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LIBRARY CONSORTIA IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper is discussed about the consortia and how it is providing a great effect on the libraries and its particular users. Journals and other E journals are though producing at high speed still for the insufficient budget a library cannot be able to procure their demanded resources. With the help of consortia it is able to disseminate the maximum information to the library users. The consortium has grown up due to budget insufficiency, demanding variety of information needs, better and effective utilization of resources. Consortia are all about sharing resources and improving access to information. We are sharing own library resources through inter library loan, but in this Information communication technology (ICT) age it has gained momentum even in the developing countries. When library consortiums are formed, the existing environment about users' preferences and difficulties need to be studied. This Paper Describe the Library Consortia in India

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INTRODUCTION

The consortium is a latin word, meaning 'partnership, association or society' and derives from consors 'partner', itself from con-'together' and sors 'fate', meaning owner of means or comrade. According to Oxford Dictionary" Consortium means temporary association of a number of countries, companies, banks etc for a common purpose. A library consortium is a collective activity of a group of libraries towards a common goal of sharing resources. Library consortium is a community (a cooperative) of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to coordinate and cooperative of two or more libraries/information agencies which have formally agreed to coordinate, cooperate or consolidate certain function" to achieve mutual objectives it is an association of group of libraries to achieve mutual benefits. A consortium is "an agreement, common platform other goal, aiming to reduce costs per unit through or group (as of companies) formed to undertake formation of purchasing consortia. These national regional and an enterprise consortia will be the focus of member" Library Consortia is a community (a supportive or two or more libraries which have formally agreed to cooperate, synchronize, and organize collaborate or consolidate certain functions to achieve joint objectives.

Library consortia

The concept of library consortium come first time from academic libraries formed consortia for the primary purpose of sharing printed materials. A consortium is described as a group or organizations who come together to fulfill their common objectives. For library consortium it requires mutual co-operation for sharing their resources and services. The aim of consortium is to achieve the goal what the members or individual person cannot achieve independently. Library consortium has the ability to share their resource, manpower, services etc. without sacrificing the individuality of each member library.

Definition

(Hirshon, 1999) defines library consortia 'a generic term to indicate any group of libraries that are working together towards a common goal, whether to expand cooperation on traditional library services (such as collection development) or electronic information services. It is now used perhaps too broadly, and encompasses everything from formal legal entitles to information groups that come together solely to achieve better pricing for purchasing electronic information'. According to Chartron, "The term consortium emanated from the field of economics and refers to grouping together of different independent companies in order to bring the resources (Financial or material) under a single managing body for joint performance of specific operations.

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Evolution of consortia

Library Cooperation-----Interlibrary Loan-----Document Delivery System-----Library Networks----- Library Consortia

Need of consortia

- Increasing of information at very high speed.
- Financial crunch.
- Introduction of new ICT in library services/resources.
- Proliferation of subjects in various fields.
- Scattering of information in different formats.
- Various information needs for the clients.

Advantages of library consortia

- Promote collaboration in different library activities.
- Better sharing of existing resources and jointly acquiring new resources at great savings
- Negotiating and finalizing terms and conditions with the publishers.
- Streamlining and finalizing terms and conditions with the publishers.
- Professional development and training.
- Promotion of new standards for managing usage statistics.
- Undertaking digitization projects setting standards for best practices and providing training in them.

Drawbacks of library consortia

- The electronic products are saved through digitization in various forms. Digital information is very fragile and for that it can be lost due to technical problems and frequent upgrading.
- Consortia require high initial investments in licenses. Problems of budget allocating and finance.
- Sometimes users also not accepting the E-journals as per with printed journals. In some articles or journals the highlighted hyper links do not have provision for accessing the related information and for that user cannot retrieve their needed information.
- There is also lack of archiving facility of back issues of E-journals for unreliable telecommunication networks.
- To run the library consortium there is need of sufficient knowledge about the ICT based technology for its participating libraries but most of the library professionals and users are not aware about the advanced technology. So training/awareness program is very necessary.
- There is also problem of copyright from the publisher. Sometimes the publishers have provided the unwanted or irrelevant journals in their packages so it creates a puzzle.
- Absence of printed copy of journals is one of the major drawbacks in consortia facility

Problems

- There is the ever present funding problem. Entering consortia requires initial investments in licenses and information and communication technology.

- Libraries are not prepared to cash in the savings offered by not handling the print edition of the journals. Their work procedures are still centered around the physical document; staff are not trained in handling electronic documents etc. Therefore, many libraries are reluctant in entering consortia agreements especially where publishers impose payments for off-consortia delivery of documents, either in electronic or paper format.
- There will often be investments to be made in local-consortium based central hardware set up, mounting of data, development of interfaces, administration of access etc. However, those problems are precisely to be solved not by the single library, but in cooperation between the participating libraries

Consortia models

Open Consortia

This type of consortia is open ended and provides facility for the libraries to join and leave as they this type of consortium basically exists in small or same group of libraries. The resources of the open consortia should be on specific subject fields.

Example: INDEST Consortium runs by the Ministry of Human Resources Department, Government of India

Closed Froup Consortia

This type of consortia emerges either by coalition, affiliation and collaboration among them. Here the formation and operation of the consortia guidelines and its administration are fairly simple and easy.

Example: CSIR, DAE, IIM Consortium

Centrally Funded

This type of consortium the groups are centrally funded by their parent body.

Example: INDEST, UGC INFONET, CSIR, ICMR, MCIT Consortia etc.

Shared-Budget Centrally Funded

In this type of consortium the libraries participate to form a group of consortium. They manage their funds individually to share their resources among the participating libraries.

Example: IIM and FORSA

National Consortium

The national consortium achieved their license nationally and it disseminated their resources through nationally.

Example UGC-INFONET an initiative by MHRD under NME-ICT now funded by UGC, National Digital Library Consortium, and INDEST-AICTE consortium is under the national level consortium.

Publisher Initiatives

That publishers initiated consortia are too popular. Here the publisher offered a high discounted consortium price to the participating library on a national level.

Library consortia in India

S.No.	Consortia	Year	Subject	Functions	Funding Agency	Members
1.	FORSA FORSA Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy http://www.iiap.res.in/library/forsa.html	1980	Astronomy	resource sharing in astronomy and astrophysics Annual Meeting of the Astronomical Society of India.	Indian Institutes of Astrophysics	11 Institutions Including TIFR, PRL, IUCAA etc.
2.	medIND Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & National Informatics Centre (NIC) http://indmed.nic.in	1985	NML, Science, NEJM, Lancet, Nature	MedIND aims to provide online exposure to those indexed Indian medical journals willing to provide free full text access to their articles.	ICMR funded project- National Databases of Indian Medical Journal	Medical Professionals. Free of Cost
3.	ICMR -NIC http://www.jccc-icmr.informindia.co.in	1986	Science, NEJM, Lancet, Nature and BMJ	Full text edatabases. ProQuest information support services to medical research community produced two important resources IndMED/medIND	ICMR funded project- National Databases of Indian Medical Journal Another resource produced under this project is a portal of full text articles medIND of select Indian medical journals indexed in IndMED or PubMed.	ICMR Institutions
4.	TIFR Libraries Consortium The first limited, purposeful and successful development of library consortia model	2000	Collection on Physics, Mathematics and Nuclear Sciences Subject area coverage was extended in the fields of biological sciences and radio astronomy by establishing NCBS, Bangalore and NCRA, Pune	Low Cost; besides cap price to contain likely increase in prices More resources with unlimited access Added advantage- to access to archives Cross e-access irrespective of remote locations	TIFR Research Institutes	TIFR Main Campus, Mumbai and Centers such as HBCSE Mumbai, NCB Bangalore, NCRA Pune and CAM Bangalore. All these together constitute as members of the TIFR Libraries Consortia
5.	UGC-DAE Library Consortium http://www.tifr.res.in/	2001	Atomic Energy	Cover the disciplines of physical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences and engineering sciences major research facilities training, education, research and developmental programmes	Department of Atomic Energy	36 Institutions including BARC, TIFR
6.	NKRC E-Journal Consortia (CSIR/DST) National Knowledge Resource centre CSIR e-Journal Consortia http://nkrc.niscair.res.in/	2001	Science and Technology	E-Journal Licensing sharing and electronically accessing the CSIR library Resources. Access to world S&T literature to CSIR labs. To nucleate the culture of electronic access resulting into evolution of digital libraries	NISCAIR	40 CSIR and 26 DST Institutes
7.	IIM Library Consortia http://www.iimb.ernet.in	2001	Management	Digital Library network system based on internet technology to provided the IIM community. Decentralized Acquisition, decentralized processing and centralized utilization.	IIMs	All IIMs
8.	IIM Library Consortia http://www.iimb.ernet.in	2001	Management	Digital Library network system based on internet technology to provided the IIM community. Decentralized Acquisition, decentralized processing and centralized utilization.	IIMs	All IIMs
9.	CSIR DST NISCAIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) first major and formal consortium at national level	2002	Science & Technology	Sharing and electronically accessing the CSIR library Resources. Access to world S&T literature to CSIR labs. To nucleate the culture of electronic access resulting into evolution of digital libraries.	DAE (Department of Automatic Energy)	2200 titles of 11 publishers to its chain of 38 laboratories and other supporting departments. Encouraged by CSIR model, the Department of Automatic Energy (DAE) formed a consortium and signed up with Science Direct in 2002

10.	UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortia	2003	All Subject	E- Content Licensing, Inter Library Loan, Training Cataloguing Services	INFLIBNET Centre	Universities
11.	INDEST-AICTE Indian National Digital Library in Science and Technology /MHRD (http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/)	2003	Engineering, Science and Technology Management	E- Content Licensing, Inter Library Loan, Training Cataloguing Services	MHRD/IIT, Delhi	48 Institutions including IISc, IITs, NITs, IIMs, 1096 Associate Members
12.	HELNET Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka (http://www.rguhs.ac.in)	2003	Medical Health Sciences	E-Journal Licensing resource sharing first medical library consortium the first resource sharing network and e-journal consortium in the medical education sector	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences	All the afflicted Colleges RGUHS
13.	MCIT Library Consortium (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology) www.mcitconsortium.nic.in	2005	Areas Digital Library E-journals Subscription News paper Clipping Service Union Catalogue E-Granthalaya	To create Digital/ Electronic Library Resource Sharing and Networking among the Libraries To provide electronic services to the users of the libraries Creating a model for Government of India Libraries Networking	Association of Library, Documentation and Information Centre under the Ministry of Communications & information Technology	MCIT comprises of three departments those are DIT/DOT/DOP.
14.	ICAR-CeRA http://cera.iari.res.in/	2007	Agricultural Sciences	E-Journal Licensing, Inter Library Loan, Training, Cataloguing Services	Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR)	123 Agricultural /Animal Science Universities /Deemed Universities /Research Institutes of the Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR)
15.	ERMED (Electronic resources in Medicine) Consortia Director General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW under Govt. of India	2008	Medical Sciences and Allied Field National Digital Medical Library Consortium	E-Journal Licensing	National Medical Library	72 Government Medical Colleges Institutes including ICMR afflicted research Institute
16.	DRDO Defence Research and Development Organization http://dsl.drdo.gov.in/ejournals/index.html	2009	Defence research science and technology base and provide Defence Services decisive edge by equipping them with internationally competitive systems and solutions.	Sharing of resources and improving access to information. The resource is shared among DRDO libraries that have common mission, goals, and usages & act on those commonalities.	DESIDOC	DRDO Labs
17.	DeLCON Consortium http://delcon.gov.in	2009	Biotechnology	Cataloging Services Collections sharing Electronic content licensing Electronic content loading/ Presentation Interlibrary loan/document delivery Preservation Storage facilities Training Union lists/ shared online catalogues.	Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Ministry Science and Technology Govt. of India	17 DBT Institutions including ICGEB New Delhi and 18 North Eastern Region (NER) Institutes
18.	E-Shodhsindhu https://infonet.inflibnet.ac.in	2016	All Subject	Provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act.	MHRD has formed e-ShodhSindhu merging three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST – AICTE Consortium	member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act
19.	ICICI Knowledge Park http://www.iciciknowledgepark.com		Life Science and related Field	nurturing an environment for innovation and the expected growth in life sciences and related fields	Andhra Pradesh Government, ICICI and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)	

Example: EBSCO and Emerald

Conclusion

Libraries need a drastic change and with the advancement of new technology of 21st centuries. It is also changing the old concept of libraries. A single library cannot success to provide the all kind of library resources and for that resource sharing among the libraries is essential. The consortium has providing a fruitful service to the users by disseminating their required information with the help of various E-journals. The consortia should provide a safety umbrella for all the online journals and databases which they subscribe to its participating libraries. Resource sharing through consortia has fulfilling the gaps of required information to those libraries which are not able to procure their resources for insufficient budget. The concept of consortia has carried the challenges by sharing the resources among the user community like the utilization of better and maximum resources among the libraries, use of new e-resources and technologies and minimizes the financial crisis. The consortium has promoted the unity, harmony and collaboration among the libraries.

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