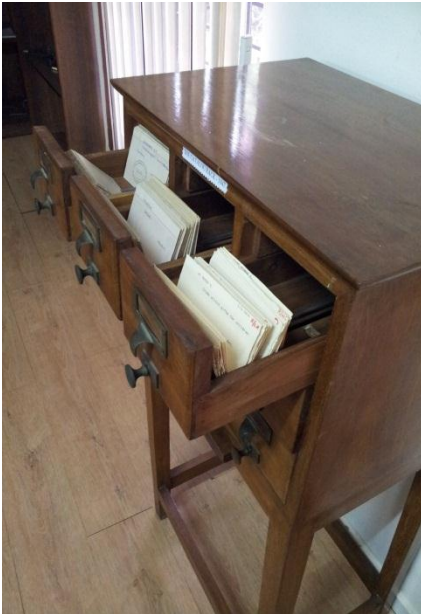


Card Catalog library file drawers

The **card catalog** was a familiar sight to library users for generations, but it has been effectively replaced by the **online public access catalog (OPAC)** as in our college. Many of the libraries that have retained their physical card



catalog post a sign advising the last year that the card catalog was updated. Some libraries have eliminated their card catalog in favour of the OPAC for the purpose of saving space.



A catalog also serves as an **inventory** or **bookkeeping** of what's in the library. If an item (a book) is not found in the catalog, the user doesn't have to search the shelves. A catalog card is an individual record in a library catalog. In a physical catalog the record fills one small card, which is placed in order in the catalog drawer

depending on the type of record, which would be filed alphabetically.