Library Issue and Challenges, Hybrid Library

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**Definition of Library Automation:** Library automation term to the use the ICT based computer technology in Library difference section called a library automation.

**Historical Context:** The journey of library automation began in the 1960s with the introduction of MARC standards and has evolved significantly with advance services in information technology.

**Purpose of the Study:** To analyze the issues and applications of library automation, assessing its impact on library operations and services.

## 1.1. EVOLUTION OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION

### Early Mechanization (1930s–1950s)

**Punch Card Systems:** In the 1930s, libraries began experimenting with punch card technology to manage circulation and acquisitions. The University of Texas was among the pioneers, utilizing this method to streamline their processes.

**Unit Record Machines:** By the 1950s, institutions like the Library of Congress adopted unit record machines to produce catalogs, marking a significant step towards mechanized library operations.

## 1.2. ADVENT OF COMPUTERIZATION (1960S–1970S)

**MARC Standards:** The 1960s saw the introduction of Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) standards by the Library of Congress, facilitating the digital representation of bibliographic information.

**OCLC Formation:** In 1967, Fred Kilgour established the Ohio College Library Center (now OCLC), promoting shared cataloging and resource sharing among libraries.

**Integrated Library Systems (ILS):** The 1970s introduced ILS, integrating various library functions like cataloging, circulation, and acquisitions into unified computer systems.

## 1.3. NETWORKING AND DIGITAL EXPANSION (1980S–1990S)

**Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs):** Libraries began offering OPACs, allowing users to search catalogs remotely, enhancing accessibility.

### National Institute of Open Schooling

**Internet Integration:** The proliferation of the internet enabled libraries to provide online databases, electronic journals, and digital repositories, transforming user engagement.

## 1.4. EMERGENCE OF OPEN SYSTEMS AND CLOUD COMPUTING (2000S–PRESENT)

**Open-Source ILS:** Libraries started adopting open-source ILS like Koha and Evergreen, offering customizable and cost-effective solutions.

**Cloud-Based Services:** The shift to cloud computing allowed libraries to host systems off-site, reducing infrastructure costs and improving scalability.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1) Rajput and Gautam (2010) In their investigation of special libraries in Indore, India, Rajput and Gautam identified several obstacles to effective library automation. These included insufficient staff training in handling Information and Communication Technology (ICT), a shortage of skilled personnel, financial constraints, lack of support from authorities, and limited user awareness regarding library automation software.
- 2) Shakuntla Singh (2022) This study focused on college libraries and highlighted two primary issues hindering automation: user awareness and resource constraints. The research emphasized the need for comprehensive training programs to enhance user understanding and the importance of investing in necessary resources and infrastructure. A phased approach, utilizing open-source tools and seeking external funding or partnerships, was recommended to overcome these challenges. Empowering library staff with the requisite skills was deemed crucial for long-term success.
- 3) Mulla and Chandrashekara (2010) Their survey of engineering college libraries in Karnataka revealed that a significant number lacked sufficient computers, stable internet connections, and reliable power supply. These infrastructural deficiencies, coupled with outdated equipment, contributed to delays in adopting automation. The study also noted that even libraries with computers often did not have enough to meet the needs of both staff and users, thereby hampering the automation process.

- 4) Thapa and Sahoo (2007) Examining special libraries in Bhopal, this study found that financial constraints significantly limited the ability to invest in necessary automation tools, software, and infrastructure. A notable issue was the lack of skilled professionals trained in library automation, leading to inefficiencies in operating and maintaining automated systems. Resistance among library staff and users to adopt new technologies was also observed. Additionally, the absence of standardized software and cataloging systems across different libraries impeded resource sharing and interoperability.

### 3. APPLICATIONS OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION



Library automation encompasses the application of technology to streamline and enhance various library operations. By automating routine tasks, libraries can improve efficiency, accuracy, and user satisfaction. Below are key applications of library automation:

#### 3.1. CATALOGING AND METADATA MANAGEMENT

The Efficient organization of library materials through standardized cataloging. Utilizing systems like MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging), libraries can ensure consistent metadata, enabling users to locate resources effectively. Tools such as Koha and Evergreen support these functions, allowing for seamless integration and management of bibliographic records.

#### 3.2. CIRCULATION AND PATRON MANAGEMENT

Circulation systems handle the lending process, including checkouts, returns, renewals, and holds. They also manage patron information, track borrowing histories, and handle fines, thereby reducing manual workload and enhancing user experience.

#### 3.3. ACQUISITION AND SERIALS CONTROL

The procurement of new materials and management of serial publications. Integrated Library Systems (ILS) assist in ordering, receiving, and invoicing, while also tracking subscriptions and ensuring timely access to journals and periodicals.

### 3.4. ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG (OPAC)

Web OPACs provide users with an online portal system management, and integration with digital resources, enhancing discoverability and user engagement.

### 3.5. DIGITAL LIBRARIES AND REPOSITORIES

Creation and maintenance of digital collections, allowing libraries to offer electronic books, journals, and institutional repositories. This expands access to resources beyond physical boundaries and supports remote learning and research.

### 3.6. USER SERVICES AND SELF-SERVICE TECHNOLOGIES

RFID and self-checkout kiosks empower patrons to manage their borrowing activities independently. Additionally, Library automation enables personalized services, such as reading recommendations and notifications, enhancing user satisfaction.

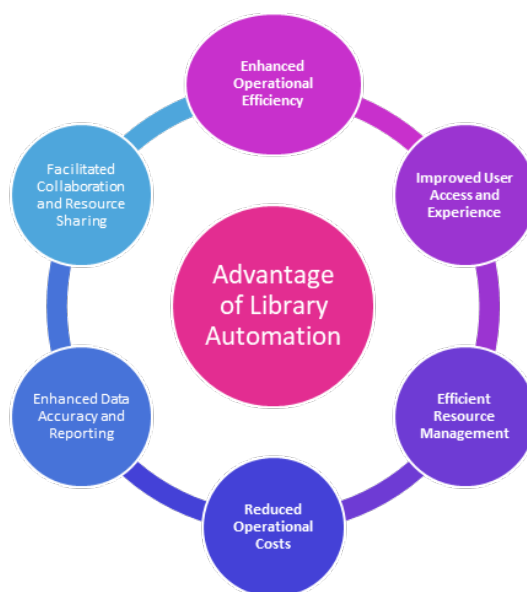
### 3.7. REPORTING AND ANALYTICS

Generate the different types report like a circulation report, accession report, Students fines report etc.

### 3.8. INTERLIBRARY LOAN AND RESOURCE SHARING

Interlibrary loan processes, allowing libraries to share resources efficiently. Systems track requests, manage transactions, and ensure timely delivery of materials between institutions.

## 4. ADVANTAGE OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION



### 4.1. ENHANCED OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

The library automated is provide the as cataloging, circulation, and acquisitions to books, reducing manual workload of staff and minimizing errors. This efficiency allows staff to focus more on user engagement and service improvement.

## 4.2. IMPROVED USER ACCESS AND EXPERIENCE

ICT facilitates easier access to library resources through Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs), enabling users to search in library systems, reserve, and renew the library materials remotely. This accessibility enhances user satisfaction and engagement and access the information in anywhere

## 4.3. EFFICIENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Collection development by tracking usage patterns, identifying outdated materials, and managing acquisitions. This ensures that the library's collection remains relevant and up-to-date.

## 4.4. REDUCED OPERATIONAL COSTS

Library Automation is providing the simple way to routine processes; libraries can reduce staffing costs and resource expenditures. This cost-effectiveness allows for the reallocation of funds to other critical areas, such as expanding digital collections or enhancing user services.

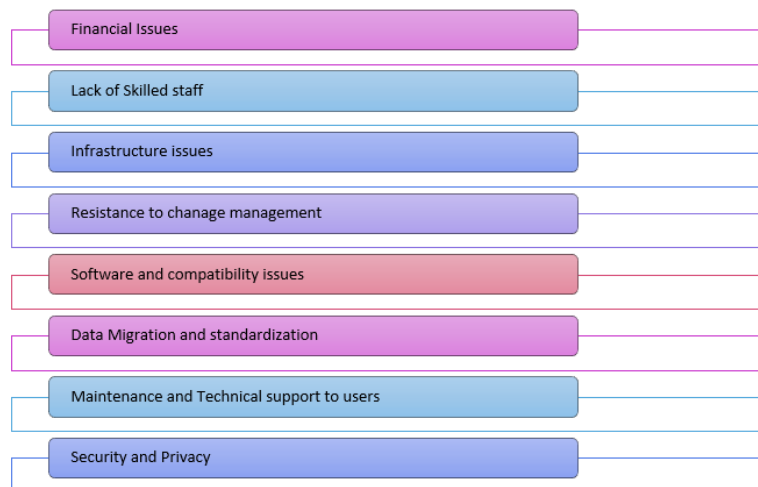
## 4.5. ENHANCED DATA ACCURACY AND REPORTING

The Library Automation ensures accurate record-keeping and facilitates the generation of detailed reports on various aspects of library operations. These insights support informed decision-making and strategic planning.

## 4.6. FACILITATED COLLABORATION AND RESOURCE SHARING

Automated systems enable seamless interlibrary loans and resource sharing, broadening access to materials beyond a single institution's holdings. This collaboration enhances the overall value provided to patrons.

## 5. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN LIBRARY AUTOMATION



### 5.1. FINANCIAL ISSUES

Some libraries, face limited budgets that hinder the acquisition of necessary hardware, software, and infrastructure for automation. This financial limitation is a significant barrier to adopting modern library technologies stop the process library automation.

### 5.3. INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

## 5.4. RESISTANCE TO CHANGE MANAGEMENT

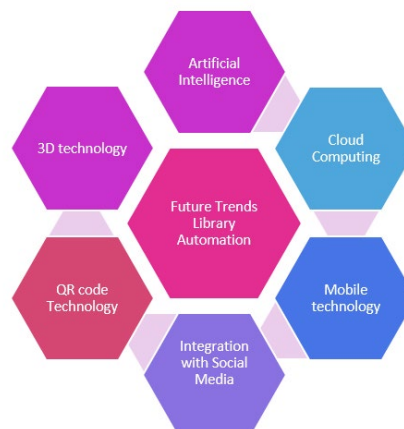
## 5.5. SOFTWARE AND COMPATIBILITY ISSUES

## 5.6. DATA MIGRATION AND STANDARDIZATION

## 5.7. MAINTENANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO USERS

## 5.8. SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONCERNS TO LIBRARY

## 6. FUTURE TRENDS IN LIBRARY AUTOMATION





**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** AI can enhance information retrieval, recommend resources, and personalize user experiences. AI easily assist to librarian solve the queries of Library users.

**Cloud Computing:** Cloud-based systems offer scalable solutions, reducing the need for extensive on-site infrastructure.

**Mobile Access:** Developing mobile-friendly platforms ensures users can access resources on various devices. M-Library services provide user friendly environment to users.

**Integration with social media:** Leveraging social media platforms can increase user engagement and promote library services.

**QR code Technology/ 3D Technology**

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

To effectively implement automation projects, libraries should craft detailed strategies that clearly define their goals, allocate necessary resources, and establish realistic timelines. Involving both staff and patrons throughout the planning and execution phases can foster acceptance and ensure the system aligns with user requirements. Continuous professional development is vital, enabling staff to stay adept with emerging technologies. Regular evaluations and soliciting user feedback are essential for guiding ongoing enhancements and ensuring the system remains responsive to users' evolving needs

## 8. CONCLUSION

The integration of automation into library operations has significantly enhanced their functionality, leading to improvements in efficiency, accessibility, and the quality of services provided. To implement these systems successfully, libraries must engage in thorough planning, allocate sufficient resources, and maintain ongoing support. By proactively addressing potential challenges and adopting emerging technologies, libraries can adapt to the evolving needs of their users and continue to provide relevant and effective services.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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