

01

UNICODE

Universal Character Encoding Standard

Developed to represent text from all languages.

Provides a common standard for computers worldwide.

Used in software, databases, websites, and libraries.

Foundation of modern multilingual computing.



A Simple Problem

Imagine a library catalogue contains:

Library Science

पुस्तकालय विज्ञान

علم المكتبات

图书馆学

Can one computer system store and display all these titles correctly?

Before Unicode

Before Unicode:

- Different computers used different encoding systems.
- Different countries used different character sets.
- Text often became unreadable when transferred.
- Multilingual data management was difficult.

Example of Encoding Problems

Original Text:

After transfer between systems: Result:

François

Fran?ois

Information loss

Incorrect display

Retrieval problems

The Solution: Unicode

Unicode was created to:

- Provide one universal standard.
- Support all major writing systems.
- Ensure consistent text representation.
- Eliminate compatibility problems.

Definition of Unicode

- Unicode is a universal character encoding standard that assigns a unique code point to every character, symbol, and script.
- It enables accurate storage, processing, and display of multilingual text.

1. What is Unicode?

Universal Character Encoding Standard



Universal Standard

One standard for
150+ scripts,
149,000+ characters
worldwide



Cross-Platform Consistency

Same text displays
correctly on Windows,
Linux, Mac, Mobile

Unicode is a universal character encoding standard that assigns a unique number (code point) to every character, symbol, and script in the world, enabling consistent representation of text across different platforms, devices, and languages.

**Unicode = One Number
for Every Character in
Every Language**



Unique Code Points

Each character gets
unique U+ number
e.g. U+0A2A
for Punjabi ਧ



UTF-8 Encoding

Efficient storage
& exchange format
preserving
all scripts

What Does "Unique Code Point" Mean?

Every character receives its own unique identifier.

B — U+0042

A character always keeps the same identity.

A — U+0041

C — U+0043

Why Use Code Points?

- Computers do not understand letters directly.
- **Computers understand numbers.**
- Unicode converts characters into numerical values that computers can process.

Character → Code Point

Examples:

A → U+0041

अ → U+0905

文 → U+6587

Every script follows the same Unicode system.

Important Idea About Unicode

Unicode defines:

Unicode does not define fonts.

Unicode does not define keyboard layouts.

Characters

Code points

Standard text representation

Need for Unicode

Problems included:

Earlier encoding systems could not represent all languages together.

Data corruption

Difficult information exchange

Incompatibility

Limited language support

Problems of Multiple Encodings

Different encodings caused:

Garbled text

Data loss

Conversion errors

Software incompatibility

Unicode solved these issues through one common standard.

Global Communication Needs

Modern communication requires:

International publishing

Global websites

Multilingual databases

Cross-platform communication

Unicode supports all these activities.

Why Libraries Need Unicode

Examples:

Libraries collect materials in many languages.

Hindi

Arabic

Unicode allows all these languages to be managed within one system.

English

Punjabi

Chinese

Universal Text Representation

Purpose of Unicode:

- Represent text from all languages.
- Provide a single global standard.
- Support consistent information exchange.
- **Eliminate ambiguity.**

Reliable Data Exchange

Unicode enables:

- Transfer of files between systems.
- Sharing of records between institutions.
- Consistent display across devices.
- Accurate information preservation.

Support for Multilingual Software

Unicode allows software to:

- Display multiple languages.
- Process multilingual text.
- Store multilingual records.
- Support international users.

Support for Digital Publishing

Unicode is essential for:

E-books

Online journals

Websites

Digital repositories

It ensures correct display of multilingual content.

Support for Databases and Information Systems

Unicode enables databases to:

- **Store multilingual records.**
- Retrieve information accurately.
- **Exchange records reliably.**
- Support global information access.

Universal Coverage

Unicode supports:

Latin script

Arabic script

Cyrillic script

and many other writing systems
used throughout the world.

Devanagari script

Chinese script

Greek script

21

Unique Code Point

One Character = One Identity

Every Unicode character has a unique code point.

No two characters share the same identity.

A code point remains constant across platforms.

This prevents ambiguity and confusion.

Example



Platform Independence

Works Everywhere

Unicode text can be displayed consistently on:

Windows

Linux

macOS

Android

iOS

The same character keeps the same meaning regardless of device.

Multiple Encodings

One Standard, Multiple Storage Methods

Unicode characters can be represented using:

UTF-8

UTF-16

UTF-32

The character remains the same.

Only the storage method changes.

Combining Characters

Building Complex Characters

Example: Benefits:

Unicode supports combining marks.

Better linguistic representation

Greater flexibility

$e + ' = \acute{e}$

Support for accented letters

Emojis and Symbols

Unicode includes:

Benefits:



Standardized display

Cross-platform compatibility

Consistent communication

Unicode is not limited to alphabets.

Unicode Vs UTF

Unicode identifies the character

Unicode gives every character a unique number called a code point.

Examples:

A = U+0041

अ = U+0905

文 = U+6587

Unicode therefore answers:

Which character is this?

UTF stores the character

UTF determines how that Unicode code point is represented as bytes in a computer.

UTF therefore answers:

How will the character be stored?

Unicode code point is like the book's unique accession number.

UTF is the method used to place and arrange that book in storage.

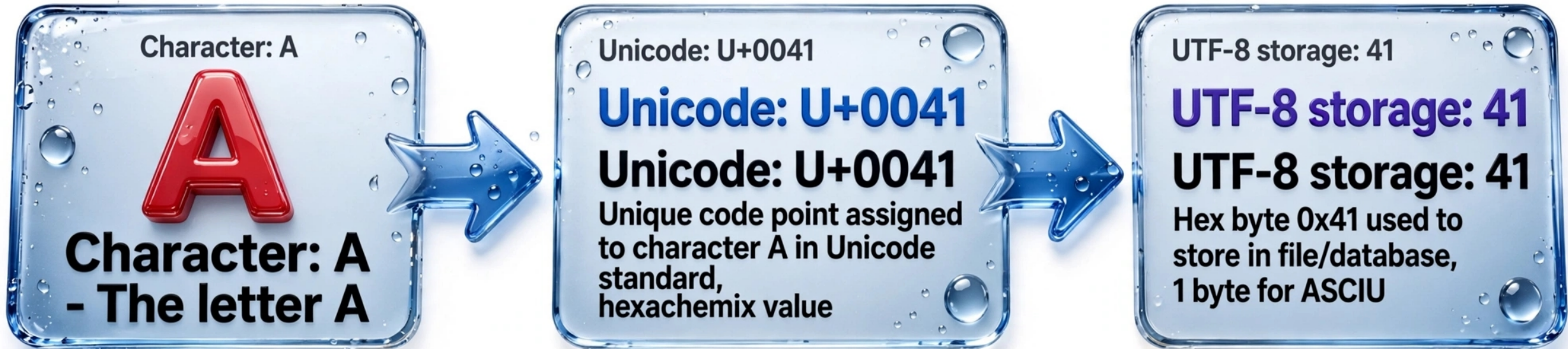
Unicode	UTF
Character standard	Storage encoding format
Assigns code points	Converts code points into bytes
Identifies the character	Stores the character
Example: A = U+0041	Example: UTF-8 stores A as one byte

Unicode decides the number assigned to a character.

UTF decides how that number is written inside the computer.

Character Encoding Example

How Unicode & UTF-8 Works



A → U+0041 → UTF-8 bytes = 41



What is Code Point?
U+0041 is unique number



What is UTF-8?
Variable length encoding



Why 41?
Hex for 65 decimal

Libraries Are Multilingual

Examples:

Libraries collect materials in many languages.

Hindi

Arabic

Unicode allows all these languages to coexist in one system.

English

Punjabi

Chinese

Unicode in Cataloguing

Supporting Original Scripts

Unicode enables libraries to catalogue:

Titles

Authors

Subjects

Notes

in their original language and script.

This improves accuracy and authenticity.

Example: Multilingual Title

A library database may contain:

English

Library Science

Hindi

पुस्तकालय विज्ञान

Chinese

图书馆学

Unicode stores all these correctly
within one system.

Unicode in Metadata

Better Resource Description

Metadata includes:

Title

Creator

Subject

Description

Unicode ensures metadata remains accurate across languages.

Unicode in Authority Control

Standardizing Names

Authority control manages:

Personal names

Geographic names

This improves consistency and retrieval.

Corporate names

Unicode allows names to be stored in their original scripts.

Unicode in OPAC

Online Public Access Catalogue

Unicode enables OPACs to:

- **Display multilingual records**
- Support multilingual searching
- **Improve accessibility**
- Serve diverse user communities

Unicode in Digital Libraries

Digital libraries contain:

E-books

Journals

Theses

Reports

Unicode supports multilingual content and accurate display.

Unicode in Institutional Repositories

Repositories store:

Research papers

Dissertations

Faculty publications

Conference papers

Unicode enables storage and retrieval in multiple languages.

Unicode and Information Retrieval

Improving Access to Information

Unicode supports:

Searching

Sorting

Indexing

Browsing

This improves retrieval performance in multilingual databases.

Unicode and Accessibility

Inclusive Access

Unicode supports: Benefits:

Assistive technologies

Multilingual interfaces

Greater inclusiveness

Better user experience

Screen readers

Global information access

Wider accessibility

41 Unicode and Multilingual Libraries

Libraries Serve Many Languages

Modern libraries collect resources in:

English

Hindi

Punjabi

Arabic

Chinese

Unicode enables all these languages to be stored within a single system.



Why Multilingual Support Matters

Libraries serve:

Students

Researchers

Faculty

International users

Users may search and access information using different languages and scripts.

Unicode makes this possible.

Example: Multilingual Catalogue

A library catalogue may contain:

- Unicode allows all these records to coexist.

Unicode and Bibliographic Records

Supporting Accurate Description

Bibliographic records include:

Author

Title

Edition

Publisher

Subject

Unicode preserves these elements in their original scripts.

Unicode and Author Names

Preserving Original Identity

Examples:

- Rabindranath Tagore

- प्रेमचंद

- Naguib Mahfouz

- Unicode allows names to appear exactly as intended.

Unicode and Subject Headings

Unicode enables:

Subject headings help users locate information.

Better indexing

Accurate representation

Multilingual subject access

Improved retrieval

Unicode and Metadata

Accurate Resource Description

Metadata may include:

Title

Creator

Subject

Keywords

Description

Unicode ensures consistency across languages.

Unicode and Authority Control

Authority control standardizes:

- **Personal names**

- **Corporate names**

- **Geographic names**

- Unicode supports these entries in multiple scripts.

Unicode and OPAC

Online Public Access Catalogue

Unicode helps OPACs:

- **Display multilingual records**
- Support multilingual searching
- **Improve accessibility**
- **Serve diverse user groups**

Searching with Unicode

Users can search using:

English keywords

Hindi keywords

Arabic keywords

Chinese keywords

Unicode improves search accuracy across scripts.

Unicode and Information Retrieval

Better Discovery of Information

Unicode supports:

Searching

Sorting

Indexing

Browsing

This improves access to multilingual collections.

Unicode and Classification Data

Classification systems use textual information such as:

- **Captions**

- **Notes**

- **Subject descriptions**

- Unicode ensures these elements remain accurate.

Unicode and Digital Libraries

Digital libraries contain:

E-books

Journals

Theses

Reports

Unicode supports multilingual digital collections.

Unicode and Institutional Repositories

Repositories preserve:

Research articles

Dissertations

Conference papers

Faculty publications

Unicode enables multilingual
scholarly communication.

Unicode and Digitization Projects

Unicode supports:

Digitization converts physical materials into digital form.

Metadata creation

Text preservation

Searchability

Long-term access

Unicode and Cultural Heritage

Libraries preserve:

Historical texts

Indigenous languages

Regional literature

Rare manuscripts

Unicode helps preserve these resources digitally.

Unicode and Preservation

Long-Term Access

Benefits:

Unicode reduces dependence on obsolete encoding systems.

Improved accessibility

Future usability

Better preservation

Greater compatibility

Unicode and Data Exchange

Unicode enables:

Libraries frequently exchange records.

Reliable import

Reliable export

Accurate transfer

Better interoperability

Unicode and Library Networks

Unicode supports:

Union catalogues

Library consortia

Shared databases

Cooperative cataloguing

Records remain consistent across institutions.

Applications of Unicode in Libraries

Store, Display, Search & Exchange Text in Different Languages & Scripts Within a Single System

Unicode enables libraries to store, display, search and exchange text in different languages and scripts within a single computer system.



1. Multilingual Cataloguing & Storage

Store bibliographic records in Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Arabic, Chinese etc, in one database without separate fonts



2. Display & Rendering in OPAC

OPAC shows titles in original script, not transliteration — improves user discovery



3. Searching & Sorting

Unicode-aware search & collation — find books in any script, correct alphabetical order per language



4. Data Exchange & Interoperability

Exchange records via MARC21, Dublin Core, Z39.50, OAI-PMH without script corruption

Unicode = One System, All Scripts • Libraries

1. Multilingual Cataloguing

Unicode allows bibliographic details to be entered in their original scripts

Bibliographic fields supported:

Title

Author

Edition

Publisher

Notes

Subject
headings



English
Library
Science



Hindi
पुस्तकालय
विज्ञान



Punjabi
ਲਾਇਬ੍ਰੇਰੀ
ਹਿਜ਼ੀਅਤ



Arabic
علم المكتبات



Chinese
图书馆学

One Record, Original Script, All Languages • Unicode

2. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

Unicode in OPAC • Multilingual Access

Unicode enables an OPAC to:



1. Display Records in Multiple Scripts

Show bibliographic records in Hindi, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Arabic, Chinese etc. in one catalogue view



2. Accept Searches in Different Languages

Users type queries in their own language/script – Unicode accepts and processes it



3. Present Original-Script Titles and Names

Author names and titles appear in native script, not only Roman transliteration



4. Serve Linguistically Diverse Users

Supports Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, English users simultaneously in Ludhiana and global libraries

**OPAC + Unicode = One Catalogue,
All Languages**

3. Bibliographic Databases

Single Database, All Languages

Unicode allows a single database to store records in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Chinese and other languages without using separate character-encoding systems.



No separate character-encoding systems needed
— One Unicode —

Single Database = All Scripts • Unicode

4. Metadata Creation

Multilingual Metadata Fields

Unicode supports multilingual metadata in fields such as:



• Title



• Description



• Creator



• Language



• Subject



• Publication details



• Keywords

This is important in digital libraries, repositories and digitisation projects.



Unicode Metadata = Global Discoverability • Digital Libraries

5. Authority Control

Original-Script Names & Forms

Unicode enables libraries to record personal, corporate and geographic names in their original scripts.



Preferred Forms of Names

Main authorized heading in original script



Variant Names

Alternate spellings / scripts as variants



Original-Script Forms

Record names in native script: Gurmukhi, Devanagari, Arabic, etc.



Transliterated Forms

Roman transliteration alongside original script



Cross-References Between Different Forms

Link original, transliterated & variant forms for global discovery

Authority Control + Unicode = One Identity, All Scripts

6. Multilingual Information Retrieval

Technical Foundation for Search & Discovery

Unicode provides the technical foundation for:



Searching

Search records in any script language with Unicode-aware query processing



Sorting

Language-specific collation & correct alphabetical order per script



Indexing

Multilingual index creation — one index for all scripts



Browsing

Browse lists display in original scripts, not broken characters



Matching Names and Titles in Different Scripts

Match Punjabi, Hindi, Arabic, Chinese titles to same work across scripts

Unicode IR = Search, Sort, Index, Browse in Any Script

7. Digital Libraries

Multilingual Content Support

Unicode supports multilingual content in:



E-books

Multilingual e-books
in original scripts
without font corruption



Electronic Journals

Scholarly articles
in Hindi, Punjabi,
Chinese, Arabic etc.



Digitised Manuscripts

Ancient handwritten
manuscripts preserved
in original script



Historical Documents

Historical records,
farmans, gazettes
in native scripts



Regional-Language Literature

Punjabi, Tamil, Malayalam,
Bengali literature
accessible digitally



Rare Books and Archival Collections

Rare and archival
collections searchable in
original language

ACCESS • PRESERVE • DISCOVER • UNITE

8. Institutional Repositories

Unicode for Research Storage & Display

Repositories can use Unicode to store and display:



Research Papers

Multilingual research papers
in original scripts



Theses and Dissertations

PhD theses in Punjabi, Hindi,
Urdu etc.



Conference Papers

Conference proceedings
in multiple languages



Faculty Publications

Faculty works searchable
in native script



Multilingual Abstracts and Keywords

Abstracts & keywords in
English + regional languages



Bonus: Global Access

One repository serves diverse
linguistic users worldwide

Institutional Repositories + Unicode = Preserve Research in All Scripts

9. Library Data Exchange

Preserve Characters During Exchange

Unicode helps preserve characters when records are:

Imported

Records imported
without character loss
or mojibake

Exported

Records exported in
UTF-8 preserving
all scripts

Migrated to Another System

System migration retains
Punjabi, Hindi,
Arabic etc.

Shared with Another Library

Inter-library sharing
without font corruption

Added to a Union Catalogue

Union catalogue displays
all languages correctly

Exchanged Between Databases

Cross-database exchange
keeps original scripts intact

**UTF-8 is commonly used for storing
and exchanging such Unicode text.**

10. Library Networks and Resource Sharing

Multilingual Records for Cooperation

Unicode facilitates multilingual records in:



Union Catalogues

Unified catalogue displays books in all Indian & world languages correctly



Library Consortia

Consortia sharing works without script loss across member libraries



Shared Databases

Central databases preserve original scripts during exchange



Cooperative Cataloguing Systems

One record created in original script used by all libraries



Interlibrary Loan Networks

ILL requests and bibliographic data exchange without mojibake

Unicode + Library Networks = One Record, All Scripts, All Libraries

11. Digitisation and Cultural Preservation

Preserve Heritage Digitally

Unicode helps libraries preserve digitally:



Indigenous and Regional Languages

Punjabi, Dogri, Kashmiri, Santhali etc. preserved in original script without loss



Historical Texts

Farmans, gazettes, colonial records digitised in native scripts



Rare Manuscripts

Ancient handwritten granths, pothis preserved digitally in original script



Local Literature

Folklore, oral literature, regional stories archived for future generations



Cultural Heritage Materials

Cultural artifacts, inscriptions, heritage documents searchable digitally

It reduces dependence on obsolete or proprietary fonts
Unicode = Future-proof, Open Standard Preservation

12. Accessible Library Services

Inclusive Access for All Users

Correctly encoded Unicode text can support:



Screen Readers

Screen readers read Unicode text correctly in any language for visually impaired



Multilingual Interfaces

Library OPAC and website interface in Hindi, English etc.



Text Selection and Copying

Users can select, copy, paste text without breaking characters



Search Within Documents

Full-text search works inside e-books and documents in any script



Translation and Text-Processing Tools

Unicode text works with Google Translate, spell-check, NLP tools



Access Through Different Devices

Same Unicode text displays correctly on mobile, tablet, PC, any OS

Unicode Accessibility = One Text, All Devices, All Users, All Assistive Tools

Unicode Supports: Overview (1/2)

Key Library Applications

Unicode supports:



1. Multilingual Cataloguing

Cataloguing in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil etc. in original scripts without transliteration loss



2. Original-Script Bibliographic Records

Bibliographic records display author, title in native script as published



3. Multilingual OPAC Searching

Users search OPAC in their own language and script, find books accurately



4. Metadata and Authority Control

Authority files, subject headings maintained consistently in all scripts via Unicode

Part 1 of 2 — Core Cataloguing & Discovery

Unicode Supports: Overview (2/2)

Digital Preservation & Access

Unicode supports:



5. Digital Libraries and Repositories

E-books, journals, theses, manuscripts preserved in original scripts digitally



6. Record Exchange and Interoperability

Import/export/migration between systems preserves all scripts via UTF-8 without mojibake



7. Digitisation and Cultural Preservation

Indigenous languages, rare manuscripts, heritage materials archived future-proof without proprietary fonts



8. Accessible Library Services

Screen readers, multilingual OPAC, text selection, search, translation, all devices support Unicode

Part 2 of 2 — Preservation, Sharing & Accessibility
— Unicode = One Standard for All Scripts

Unicode in Libraries
— Core Concept —



**Unicode enables libraries to
manage multilingual information
accurately within one integrated system.**

**One Standard = All Scripts
One Integrated Library System**

Transition to ReCON

From Unicode to Retrospective Conversion

Important questions:

Libraries often possess thousands of older catalogue records.

How are old card catalogues converted into digital records?

How are multilingual records preserved during conversion?
These questions lead to Retrospective Conversion (ReCON), the process of

How can libraries make old records searchable online?

converting manual catalogue records into searchable digital records. ReCON changes existing catalogue records from manual form into digital form for storage, search, and use by computer systems.

61

What is ReCON?

Retrospective Conversion (ReCON)

ReCON is the process of converting existing manual catalogue records into digital records that computers can store, search, and use.

Simple Formula

OLD RECORDS → DIGITAL RECORDS



Meaning of Retrospective

Looking Back

The word "Retrospective" means:

- Looking back at existing records
- Working with records already held
- Preserving earlier cataloguing efforts
- Converting older records into modern formats

Meaning of Conversion

Changing the Form

Manual record → Digital record

Changing record format

Card catalogue → Database entry

Paper record → Machine-readable record

The information remains the same.

Only the format changes.

Meaning of Bibliographic

Describing Information Resources

Bibliographic information includes:

Author

Title

Edition

Subject

Call Number

These elements identify and describe library resources.

ReCON in One Formula

Looking Back

ReCON

+

Changing Format

+

Bibliographic Information

=

ReCON preserves information while changing its format from manual to digital.

Why Libraries Need ReCON

Many libraries still possess:

Card catalogues

Printed catalogues

Legacy records

Backlog collections

These records must be converted
for effective automation.

Problem with Manual Records

Manual records:

Cannot be searched electronically

Require physical access

Are time-consuming to use

Limit information access

These limitations reduce efficiency.

ReCON and Library Automation

Without ReCON:

Library automation depends on digital records.

Old holdings remain inaccessible online

Catalogues remain incomplete

Automation remains partial

ReCON supports complete automation.

ReCON Preserves Earlier Work

ReCON:

Libraries invest years in cataloguing.

Preserves previous efforts

Avoids duplicate work

Retains bibliographic information

Makes old records useful again

ReCON and User Access

After conversion:

- **Records become searchable**
- **Discovery improves**
- **Access becomes faster**
- **Users locate resources more easily**

ReCON vs Current Cataloguing

Important Difference

However:

- **Both create digital records.**
- Current cataloguing handles new materials.
- ReCON handles existing materials.

Current Cataloguing

Characteristics

Daily library activity

New materials

New records created

Begins when items arrive

Current cataloguing supports ongoing collection growth.

Retrospective Conversion

Characteristics

Project-based activity

Existing materials

Existing records converted

Supports complete automation

ReCON focuses on backlog and historical records.

What Makes a Good ReCON Project?

A successful ReCON project should be:

- Quick
- Affordable
- Consistent
- Accurate

Quick

Efficient Completion

A good project:

- Avoids unnecessary delays
- Uses time efficiently
- Follows a planned schedule
- Completes work systematically

Affordable

Cost Effectiveness

A good project:

- Uses resources carefully
- Controls expenses
- Reduces duplication
- Maximizes productivity

Consistent

Uniform Record Structure

Consistency requires:

- Standardized entries
- Common cataloguing practices
- Uniform record formats
- Reliable data quality

Accurate

Quality Assurance

Accuracy requires:

Verification

Error checking

Careful review

Reliable bibliographic data

Every record should be checked before use.

Main Benefits of ReCON

Four Major Benefits

Faster Service

Lower Cost

Resource Sharing

Better Planning

These benefits make ReCON essential for modern libraries.

Benefit 1: Faster Library Service

Digital records improve library operations by:

Speeding up searches

Improving retrieval

Supporting shared databases

Organizing routine work

Faster service is one of the most visible outcomes of ReCON.

81

Why Faster Service Matters

Traditional Situation

Before ReCON:

Users searched card catalogues manually.

Staff spent more time locating records.

Information retrieval was slower.

Access to collections was limited.

Digital records improve service speed.



Benefits for Users

Better User Experience

Digital records allow users to:

Search independently

Find resources quickly

Access complete collections

Discover materials more efficiently

Users receive faster and more effective service.

Benefits for Staff

Improved Efficiency

Staff can:

Locate holdings quickly

Reduce repetitive work

Improve productivity

Manage records more effectively

Routine operations become easier.

One Shared Database

Unified Information Source

Digital records support:

A single catalogue

Shared access

Better coordination

Improved consistency

Different services can use the same database.

Lower Cost

Reducing Duplication

Maintaining both:

- Card catalogues
- Computer catalogues
- requires additional resources.
- ReCON reduces duplication and lowers costs.

Reduced Manual Work

Improved Productivity

Digital records help libraries:

Avoid repeated data entry

Reduce repetitive tasks

Use staff time efficiently

Improve workflow

This leads to operational savings.

One Shared Source of Information

Simplified Management

Benefits include:

One catalogue to maintain

Easier updates

Better consistency

Fewer errors

A shared source improves control over records.

Better Protection of Records

Protecting Bibliographic Data

Paper records may suffer from:

Loss

Damage

Deterioration

Misplacement

Digital records provide additional protection.

Digital Backups

Safeguarding Information

Backups help libraries:

Preserve records

Recover information

Reduce risk

Improve reliability

Digital preservation becomes easier.

Recovery After Problems

Business Continuity

If records are lost or damaged:

Backups can be restored

Information remains available

Services can continue

Recovery becomes easier

Digital records improve resilience.

Resource Sharing

Expanding Access

Benefits:

Digital records can be shared among libraries.

Visibility

Access

Cooperation

Discovery

Resource sharing is a major advantage of ReCON.

Combined Catalogues

Union Catalogue Development

Digital records can contribute to:

Combined catalogues

Shared databases

Collections become more visible.

Union catalogues

Collaborative systems

Sharing Catalogue Information

Exchange of Bibliographic Data

Libraries can share:

Catalogue records

Holdings information

Bibliographic descriptions

Metadata

Digital records facilitate information exchange.

Support for Interlibrary Loan

Better Resource Access

Shared records help libraries:

Identify holdings

Locate materials

Facilitate borrowing

Support cooperation

Interlibrary loan services become more effective.

Greater Visibility of Collections

Making Resources Discoverable

Digital records help:

Increase collection visibility

Improve discovery

Reach more users

Expand access

Collections become easier to find and use.

Better Collection Planning

Evidence-Based Decisions

Digital records help libraries:

Understand holdings

Identify strengths

Planning becomes more informed.

Analyze collections

Identify weaknesses

Understanding the Collection

Collection Analysis

Libraries can:

Count materials

Review subjects

Examine formats

Assess coverage

Digital records provide better insight.

Identifying Strong Areas

Recognizing Collection Strengths

Libraries can determine:

Well-developed subjects

Strong collections

Research strengths

Areas of specialization

This supports future planning.

Identifying Weak Areas

Finding Collection Gaps

Libraries can identify:

Missing subjects

Underdeveloped areas

Collection deficiencies

Future acquisition needs

Weak areas become easier to address.

Detecting Duplicates and Planning Purchases

Improving Collection Development

Digital records help libraries:

Detect unnecessary duplicates

Review collection balance

Plan future acquisitions

Support evidence-based purchasing

ReCON supports better long-term collection management.