# MODERN LIBRARY: AUTOMATED, DIGITAL AND VIRTUAL

| Lesson No. | Title of Lesson | Skills | Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Modern Library: Automated, Digital and Virtual | Knowledge of Library Activities, Initiative, Critical thinking, Societal awareness, Analytical Thinking, Information Technology Literacy | Organising and Browsing materials, ICT skills, Societal role, User education Visit to any Electronic, Digital and Virtual library and Digital library |

## Summary

Library is a place where collection of information resources in print or any other form is placed, organised and made accessible for users. Advances in Information Communication Technology (ICT), particularly the World Wide Web (WWW) have enabled the evolution of the automated library, electronic library, digital library, virtual library and hybrid library, etc.

Information needs of present day library users are specific and quick and there are many problems with traditional libraries. Computer technology has brought many changes in the present society. Need has arisen because of information explosion, and interdisciplinary nature of research and information.

Due to information explosion, it has become difficult to provide right information to the right user. However, with the help of modern information technologies we can easily provide right information to the right user at the right time.

Due to digitisation of library resources and fast changing technologies, it is possible to have libraries with digitised collections. In Digital libraries digital material is stored which can be transferred through electronic devices.

In this lesson, we will learn application of automation in different activities, like acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, serial control and reporting. You will also be introduced to various aspects involved in automation of libraries, concepts of digital and virtual libraries.

## Principal Points

- Computer technology has brought about many changes in the way we live in this present society.
- Computer based systems and telecommunication network continue to be used in more and more in libraries with the overall aim of providing better services to the user.
- Library automation may be defined as the application of computers to perform traditional library housekeeping activities such as, acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, and serials control.
- The main objective of library automation is to improve the level of service and quality of output.
- The main areas of library automation are: (i) Acquisition, (ii) Cataloguing, (iii) Circulation, (iv) OPAC, and (v) Serials control.
- OPAC - Online Public Access Catalogue is computerized catalogue of library resources available to public for searching online. When OPAC is connected with web, which is called as Web OPAC which provides access to users 24 x 7 anywhere in the world.

- A digital library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form, available for access on the Internet or on CD-ROM (compact-disk read- only memory) disks. Depending on the specific library, a user may be able to access magazine articles, books, papers, images, sound files, and videos using computers.
- A virtual library is the library which exists only virtually that is, the library does not exist in real life. It can consist of materials that are organized in a virtual space using computers and computer networks. The emphasis in virtual libraries is on organization and access, not on developing physical collections.
- A Virtual library is the library without walls and without any physical collection.

## Build your Understanding

The electronic, digital, hybrid and virtual libraries are modern libraries because they are completely different from traditional libraries. The modern libraries are:

- Systematic and organised collection of print and non-print resources.
- Digital in formats so that easily processable by computers.
- The acquisition, storage, dissemination and retrieval of information is done by use of technology.
- Access of entire holdings of library is directly or indirectly across the network with the help of Internet.
- Supports and provides more and better online and offline services.

## What's Important to Know ?

1. The main limitation for traditional libraries is that of physical space as books consume lot of space and users often have to walk round the library in order to search for a particular material.
2. An electronic library has not only text data but also sound, graphics and motion videos. This library's chief feature is allowing books to be displayed on screen as if they were printed books.
3. An automated library makes it easier to find books and makes their access easier. An automated library becomes more flexible too.
4. Digital libraries give access to multiple contents with a potentially infinite number of resources and selections at hand.
5. A virtual library is a digital space that keeps and organizes virtual books and other associated documents. It also can refer to a space where the books can read.

**<span style="color:red">Did You Know ?</span>**

Michael S. Hart is known for his 1971 invention of electronic books (eBooks). He founded Project Gutenberg, which is recognised as one of the earliest and longest-lasting online library projects.

The World Digital Library (WDL) is an international digital library operated by UNESCO and the U S Library of Congress. Its homepage was launched on April 21, 2009.

The Government of India has launched the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) in 2006 with the aim to make online resources and materials available to students from primary to postgraduate levels.

Virtual libraries don't need any space for storage. Most latest information is available on virtual libraries. This is actually a kind of Digital library which provides portal to information that is available electronically elsewhere.

**Evaluate Yourself**

1. Give reasons for automating libraries.
2. How does OPAC help users ?
3. Is an automated library same as a digital library, explain ?
4. What is a hybrid library ?
5. Differentiate between Digital and Virtual Library.

**Extend Your Horizon**

1. Visit the website
   https://openlibrary.org/
   and find out what facility they provide to common people.
2. Search for the website of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Digital Library, New Delhi (http://www.ignac.nic.in) Search for various Divisions and record the same.