

## ABSTRACT

# The Use of Computers in Special Libraries in the National Information System of Jamaica

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The use of computers in special libraries in Jamaica is a relatively slow development and a fairly recent phenomenon. These are due to factors which affect technology use, in particular information technology, in Third World countries. The survey describes how and why computers are being used in special libraries, using data gathered through interviewing senior personnel in twenty-three special libraries known to be using computers. The interview instrument was a pre-designed questionnaire, Appendix 1.

From the data gathered a profile typical of a computerized special library in Jamaica was developed. Other areas for which the data provided answers were types of computers and peripherals used, related training acquired by library staff; computer applications; objectives in automating; problems in automating; degree of success in automating and finally future automation plans.

The conclusion is drawn that automation programmes must be accelerated so that special libraries can effectively provide information pertinent to the country's objectives of economic growth and development.