



PREFACE

The present period is an era of information technology. The impact of this information technology is visible in every field. The libraries are also not untouched by it. In fact there is a vast impact of information technology on the operations and services of libraries. Information technology has changed the approach of professionals towards acquiring, storing and retrieving the information. Besides print, now information is available in various forms. Information technology is the means through which this information is being shared rapidly around the world. Information technology today is having a great impact on the structure of the library services. Library automation is a step to keep pace with the latest information technology environment.

An automated library is not only a computer system which manages one or several of the library's in house functions such as acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, serials control and the online public access catalogue. It also deals in respect of the emerging technologies. Therefore, lots of studies have taken place in the area of library automation. A lot of literature is published on library automation. This literature gives direction from the planning till the implementation process of library automation. There are studies, which discuss the problems that occurred during automation process. A number of articles have been published in journals, and various seminars, symposiums, workshops and conferences have been organised on the theme of library automation. Similarly, there are number of studies available on various aspects of library automation. In such deliberations the remedies for these said problems are discussed and solutions are obtained for them. This means if somebody wants to go for the automation of his/her library, number of publications are available for the guideline.

However, apparently there is no publication to alert the professionals regarding what problems the libraries can face after automation and how they can be prepared for it. As there is a knowledge gap here, the researcher has attempted in the present study to find out what kind of post automation problems are faced by the automated libraries. There is no empirical study done in this area at doctoral level taking large samples. Literature that is available is scanty and scattered. It appears to be an area which is yet to be explored. The researcher has made an attempt to highlight the post automation problems being faced by the libraries in the State of Gujarat in India through an empirical study.