

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
 INFORMATION STUDIES UNIT
 BA HONOURS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
 FINAL EXAMINATION - (2025/2026)
 LEVEL 5 (SEMESTER II)
 HSU5607: ADVANCED LIBRARY AUTOMATION



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS ONLY

Date: 10.05.2026

Time: 9.30a.m.-12.30p.m.

Instructions

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

1. A modern library functions as an organized system, understanding the system approach is essential for planning and managing automated library operations.
 - i. Define the concept of an automated library system. 04 marks
 - ii. Identify the major inputs of an automated library system. 08 marks
 - iii. Describe the core processing activities of an automated library system. 08 marks

2. Libraries use technologies such as barcode, QR code, RFID, and OCR to automate circulation, improve stock control, facilitate digital access, and support digitization initiatives.
 - I. Define these technologies:

a) Barcode	b) QR Code	
c) RFID	d) OCR	08 marks
 - ii. Explain the two (2) roles of each technology stated in question 2.i. above in library automation. 08 marks
 - iii. State two (2) limitations of using automated data collection technologies. 04 marks

3. Different automated identification and data capture technologies provide varying benefits and limitations depending on the library environment, collection size, and service model.
 - I. Compare barcode and RFID technologies in library operations. 5 marks
 - ii. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of QR codes in library services. 5 marks
 - iii. Recommend the most appropriate technology for a medium-sized academic library and justify your answer giving five (5) reasons. 10 marks

4. Before implementing an Integrated Library System such as Koha, libraries must conduct a needs assessment to determine user expectations, operational gaps, staff readiness, and infrastructure capacity.
 - i. What is meant by needs assessment in library automation? explain. 2 marks
 - ii. Name and discuss major areas that should be evaluated when conducting a needs assessment to implement an Integrated Library System. 8 marks
 - iii. Explain why needs assessment is important before implementing an Integrated Library System. Explain at least five (5) importances in your answer. 10 marks

5. Successful automation requires a library to be operationally, technically, and organizationally prepared before system implementation
 - i. Discuss briefly what are the infrastructure requirements for successful library automation. 4 marks
 - ii. Explain the importance of staff readiness in automation before implementing the library automation project. Explain at least six (4) importances in your answer. 8 marks
 - iii. 'There is a risk of automating a library without proper readiness' Discuss the statement supporting examples. 8 marks

6. Implementation of new library technologies often faces practical challenges.
 - i. Identify and explain five (5) common challenges in implementing library technologies. 10 marks
 - ii. Explain in detail with examples the impact of staff resistance on success of an automation project. 10 marks

7. A public library intends to implement Koha, RFID, and a digital repository within one year as part of its digital transformation strategy.
 - i. Develop a phased implementation plan for the project. 5 marks
 - ii. Propose five (5) strategies to minimize risks during implementation. 5 marks
 - iii. Design a training plan for public library staff. 10 marks

8. Introducing new technologies into libraries requires effective leadership, communication, and change management to ensure staff acceptance and organizational adaptation.
- i. List down the five (5) important characteristics required for effective library leadership during technological change management in modern libraries. 10 marks
 - ii. Design a practical strategy to improve library staff acceptance and adoption of new technologies in a library environment. 10 marks
Explain the key steps involved in the strategy.
9. A university library is considering replacing its proprietary Integrated Library System with Koha LMS to reduce costs and improve flexibility.
- i. What are the advantages and disadvantages of adopting Koha in an academic library environment? Discuss in detail with suitable examples. 08 marks
 - ii. Compare Koha with proprietary library management systems in terms of cost, customization, and sustainability. 06 marks
 - iii. Suggest six (6) criteria that should be used when evaluating an LMS before migration. 06 marks