



LIBRARY CONSORTIUM IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Library consortia have emerged as a necessity for libraries due to the technological advancement, availability of large amount of resources, changing user needs, cutting library budget etc. Concept, need, advantages of consortia also the major consortia initiatives in India are discusses in this paper.

KEYWORDS: Library Consortium, Consortia in India, E-resources.

INTRODUCTION :

The impact of recent IT developments both with publishers and librarians is creating tremendous pressure due to consequences of serve economic constraints. The major concerns are ongoing budget cuts and the need to acquire important journals, whose cost rise annually. Shedding resources in print media, library have moved to forming consortia to tide over spiralling journal prices. In



this context, new internet-based technologies uniquely positioned themselves to help all the participants in this collaborative process. Library consortia concepts come from first time from academic libraries formed consortia for the primary purpose of sharing information and resources.

CONCEPT OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA

Recently, academic libraries are having consortia to provide common access to electronic resources cross the internet, and they they are forming these consortia on a state wide basic library. In the current area of information technology, knowledge is the most powerful asset of any country. Libraries are playing a key role in education, research and development. Due to wide use of internet and verity of networks accessibility of e resources increased and lead to increase demand for digitalization form of resources. Online full text journals and electronic resources.

According to the online dictionary of library and information science the consortium is defined as “an association of independent libraries or library systems established a formal agreement, usually for the purpose of resource sharing. Membership maybe restricted to a specific geographical religion, types of library (public, academic and special, or subject specialization. Plural Consortia compare with networks”.

According to oxford English dictionary “consortium means temporary cooperation of a number of powers, companies etc., for a common

purpose. It is an association of similar types of organizations/institutions who are engaged for producing and servicing the common things for providing services for a specific purpose of its users.”

According to above definition we can say that group of collaborating libraries are called cooperatives, networks, collectives, alliances and partnership as well as consortia.

TYPES OF CONSORTIUM

There are many types of consortia. Formulation of formal type of consortium depend upon many factors. Broadly they are following groups with different features:

Open Consortium

In these types, libraries are to join and leave as and when they please. Member libraries are usually homogeneous in nature and require cross sharing of the resources in a specific subject area for example INDEST (Indian National Digital Library in Science & Technology) consortium of MHRD (Ministry of Human Resources Department), Government of India.

Closed Consortium

At the name indicates, these type of consortium are formed by coalition, affiliation and collaboration. Among exclusive member libraries for example CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), DAE (Department of Atomic Energy) and IIM (Indian Institute of Management) consortia.

Centrally Funded Model

In this model, a parent body or the coordinating agency will have the financial responsibility for running the consortium. A few examples are INFONET by UGC, ICMR, CSIR by DSIR.

Shared-budget Model

In this model, the participating libraries take the lead and form the consortium. IIM and FORSA are examples of this model.

Publisher Initiatives

This type of consortia run by publisher or the coordinating agency will have the financial responsibility for running the consortium. The Emerald Full-Text Library published by the Emerald Publishing Group (formerly MCB University Press) is recent example. Here, consortium members will get deep discount price to the participating libraries.

National Consortium

This is a model perceived at national level licensing of products, which includes member libraries from one country like INDEST, UGC INFONET.

International consortium

In this consortium, libraries belonging to different countries participate. This may be formed either by individual libraries, such as OCLC.

Needs of library consortia

- ✦ Increasing of Journal price
- ✦ Shrinking library budget
- ✦ Explosion of information

- ✦ User demand
- ✦ Professionalization.

Advantages of consortium

- ✦ Consortium offers flexible pricing and in result researchers, students and faculty get access to multi journal, multiyear licence access to electronic journals on cheaper price.
- ✦ Incensement of knowledge resource based specially through journals.
- ✦ To enable countrywide integrated resource sharing.
- ✦ Optimum utilization of fund and availability of 24*7.
- ✦ Helpful to provide better services like CAS and SDI.

LIBRARY CONSORTIA IN INDIA

Library consortia in India are below:

CSIR Library Consortia (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has 40 national laboratories carrying out research and development work in the area of Engineering, Biological, Chemical, Physical, Environmental and Information science. The CSIR consortia has provide more than 4500 e-journals in same disciplines.

FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics)

It was started in 1982 its head quarter in Bangalore at Raman Research Institute, Bangalore. The main objective of FORSA resource sharing in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics. This consortia has successfully negotiated with publishers of NATURE to provide access to its e version at a price of almost 1/3 of the price.

HELINET (Health Sciences Library & Information Network)

A Health Sciences Library & Information Network hosted by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore. HELINET is the first medical library consortium. The formation and role of HELINET, the first resource sharing network and e-journal consortium in the medical education sector. HELINET required a mechanism to develop and maintain a common database of journal literature for all the subscribed journals of 30 medical libraries.

IIM's Library Consortia (The Indian Institute of Management)

IIM Library consortia was founded in the year 2000. IIM Library consortia is a Digital Library network system based on internet technology to provide the IIM community (faculty, students and staff) an online web enabled access to the information resources available in all the IIMs without any barriers of time and distance. It will be a simple, efficient and cost effective system. The basic operating principle of this system is decentralized acquisition, decentralized processing and centralized utilization.

INDEST (Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology)

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has set-up the "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium" on the recommendation made by the Expert Group appointed by the ministry under the chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan. The Ministry provides funds required for subscription to electronic resources for (37) institutions (60) Government or Government-aided engineering colleges and technical departments in universities have joined the Consortium with financial support from the AICTE. The INDEST consortia subscribes to over

4000 electronic journals.

ICICI Knowledge Park

The knowledge park at Hyderabad has signed an agreement with informatics India Ltd. Provide access to J-gate custom contents for consortia service to four Hyderabad based and one Pune based R & D institutions. Initially this service is free for the members with the objective of making itself sustaining in the later stage.

UGC-INFONET

UGC-INFONET was established on 28th December 2002. UGC is modernization the university campuses with state of art campus wide network name UGC-INFONET will ride on EARNET. The Consortium provided more than 7500+ core and peer-reviewed journals and 10 bibliographic databases from 26 publishers. These e-resources covers almost all disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical Sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc.

CeRa (Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture)

CeRa is the second largest consortium covering basic crops, diary and animals and fishery sciences. All the consortia members are provided accessibility through respective IP addresses. CeRA is initiated by ICAR in a sub-project of NAIP, funded by World Bank. It include a rich content of journals nearby 3000 catering to 134 institutions under NARS with seven publisher.

CONCLUSION

Libraries in many institutions of higher education face crisis as a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, Due to increasing in numbers of journals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries. This exponential and cost of journals, indexing and abstracting sources cost is very high. All types of library information centres are not in position to subscribe all the information resources required by their users. Not even a single library can meet the trust of knowledge required by all readers from its stock of information to the full extent. So need of the consortia is powerful. Library consortia is really helping the researcher, faculties and the students to provide timely information.

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