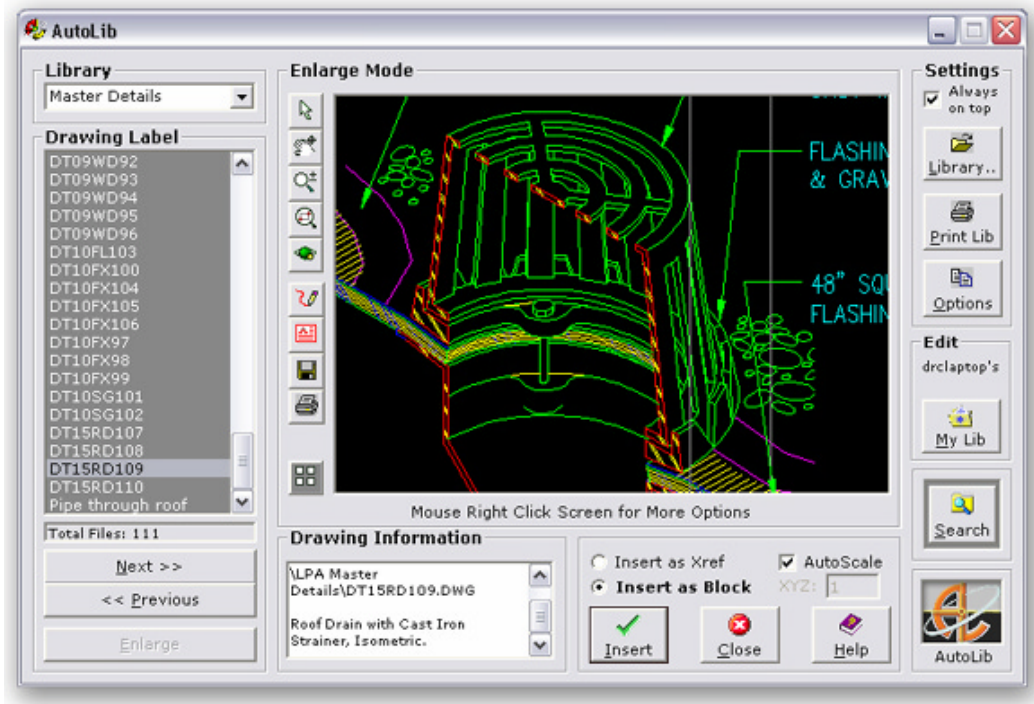




AutoLib White Paper



AutoLib (pronounced Auto-“Lyb” as in “library”) is a detail and symbol management software utility for users of AutoCAD. In the following pages we will discuss:

- ArchMedia history- the development of AutoLib
- Past methods for detail and symbol management
- “AutoLib in a nutshell”
- The benefits of AutoLib
- Users of AutoLib- Administrators, Reviewers, and Operators
- Getting started with AutoLib
- Organizing your files on the network
- Tips and Tricks
- AutoCAD compatibility and technical specifications
- Summary



ArchMedia history- the development of AutoLib

ArchMedia, Inc. creates productivity software tools that save time, increase efficiency and provide solutions for CAD specific needs. We are a group of working professionals dedicated to the Design, Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Industries. As members of the Autodesk Developer Network, our goal is to write innovative software utilities for users of AutoCAD.

The impetus for the development of AutoLib was the identification of recurring problems in the area of detail and symbol management. With over thirty years of combined experience in the field of architecture, the two ArchMedia founders set out to create a software tool to assist in drawing sheet creation. These drawing sheets which are ultimately the medium for agency approval and construction are the end result of vision, design, industry standards, code requirements, firm knowledge base, and aesthetic preference for presentation of the completed construction document. Unfortunately the pieces that make up the drawing sheet puzzle are often fragmented and lack administrative control.

Past methods for detail and symbol management

Note: the word "file" may be used to describe a detail, symbol, .dwg AutoCAD file, CAD drawing etc.)

One of the main benefits of CAD is the ability to re-use electronic drawings. The preparation of construction details and symbols has evolved from drafting anew for each project, to reproducing (photocopying) files for use on subsequent projects, to the generation of CAD files which are easily modified and re-used. By developing a standardized system for organizing files, locating them via keyword search, and systematically assembling them on a drawing sheet, many of the inefficiencies that exist today among users of CAD can be minimized.

Until now, company standard details have been hard to manage, update, and implement. Some firms maintain hard copy printouts of details stored in a three-ring binder which can make updates and distribution a cumbersome task. Others have implemented an Intranet system with static .dwf images of the details that soon becomes a time consuming effort to manage and update. AutoLib solves these and many other problems with features such as instant updating of thumbnail views and administrative control of library creation and editing. AutoLib users will quickly realize the benefits that organization and retrieval of standard details and symbols can provide.



“AutoLib in a nutshell”

AutoLib is a full-featured detail and symbol management interface for users of AutoCAD®. The software has been designed to assist in the management of pre-drawn CAD details and symbols for use in drawing sheet creation, or for general organization and retrieval of drawing files. The program solves many of today's problems regarding the management, dissemination, and utilization of company standard details and symbols. AutoLib can become the single source library that finally makes your valuable inventory of details and symbols work for you!

Features:

- Simple interface that requires little or no training to get users up and running
- Search engine that can read keywords embedded in the drawing file
- Thumbnail or enlarged viewing capability with real-time updates of drawing files
- Reads AutoCAD drawing properties for description, keywords and drawing scale
- Utilizes full Autodesk Volo View Express capabilities including mark-up Administrative settings to control library creation and editing
- Unique "MyLib" feature that lets users create custom libraries
- Ability to copy xrefs from a master directory folder to a project folder before attaching to current drawing
- AutoScale feature scales detail and symbols automatically- based on embedded drawing properties
- Batch printing capability to quickly produce a hard copy set of entire drawing inventory
- Designed for users of AutoCAD, yet functions with or without AutoCAD installed or running in the background!

The Benefits of AutoLib

The features above describe the product's functionalities, but AutoLib's biggest asset is the ability to save you time. Assembling drawing sheets with AutoLib is as simple as "hunt, pick, and place."TM Easy to say, harder to prove. Consider the following:

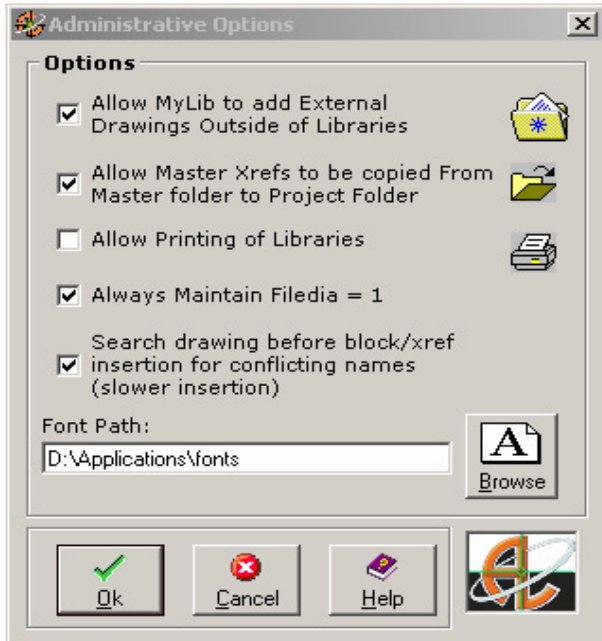
1. Which files are approved for use? AutoLib controls which files are made available to Operators. Removing doubt saves you time.
2. Are your files all in one location on the network? AutoLib can utilize networked or local files. One interface for access to all of your files saves you time.
3. Do you have a naming methodology for your details? Are they grouped? Creating folders / libraries in AutoLib creates smaller groups. Grouping files saves you time.
4. Many files look similar. AutoLib's enlarged viewing, keyword search and file description helps identify files. Verification of files saves you time.
5. Do you have to scale your drawings and symbols when you insert / attach them? Autoscale saves you time.
6. Can you view groups of files at one time? Thumbnail viewing saves you time.
7. Are you viewing the most current file? Real time updates save you time.



Users of AutoLib

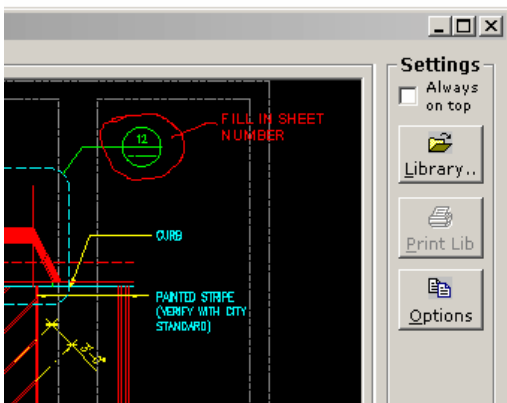
Administrators

AutoLib has been designed for use by multiple individuals within an Organization and provides for Administrative control. The AutoLib interface “grays out” certain controls to prevent the manipulation of administrative settings. For example, Library printing can be disabled.



Reviewers

AutoLib has been designed to run independently from AutoCAD. One of the benefits of this feature is that detail libraries can be searched, viewed, and batch printed. In addition, the VoloView Express™ features available in the “Enlarge” mode include redline editing. Once Libraries have been created, those responsible for approving details may wish to batch print and hand redline (or redline within AutoLib) for subsequent file revisions / updates.



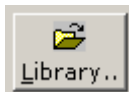
Operators



Once the libraries have been established within AutoLib, Operators may begin assembling drawing sheets with approved files. The “My Lib” feature allows all Operators to generate custom libraries with their most frequently used files.

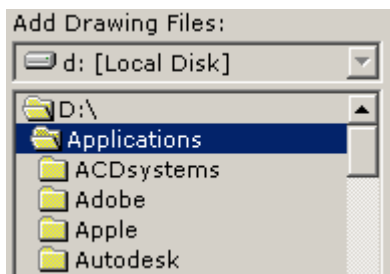
Getting Started With AutoLib... in 5 easy steps

1. Populate the database
 - The thumbnail display of the AutoLib interface will appear as blank cells when the demo software is first downloaded, or the purchased software is activated. Given administrator access, all one needs to do is create new libraries (folders) and populate those libraries with the files!
2. Create a library
 - Hit the “Library” icon to take you to the “Create / Edit Library” mode

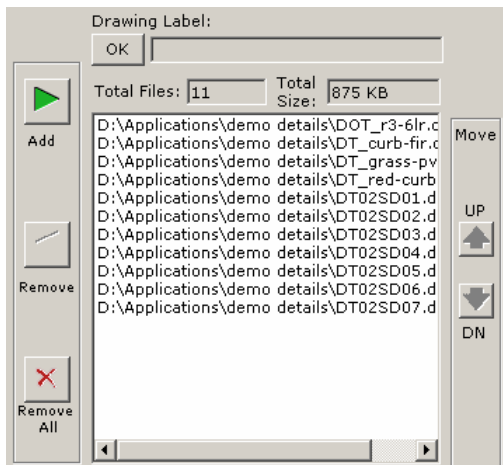


- Then create a new library in the “Type New Library Name” box

3. Find your files
 - Navigate to the location of your files



4. Add your files to the library
 - Pick individually, or group select





- Hit the green arrow to add them to your new library, then hit “done”



5. Save your changes

You will then return to the Operator interface to view your handiwork. Now hit the “library” button again, scroll down to your new library and...“voila.” You are on your way to mastering AutoLib.

Organizing your files on the network

The following are some thoughts about how files might be organized for integration into the AutoLib system.

1. A forward-thinking methodology should be established for the location of the files before populating “Auto-libraries.” AutoLib always references the source / location of the file once libraries are created and files added. Moving or deleting files will result in a “failed” icon in the thumbnail view.



2. The ability to copy Master Files to Project Folders prior to drawing insertion ensures that drawing sheets reference files specific to each project. Referencing drawings specific to certain projects allows the master files to be moved, re-named, and edited without affecting the destination file. Correspondingly, a project file is often edited slightly to tailor to the needs of the particular project. In short, Master Files are often “building blocks.” However, depending on the file’s function (north arrow vs. flashing detail) the Master File may never need to be manipulated. Lastly, a “watermark” can be embedded in files and designed to disappear when the file is exploded to demonstrate whether or not the file has been edited.
3. Filenames may follow a naming convention. For example, a detail file may begin with “DT” followed by a number corresponding to the construction division. Regardless of how a file is named, once in use by AutoLib the drawing label can be changed to the Administrator’s preference. Once the drawing information (including keywords) has been added within AutoCAD, the libraries (groupings) and keywords become the organizational vehicle for file retrieval.

Tips and Tricks

Over time, the collaboration between Operator, Administrator, and Reviewer will lead to an effective use of AutoLib tailored to the specific needs of your Organization. The following are some suggestions for detail creation and sheet assembly.



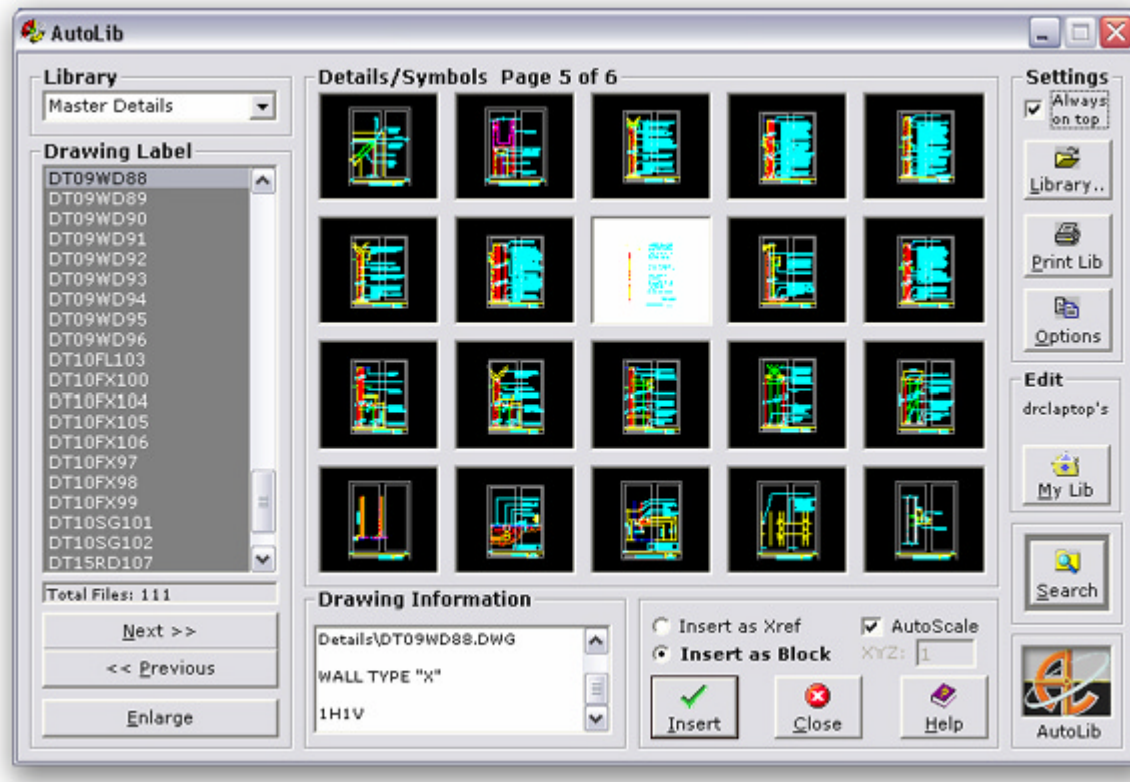
1. A grid for detail sheets should be established based on available drawing area. (sheet size, less titleblock information) Organizations may have different size sheets and different titleblocks. (right justified, bottom justified)
2. Detail files may be configured and therefore identified in units of "horizontal" and "vertical." For example one detail may be 1Hx1V while another may be 2Hx3V.
3. Insertion points for each detail should be established to facilitate locating details on sheets corresponding to the grid.
4. Details and symbols might be organized by drafting symbols, titleblock information, construction division, use, (for example "balcony details") exterior, interior etc. The beauty of AutoLib is that it is customizable to the user.

AutoCAD compatibility and technical specifications

- AutoLib is compatible with AutoCAD 2000 and higher. One of the most powerful features of AutoLib is the ability to keyword search for files. Not until AutoCAD 2000, were drawing properties embedded in each file, and these drawing properties are the means by which the keyword functionality operates.
- AutoLib does not work with AutoCAD LT. Autodesk has positioned the LT product as a less expensive, "limited feature AutoCAD" option and therefore does not support third-party enhancements.
- AutoLib is fully compatible with Architectural Desktop.
- Look for new releases. ArchMedia is focused on continual improvement.



Summary



Isn't it beautiful!

The beauty is that the interface was designed with the user in mind. In today's economy, economy is everything. We need tools that make us more efficient, effective, and productive. AutoLib wasn't the result of a "wouldn't that be cool?" or "wouldn't that be fun?" but instead it is the result creating a solution to address recurring problems in the area of detail and symbol management.

ArchMedia Inc. knows how you work. Want to see your productivity increase? AutoLib has been designed by working professionals. Let it work for you.