

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 INFORMATION STUDIES UNIT
 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
 BA HONOURS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
 FINAL EXAMINATION- 2025/26
 LEVEL 4 (SEMESTER I)
 HSU4306 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY AUTOMATION



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS ONLY

Date: 11.10.2025

Time: 9.30am. - 12.30pm.

Instructions

Index No:

- Answer only five (05) questions.
- All questions carry equal marks (20 marks).

1. i. Explain the main goals of automating a library 10 marks
 ii. Compare how an Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) enhances user experience when compared to a traditional card catalogue. 10 marks
2. i. Library automation is often described as a 'transformative technology'. Using historical examples, explain how libraries shifted from being mere storehouses of books to becoming service-oriented hubs. 10 marks
 ii. Trace the evolution of library systems from the client-server model to cloud-based platforms. 10 marks
3. Discuss the specific benefits of library automation for a school library. 20 marks
4. i. When planning automation for a large public library with many old and fragile print resources, what key factors should be considered? 10 marks
 ii. Identify two major technological barriers in digitizing fragile materials 4 marks
 iii. Describe the steps in automating such a library 6 marks
5. "Bibliographic standards are vital in ensuring that users can access books, journals, articles, and other resources as expected." Justify this statement with suitable examples. 20 marks
6. i. Define the concept of an Integrated Library Management System (ILMS). 10 marks
 ii. Explain why scalability is important in library systems. How can a library achieve scalability as it expands from small to large? 10 marks

7. Discuss how future developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) may shape library automation. Identify areas where librarians should be cautious in selecting appropriate management systems. 20 marks
8. An example of a library OPAC interface is given below. Identify and name each numbered component and give a brief description of its function. 20 marks

The screenshot shows a library OPAC interface with the following components:

- 1**: A search input field labeled "Enter keywords here".
- 2**: A "GO" button next to the search field.
- 3**: A "Limit by" section with buttons for "Subject", "Author", "Title", "Year", and "Class Number".
- 4**: A "New Arrivals" section with three placeholder boxes and navigation arrows.
- 5**: A login section with "Log in to your account", "Log in with Google" button, "Card number:" and "Password:" input fields, a "Log in" button, and a "Forgot your password?" link.

Additional interface elements include "Advanced Search", "Authority Search", "Recent Comments", and "Tag Cloud" links.

9. Write short notes on any four (4) of the following
- Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS)
 - Bibliographic Description in Automated Systems
 - Metadata and the MARC21 Standard
 - Open Source vs Proprietary Software
 - Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
 - Cloud-hosted ILMS

4x5=20 marks