

## Seminar on Library Automation Software

Keynote Address

**M. S. Sridhar**  
Head, Library and Documentation  
ISRO Satellite Centre  
Bangalore



## Introduction

- ☞ Enormous concern, interest and efforts of library professionals
- ☞ Moved with technological changes from book catalog to card catalog to online to CD to web
- ☞ Currently engrossed in the areas
  - Digital Libraries
  - Searching multiple databases
  - Autohypertext links
  - VRML
  - DMS software
  - Filtering software
  - Bibliographic web publishing software

## Status of Library Automation in India

### Number of Libraries

- Special libraries including industrial libraries 2800
- University and college libraries 8200
- Public libraries including village libraries 42000
- 44600

**Total** 55600

(+ 810,500 School libraries)

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 libraries
- ☞ 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
<u>8</u>	No response
<u>95</u>	Total

Note: Only 14 claim to have in-house databases

Status of Library Automation in India .. contd

## 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
- ☞ World Bank granted over 100 Crores to each of 8 banks.
- ☞ SBI has 1700 computerised branches (450/Yr.)
- ☞ 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

- ☞ GUI
  - ☞ 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
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## 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 their Libraries & ILL
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## 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
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## 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
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## Criteria for Evaluation

Functionality  
Search Engines  
Ease of Use  
Support  
Reputation



## Difficulties in Evaluation

- ☞ Sital Evaluations are rare
  - ☞ No Technology Assessment Centres / Reports
  - ☞ No Systematic Evaluations by Teams
  - ☞ Dissatisfied Customers are not Frank
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## 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
- ☞ Need for research
- ☞ Beyond just digital version of paper product
- ☞ Emphasis on Labour intensive production processes

## Display Format

- ☞ Minimum necessary elements
- ☞ New elements
- ☞ Sequence
- ☞ Location
- ☞ Labels & Code
- ☞ 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.