

ext files source files and binary files etc. Many operating systems support many types of files. Operating system like MS-DOS and UNIX have the following types of files –

Ordinary files

These are the files that contain user information.

These may have text, databases or executable program.

The user can apply various operations on such files like add, modify, delete or even remove the entire file.

Directory files

These files contain list of file names and other information related to these files.

Special files

These files are also known as device files.

These files represent physical device like disks, terminals, printers, networks, tape drive etc.

These files are of two types –

Character special files – data is handled character by character as in case of terminals or printers.

Block special files – data is handled in blocks as in the case of disks and tapes.

File Access Mechanisms

File access mechanism refers to the manner in which the records of a file may be accessed.

There are several ways to access files –

Sequential access

Direct/Random access

Indexed sequential access

Sequential access

A sequential access is that in which the records are accessed in some sequence, i.e., the information in the file is processed in order, one record after the other. This access method i