

Status of Library Automation in India .. contd.

Special Libraries

Piggy-back onto infrastructural facilities of parent organisations in taking lead

INDAB of NISSAT has 398 databases (mostly OPAC)

261 are computerised & none of them are used by other li braries

90% of them use CDS/ISIS (1725 institutions use; 4300 professionals trained in 200 courses)

Status of Library Automation in India .. contd **Industrial Libraries** 1998 Survey 38 Yet to start 24 Just started 18 Partially implemented 7 **Fully implemented** 8 No response 95 Total Note: Only 14 claim to have in-house databases

Academic Libraries

"UGC granted (95-96)

Rs. 3 - 80 lakhs to 18 universities

Rs. 1.25 lakhs to 168 more colleges

"INFLIBNET Programme Review (Mar 97)

47 Responded

30 Commissioned hardware (PC)

14 Entered > 30,000 records

Computerisation of Banks

- **№ No. of Branches** 64116 (Dec 1997)
- **During 1997, 3500 Computers installed →**

- **☞ BOI** has 150 computerised branches
- **☞ CBI** has 100 computerised branches

Availability of Software Packages

India over 40 in market

Patronised softwares MINISIS

TECHLIB PLUS CDS / ISIS

- -1400 Installations
- -64% use for bibliographic application
- -180 courses to train 3500 persons
- ✓ US sales (1997) 14035 installations
 67% Shared by Ameritech, DRA & SIRSI
- **☞ UK -** Alice has 7000 installations in 20 countries

Reasons for delay in Library Automation

- **More Interested Academically**
- **▼ Initial Over-excitement**
- **Perpetual Experimental Mode**
- **☞ Avoided Turn Key projects or Total Solutions**
- **☞** Debate on Format
 - Retrospective conversion
 - Data Capturing Methods
- Prevention of Healthy Open Competition

Reasons for delay in Library Automation ... contd.

- No Systematic & Complete Exploration of Available Options
- Unnecessary Emphasis on Uniqueness & Diversity in Functionalities
- Either Fully Integrated or None
- **☞ Not Treating as Time Bound Projects**
- **☞** Cooperation of IT Specialists
- **☞ Human Aspects**

Impact on Library Services

- **☞ Innovative Services**
- **☞ Productivity per Employee**
- **☞ Service Quality**
- **☞ Customer Satisfaction**
- ☞ P R & Image



Services

Bibliographic

Information

Document Delivery

Instruction

Facilities

Adjunct



New Features

- **☞ Multimedia**
- Electronic Interface & e-mail Support to other modules
- **☞ Probabilistic Retrieval**
- **☞ Nontextual Objects & Attributes**
- **☞ Intelligent Software Agents**
- **☞** Web Interface
- **DMS** Web Pages on demand
- **₹ Z39.50 Compliant**
- **☞ TCP / IP for Communication**

OPAC

- **Electronic Version**
- Nonstandard Approaches
- **☞ Vague Searches**
- **Optional TOC**
- **References Linking**
- **☞** Sifting & Prioritising
- **☞** Automatic Suggestion of New Items
- **Way Finding**
- **☞** Ordering, Lending & Reservation Status
- ☞ Searching ther Libraries & ILL



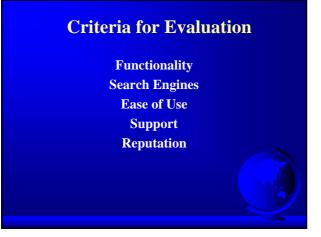
OPAC ... contd.

- Searching without Entering Library
- **Eliminating Duplicates**
- Expanding or Refining Query with Thesaurus, Classification etc.
- Autoindexing
- **☞ On-line User Feedback**
- **Post-Search processing**
- Searching Multiple Databases



Evaluating and Choosing Library Automation Software

- Assessing the Need / Requirements
- Requirements are Dynamic
- Features are more than required
 - Does it do what we want
 - How much Library has to adopt
- **⋄** No. of Installations need not indicate performance or support service **⋄**
- Claims & Demos may not be working in real life situation



Difficulties in Evaluation

- Sital Evaluations are rare
- ▼No Technology Assessment Centres /
 Reports
- **⋄** No Systematic Evaluations by Teams
- **☞ Dissatisfied Customers are not Frank**



Conclusion

- **▼ Support & Resources from parent Institutions**
- **☞ 'Time Schedule'** is the Essence
- Total solutions or Turnkey approach
- **☞** Operational Approach with Realistic Objectives
- **☞** Skill, Competence and Motivation of Staff
- **☞ Team Spirit**
- **☞** Data entry, updation and handling errors
- Beyond just digital version of paper product
- Emphasis on Labour intensive production processes

Display Format

- Minimum necessary elements
- **☞** New elements
- **☞** Sequence
- **☞** Location
- Alignment & Intensity
- Layout -Traditional catalog
 - -Title page
 - -Electronic Scanned image with link to summary
- **☞** Prefatory text
- TOC

About the Author

Dr. M.S.Sridhar is a post graduate in mathematics and business management and a doctorate in library and information science. He is in the profession for last 35 years. Since 1978 he is heading the Library and Documentation Division of ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore. Earlier he has worked in the libraries of National Aeronautical Laboratory (Bangalore), Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore) and University of Mysore. Dr. Sridhar has published four books ('User research: a review of information-behaviour studies in science and technology', 'Problems of collection development in special libraries', 'Information behaviour of scientists and engineers' and 'Use and user research with twenty case studies') and 74 research papers, written 19 course material for BLIS and MLIS, presented over 22 papers in conferences and seminars, and contributed 5 chapters to books.