

# News Release: American Library Association

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## STUDY OF AUTOMATED CIRCULATION CONTROL SYSTEMS

The automation of circulation control is becoming a matter of increasing interest as libraries seek methods to reduce operational costs while at the same time increasing, or at least not decreasing, the quality of their public services. In the past, automation has been a realistic possibility almost exclusively for those libraries which have extensive local support in systems analysis and design, programming, and electronic data processing equipment. Consequently, the typical library utilizing automated techniques in the United States has, heretofore, been a medium to large-size academic library. However, with the advent of new technologies and new marketing strategies by vendors, many libraries, particularly public libraries, can for the first time seriously consider the automation of their circulation control functions.

In an effort to provide librarians with information concerning the automated circulation systems being utilized in libraries, Library Technology Reports commissioned Mrs. Barbara Evans Markuson, then an independent library consultant and currently Director of the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority, to produce a review and analysis of automated commercially vended circulation control systems. The report by Mrs. Markuson has been edited by Howard Pasternack,

LTR Assistant Editor, for publication as a special combined July & September 1975 issue of Library Technology Reports.

The introductory section to the report includes a discussion of basic concepts and terminology, and of decision factors relating to the automation of circulation. The introductory section is followed by individual reports on five circulation control systems selected for study: CLSI LIBS 100, IBM System/7, Checkpoint/Plessey Library Pen System, Check-A-Book, and Mohawk. These five reports were generated from literature submitted by the vendors, from information obtained during vendor site visits, and from site visits to libraries to observe the systems in operation. The complete report, titled "Automated Circulation Control Systems: An Overview of Commercially Vended Systems," numbers some 170 pages and is available for purchase by non-subscribers for \$35 from Library Technology Reports, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.