



NETWORK BASED LIBRARY COOPERATION AND RESOURCES SHARING: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In the electronic era, library cooperation and resource sharing means library collaborating with one or more libraries to maximize access to a larger array of resources by sharing the collections of the cooperating libraries or pooling fund to purchase shared resources. In the days of shrinking resources, and budget, many libraries participating in some type of resource sharing, even when they may not be aware of it. This requires each participating institution or university to contribute in the network of their extended libraries family.

KEYWORDS : Networking, Library Cooperation, Resources Sharing, Electronic Environment.

INTRODUCTION

The twenty-first century start with a digital revolution and economic globalization. The rapid pace of development in the field of information technology coupled with the advent networked information services has called for total review of Indian University resources sharing approach in this age of the digital divide.

All over the world, university have banded together in both national and regional consortia to not only realize economics of sales out as the continent which does not yet have full-fledged regional research and educational bandwidth initiative. This paper highlights the efforts made by Indian university libraries to develop and use the information and communication technology for collaboration among administrative and academic communities through increased bandwidth and



knowledge networking. Resource sharing provides the cooperating libraries with an opportunity to access materials from other libraries, which should result in a cost savings, and networking made easy access of resources anytime and anywhere.

NEED FOR LIBRARY RESOURCES SHARING:

There is a need for resources sharing among all type of libraries. The immediate factors that enhance the resource sharing activities among the libraries are as follows:

- 1.No single library can satisfy all the information needs of users.
- 2.Due to literature explosion, it is not possible for a library to acquire all the bibliographic materials at one place.
- 3.Individual libraries cannot afford the cost of acquiring the materials,

hardware and software and the manpower required to maintain the modern information technologies.

4. Gradual decrease in the budgetary provision for the library and information centers to provide various information services.
5. Government cut on funding the information activities in view of liberalization, globalization, and privatization of such activities.
6. Availability of access facilities for various types of database, electronic information and increases in users and their demand for information.
7. Inadequacy of infrastructure facilities, storage space, etc. for individual libraries to cope with the modern trends.

OBJECTIVE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES SHARING:

The main objectives of resources sharing can be summarized as follows:

1. Accessibility to available resources at minimum cost.
2. Making the resources available to the users of the other libraries at ease.
3. Providing all sort of information services to users and to meet their information need at a minimum cost. To reveal the content of a large number of libraries, especially through accessibility of catalogue database, using OPAC interface.
4. To make resources shown in the catalogue database available to individual libraries and users when and where they needed.
5. To share the expenses and the work involved in creating database through the exchange of record and associated activities.

RESOURCE SHARING METHODS:

Some methods of resources sharing are generally being practice international and national.

1. Electronic publication and multimedia.
2. Union list.
3. Electronic mail
4. MARC: An international standard digital format for the description of bibliographic.
5. Z39.50: This protocol definitely saves time and effort of technical staff of any library. It should be a part and parcel of a standard resources sharing program.
6. Union catalogues.
7. Web-Online Public access catalogues (Web-OPAC) sharing and Metadata harvesting.
8. Electronic Formats: Hypertext markup language (HTML) portable document format (PDF), Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG), etc. These format are used to convert data (Text, image) into electronic format are easily transferable through internet.
9. Database.
10. WWW: A global network of libraries of internet servers providing access to document written in a script called Hypertext markup language (HTML) that allows content to be interlinked, Locally and remotely. The libraries are widely using this to share resources to each other.

LIBRARY COOPERATION:

An interchange is usually between two or more institution involving a temporary exchange will involve cooperation on a wider scale to include exchange of all kinds of materials, exchange of information user access to participating libraries, sharing of bibliographic catalogue, Union list, and other Bibliographic utilities and cooperative training program of personnel of participating libraries.

“Reciprocally beneficial sharing of resources; developed or pre-existing by two or more libraries” – Edmonds

WEB BASED LIBRARY COOPERATION:

The emergence of internet, particularly the world wide wave (WWW) as new media of the information delivery triggered proliferation of web based full text on-line resources. Internet search engines, particularly Google have become very important centralized information services. Google initiative expand the public internet content have the received a great deal of attention.

It is understood clearly that the communication technology is the only ways and means of library cooperation to fulfill the needs of information users. Many libraries are procuring same materials from the same sources and spending large amount of funds putting strains on their limited budget resulting in difficulty to procure alternate resources. With a view to accessing to information from any corner, library consortium may be formed among the libraries with the help of communication technology. To materialize the concept of concepts for sharing information resources for access to world wide information each and every library has to develop web-based database of its own through a recognized compatible library software.

Digital library softwares from open sources may be used to build up the Digital Library. D-space, E-Print, Greenstone etc. are some user friendly digital library softwares of open sources for building web-based digital library. These softwares are free of cost and may be downloaded from the web. It reveals from the discussion that; collaboration and cooperation among the libraries may be strengthened by forming library consortium utilizing information and communication technology.

LIBRARY NETWORKS:

A network is developed when a group of libraries and information centers have common interest to exchange information through computer and communication technology and Library network is a collective or cooperative activity of linking members/users to the resources hosted on computer by means of telecommunication connections.

- **Resources sharing network:**

The main purpose of the network is resources sharing and other application are subordinate then the network is considered as resourced sharing network.

- **Data sharing network:**

The network provides access to unique database from workstation situated at distance at distance a part e. g. remote access to stock exchange data or Hotel and airline reservation systems.

- **Communication and data exchange network:**

The network allow users to exchange data , graph or document and communicate with each other using such devices as electronic mail, bulletin board etc.

Essential for Library Networking:

- Library networking is meant to promote and facilitate sharing of the resources available within a group of libraries in order to provide maximum information to users to lower operation cost and also to make optimum use of resources.
- In house functions like acquisitions, cataloguing, classification, serial, circulation, SDI, Current Awareness Services etc., should be undertaken by the individual libraries.
- The Network should be able to recommend to participating libraries of hardware the need for their in house function and networking purpose.

Categories of Networks:

1. General Networks in India:

- INDONET (Data Network)
- NICNET (National Information Center Network)
- OPNET (Open Education Network)
- VIKRAM (National Packet Switching Network)
- RABMN(Remote Area Business Message Network)

2.Specialized Networks:

- BTISNET(Biotechnology Information Systems Network)
- CSIRNET (Council of Scientific and industrial Research Network)
- DESINET(Defense Scientific Information Network)
- ERNET(Educational and Research Network)
- INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network)

3. Metropolitan Area Network:

- ADINET (Ahmadabad Library Network)
- CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network)
- DELNET (Developing Library Network)
- MYLIBNET(Mysore Library network)
- BONET (Bombay Library Network)
- INDOLNET (Indore Library Network)

Homepage of Network for Library Cooperation and Resources Sharing:

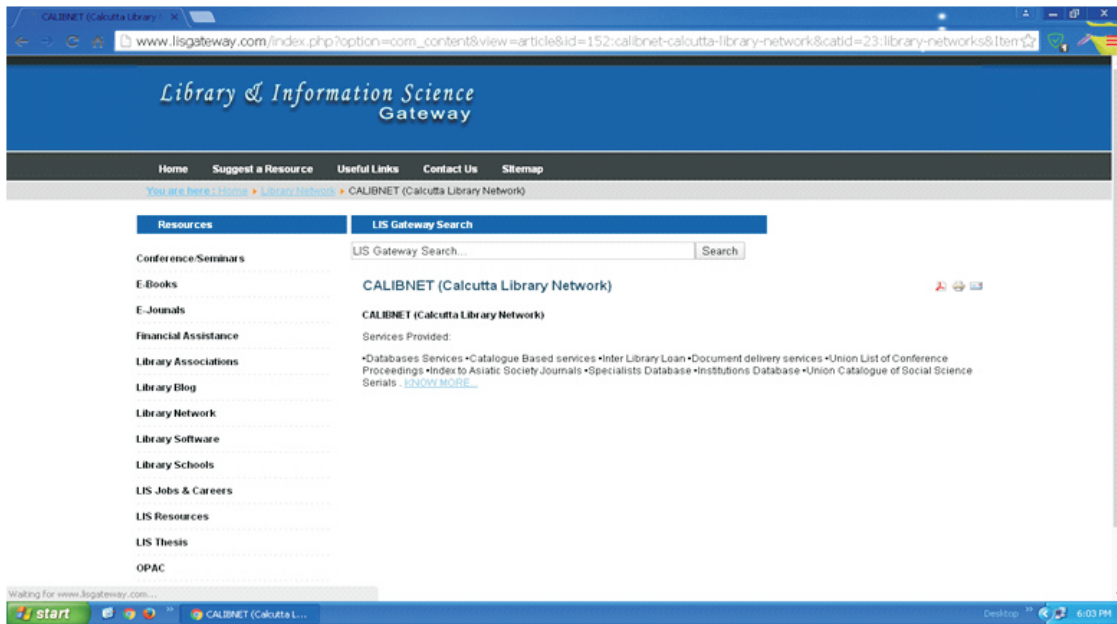
1.NICNET (National Information Centre Network):



1. INFLIBNET (Information Library Network):



3. CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network):



Barriers to Library Cooperation and Resources Sharing:

- Traditional/ Institutional barriers
- Physical and geographical barriers
- Legal, political and administrative barriers
- Computer and telecommunication network barriers
- Copy right and intellectual issues barriers
- Lack of proper training and skill among the Library professional to handle the sophisticated technology tools and to access resources through network.
- Psychological and egotistic from users, librarian and staff

- Urgency for users requirement

CONCLUSIONS:

The explosion of information and the access to resources has created new expectation in patron, which libraries attempt to satisfy creating cooperative alliances that left them share solution and expertise, this study based on library resources sharing and networking in India and how to use resource one to another library in digital environment so that able to library provides maximum services and benefit to users. It is necessary to find new ways to interpret user needs, which have to remain the main focus of libraries.

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