ICT Applications in Library Services Unit 4 Biometrics Meaning and Definition

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BIOMETRICS

DEFINITION AND MEANING

- The term biometrics is commonly used today to refer to the authentication of a person by analyzing physical characteristics such a fingerprints, or behavioral characteristics such as signatures.
- Biometrics provide a more reliable system of authentication than ID cards, keys, passwords or

other traditional systems.

- A biometric is any measurable, robust, distinctive, physical characteristic or personal trait of an individual that can be used to identify or verify the claimed identity.
- Biometric authentication reefers to automated methods of identifying or verifying the identity of a living person in real time based on a physical characteristic or personal trait.



- The word 'biometrics' is derived from the Greek word 'bios' and 'metric' which means life and measurement respectively. This directly translates into life measurement.
- Biometrics is an automated method of identifying a person or verifying the identity of a person based on physiological or behavioral characteristics.



- Examples of physiological characteristics include hand or finger images, facial characteristics and iris recognition.
- Behavioral characteristics are traits that are learned or acquired.
- Dynamic signature verification, speaker verification and keystroke dynamics are examples of behavioral characteristics.





