Research Papers

LIBRARY CONSORTIA IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract :

Libraries and information centres in India are facing a lot of problems for the limited budgets for purchasing the reading materials. This article provides an overview of different types of library consortia available in India such as UGC-Infonet, FORSA, CeRA, IIM Library Consortium, HELINET, N-LIST E-consortium, INDEST, CSIR E-journals Consortia. Library consortium is combined activity of a group of libraries to manage the information.

KEYWORDS :

UGC-Infonet, FORSA, CeRA, IIM, HELINET, N-LIST, INDEST, CSIR, Library consortium.

1.INTRODUCTION

The vast storage of information and knowledge are available in the libraries or information centres. Libraries and information centres plays a vital role in the growth of research and development in every field. Today's observed that most of the print journals are costly and every libraries and information centres cannot have enough money to subscribe all types of print as well as e-journals. It is renowned truth that each library or information centres cannot get all types of information resources which is required by its users.

Many organizations, government and private institutions having improved their R&D activities need current information. For this purpose these organizations, government and private institutions are totally dependent on their libraries for the current information in their relevant field. To handle with this problem, library consortium has come into existence with wide coverage. The growth of consortia is the outcome of the desire for resource sharing, and consortia seem to be getting broader. Library consortium has been effectively implemented in the libraries of developed countries. Consortium is a shared contract between the group of libraries and information centres which agree together to cooperate with each other. "A library consortium is a group of libraries who partner to coordinate activities, share resources, and combine expertise. The International Coalition of Library Consortia is an informal discussion group of such consortia." (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_consortium)

According to Webster's new International Dictionary "Library consortia is an agreement, combination, or group formed to undertake and enterprise beyond the resources of any one member"

A consortium is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal. Consortium is a Latin word, meaning "partnership", "association or society" and derives consor 'partner', itself from con-'together' and sors 'fate', meaning owner of means or comrade. (Available at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consortia)

NEED OF LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Information explosion
Diversity of users need
Financial crunch
Impossibility of self-sufficiency
Overloaded Budgets

Willingness of publishers
Quick Access
Improving quality standard of research
Professionalism of Library Science
Future developments
Limited Resources

SOME IMPORTANT LIBRARY CONSORTIA IN INDIA

UGC-Infonet

UGC-Infonet is an indomitable programme of UGC to interconnect the entire Universities in the nation with state-of-art technology. It was officially launched by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, President of India at Vigyan Bhawan in 2003 under the UGC-Infonet plan. The plan was set up by the Chairman of University Grant Commission and it was the outcome of an understanding and co-operation between UGC, ERNET, INFLIBNET, National and International level publisher, etc. The UGC –Info net is completely funded by UGC and monitored by INFLIBNET centre, Ahmadabad. It was launched to bring about a qualitative revolutionize in the educational communications, particularly for upper learning. The Consortium supply new as well as archival access to more than 7500+ core and peer-reviewed journals and 10 bibliographic databases from 26 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. The plan has been implemented in stage manner. In the first stage that the starting in 2004, right to use to e-resources was provided to fifty universities while in the second stage, fifty more universities were additional to the plan in the year 2005. So far 209 Universities including 14 National Law schools and central universities that come under the purview of UGC have been provided differential access to subscribed e-resources. These e-resources covers approximately all subject disciplines with arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical Sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc..

N-LIST E-consortium

The Project National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST), being jointly executed by the UGC INFONET Digital Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT, Delhi provides for cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by two consortia and access to selected e-resources to colleges. The N-LIST provides access of e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other recipient institutions through server installed at the INFLIBNET centre. As on Dec 11 2013, a total number of 3527 colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 3214 Govt. / Govt.-aided colleges covered under the section 12 B/2F of UGC Act as well as Non-Aided colleges . Log-in ID and password for accessing e-resources has been sent to the authorized users from these 3214 colleges. All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are now accessible to these 3214 colleges through the N-LIST website (http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in). The N-LIST provides 2037 full text journals, 3046 e-books and other bibliographic databases.

INDEST (Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology (Indest) Consortium

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) set-up the "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium" on the advice made by the specialist Group selected by the ministry under the chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan. The Ministry provides finances required for subscription to e-resources for 60 institutions including Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institute of Technology, National Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management and a small number of other funded Government institutions through the consortium headquarters set-up at the Indian Institute Technology, Delhi. Besides, 8 Government or Government-aided engineering colleges and technical departments in universities have joined the Consortium with financial support from the AICTE. All electronic resources being subscribed are available from the publisher's Website. The INDEST-AICTE Consortium is the most ambitious initiative taken so far in the country. Now, 1245 engineering colleges and other institutions joined under self support- new scheme.

CSIR E-journals Consortia

CSIR Consortia: NISCAIR, New Delhi along with 40 laboratories of CSIR formed a consortium named Consortium for CSIR Laboratories for Accessing E-journals. The consortium was full swing in 2002 after getting a contract with the Elsevier Science for a time period of four years for 1200 online journals. CSIR has taken the major 11th five-year plan for continuing access e-journal consortium and also to enlarge the resources base similar to world's most important institutions The objectives behind this consortium are to build up the pooling, sharing and electronically accessing the CSIR library e-resources, to give access to S&T literature to CSIR laboratories and to nucleate the culture of electronic access resulting into evolution of digital libraries. NISCAIR, that has been entrusted the carrying out of this project, aims at providing access to 4500 e-journals to all the department of S & T of CSIR throughout pooling and sharing resources. Nowadays, consortium has agreements of 29 information products with journals, bibliographic databases, patents, standards and protocols

FORSA Consortia

Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FORSA) was launched in 1981. FORSA consortium is set of connections of a group of astronomy libraries. The institutions particular in astronomy and astrophysics is member in this consortium. From this Consortium publishers and the libraries together are profitable, for the reason that libraries acquire the journals at the economical rates where as publisher increases the sale of their publications. Through this consortium, all the libraries of Department of Science & Technology are provided online access to e-journals of various publishers. Currently FORSA has twelve members and it works towards the goals and services which the creator members have started.

IIM Library Consortia

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) has established the IIM Library consortia in 2000 to make easy and better resource sharing between the IIM libraries and to decrease the expenses on payment to a variety of e-resources. IIMs have started combined subscriptions to the databases and e-journals from Kluwer, Blackwell, Elsevier, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, and MCB University Press (Emerald Full-Text Intelligent Library). Nowadays, IIMs are part of the INDEST, consortium plan established by the Ministry of HRD in 2002. As a result of both these initiatives, every IIM is getting on-line as well as off-line accesses to over 1050 e-journals directly are sourced from various publishers and over 10000 approximately full-text E-Journals, IIMs are capable to get online access across all the campuses, by paying a nominal additional amount.

HELINET Consortium

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Karnataka realises that useful information resources like journals and books are costly and, hence, build up a complete collection at every college was impossible besides leading to unwanted duplication. For the solution of this problem the Rajiv Gandhi Health Science University was conceived as the consortium of all the faculty and research institutions linked to the university to pursue this need for network and libraries. HELINET consortium is first of its kind in the country when it was started in the field of health science information network in the year 2002. HELINET stands for "Health Science Library and Information Network" conceived by the University and successfully implemented. The consortium was started with a vision to improve the quality of education and research in the Medical Science institutions of the state through enhanced access to high quality medical information. HELINET goal is to distribute information to users' desk-top, with round-the-clock access.

The major advantage of this consortium was expanded access to core international e-journals. Prior to the beginning of the consortium; access to international medical journals by each college was limited to approximately 100. HELINET has made it possible for all colleges to access and distribute the contents in over 600 core international e-journals, more than 2000 e-books and more than 1500 videos and databases are being subscribed and provided to the users of all the respective affiliated colleges under RGUHS.

CeRA CONSORTIUM

With the fast development of literature explosion; internet facilities and development of web technology, today approximately all most cited reputed foreign and national journals are accessible on-line and can be simply accessed by the users over the network. Since ICAR is having network connectivity across Institutes and State Agricultural Universities, selected journals could be made available over the network for the use of scientific area. National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) has funded for establishing the Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in November 2007 to make easy accessibility of scientific journals to all types of users in the field of Agricultural by providing access to journals online which is vital for having excellence in research. At present CeRA provided access to a collection of more than 2,000 Journals including print as well as electronic from different publishers like Infomatrics, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Indian journals, Annual review and Elsevier etc.

CONCLUSION

The libraries and information centres are facing a lot of problems of space, impact of information communication technology and the limited budgets. In the 21st century the demands of the journals have increased over the last few years due to the information explosion. Due to the lack of limited budget the libraries and information centres have been forced to discontinue the research journals which have vast collision to the users. For providing the information services to the users library consortium is the best way to subscribe the e-resources. The hard work of UGC-Infonet, CSIR Consortia, INDEST consortia, FORSA consortia and CeRA consortia etc. are very important for the different types of information resources. Library Consortia has been played a pivotal role in the growth of higher education and R&D in every field.

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