

3.11 AUTOMATION

Rationale:

Why do I have to automate? Automation is a software package used to assist building level librarians with the management of their catalog, circulation, material and patron activity, as well as produce a variety of reports and statistics. Automation is not just a tool to modernize the job of the librarian; it is also a tool that provides greater access to the library's collection for students and staff. Physical access to the library collection is a prerequisite to intellectual access.

Automation also provides more time for the school/campus librarian to collaborate and teach information literacy. Students must have an opportunity to learn how to find a book on the shelf using a catalog. This is one of the first benchmarks on the information literacy continuum. The universal standard in the 21st century for library catalogs is the OPAC (online public access catalog). This means that students who have not had an opportunity to use an automated catalog regularly to locate resources will be at a disadvantage. Card catalogs are now obsolete.

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