ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Pharmacy

ROLE OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA IN RESOURCE SHARING AND ITS BENEFITS FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

Libraries have to play a central role in higher education institutions in supporting learning, teaching and research activities. Along with the other sectors of Higher Education, Library also has experience of last two decades of unprecedented change of ICT. It force the academic libraries to transformed their operations according to present digital environment, where users expecting library services in mode. In recent years, e-resources have become most popular source of information for academic community. It provides the facility to librarians to work together to acquire and share library collection and provide digital library services to the users community. Due to increases in subject contents of all subjects and shrinking of the library budget make compulsion to library to come together for recourse sharing and the concept of library consortium has originated. This paper explores the concepts, issues, type and facilities offered by the library consortium and discuss how it useful for academic library.

Introduction:

Libraries have been cooperating and collaborating on collection building and resource sharing for many years. The cooperation was based on inter-library loan and preparation and publication of union catalogue. For this purpose of collaboration and resource sharing, many library networks were established during 1980-90 in our country like CALIBNET, DELNET, MALIBNET, PUNENET, INFLIBNET etc. but the ways of cooperation in building collective resources and access to information resources was not easy and effective. Library cooperation for access to information resources was limited to the formation of networking among the libraries having homogeneous interest. However, with the advent of ICT and its application in library activities, new opportunities opened up for greater cooperation among libraries. At the global level Internet and at the national and local level several library networks came in vogue and databases created for information sharing. In recent years availability of information resources in digital or electronic medium has further facilitated exchange of information resources among libraries, thus creating favorable condition for increased resource sharing. Emergence of library consortia is a very promising development in this direction. Consortium of libraries is well known for sharing of resources all over the world. Information explosion, emergence of internet and particularly World Wide Web as a new medium of information storage make the concept more come into sight than earlier.

The library environment has changed drastically over the past few decades due to the rapid growth and development of ICT and it make a lot of impact on library system especially in their collection and services. The so-called 'Information Revolution' has made Libraries around the world to adopt new philosophies and technologies for information dissemination and also reduce the cost of information. Libraries have realized that although they are well funded, it is difficult to acquire all the materials needed by the clientele. In fact partnership and cooperation in local, national and international have become enviable for all libraries. In achieving resource sharing/library cooperation is through the establishment of consortium over networks. The library consortia is one of the major implications of ICT advancements in Information industry for maximizing the availability of scholarly resources in electronic format to academic and research communities at shared cost. The exceptional growth of scholarly resources in electronic format especially in the form of databases, the diversified user needs in academic institutions, financial crunch and lack of self-sustainability lead to the formation of consortium.

Library Consortium :

Library consortium is a "community of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to coordinate, cooperate or consolidate certain function" to achieve mutual objective.

This type of association of a group of libraries generally formed to achieve mutually the joint benefits. Library consortia is a network for buying and accessing e-information in a cooperative arrangement among a group of libraries in providing instant access to greater resources for the users of the individual libraries. One of the libraries or agencies of the consortia works as coordinator for identification of libraries for each publisher, negotiation, legal matters, etc. Library consortia may vary from being decentralized to highly centralize in nature. The degree of centralization of consortium is the primary factor affecting not only how member institutions interact with one another, but also maintain relationship with external party (publisher/vendor). More decentralized the consortium, the greater the degree of autonomy each member retains.

A consortium is said to be a co-operative arrangement among groups or institutions or an association or society. Consortia are commonly formed to increase the purchasing capacity of the collaborating institutions, to expand the resource availability and to offer automated services. In other words, it is described as a group of organizations whose purpose is to collectively facilitate and support the work of a service program in ways that add material and human resources beyond those available to each organization/individual (Rajgoli, Birdie & Karisiddappa, 2005) Potter (1997)

- Better sharing of existing resources and jointly acquiring new resources at great savings
- Providing enhanced library services with an emphasis on access to new electronic resource including databases and services offered through the internet and the WWW.
- Expediting inter library borrowing, which has evolved into providing as many electronic resources as possible at the lowest cost to consortia members

Issue related to library consortium diagram (https://www.researchgate.net)

Definition of Consortium:

A Consortium could be described as a group of organizations who come together to fulfill a combined objective that usefully requires co-operation and the sharing of resources. And need to have a clear mutual goal in order to ensure their success. The aim should be to deliver "more than the sum of the individual parts "A library Consortium formation can be local, regional, state, national and inter institutional level.

According to online free dictionary (2013)- An association or a combination, as of businesses, financial institutions, or investors for the purpose of engaging in a joint ventures or a cooperative arrangement among the groups or institutions is called consortium.

Library consortium' may be defined as "an association or group of libraries who come together to achieve the common goal of 'optimum users satisfaction' with the participation in a common activity and sharing the resources. "Ratna Nandi"

Library Consortium Model for Resource Sharing :

Many thousand type of possibility of consortia in the world which organized in different ways. During the last three decades, libraries have formed a variety of organization models to obtain different kinds of supportive measures for the participants. The consortium model depends upon the needs and requirements of member's participant. Therefore, consortia models are not well defined and vary in nature. The consortia models which used in India are generally based on participations', affiliation and funding sources. The important consortia models are as below.

i) Open Consortium:This type of consortium is very flexible and it is the wish of members of consortia can join and leave any they please. INDEST Consortium is an example to this

ii) Closed Group Consortium: It is within defined group. This kind of consortia emerges either by affiliation and collaboration among them like CSIR, DAE, IIM Consortium. And the formation and operation of the consortia guidelines and its administration are fairly simple and easy.

iii) Centrally Funded Model: In this model, consortium will solely depend on the parent body. A few examples are INFONET by UGC, ICMR, CSIR and DSIR

iv) Shared- budget Model : "In this model the participating libraries take the lead and form the consortium. IIM and FORSA are examples of this model

v) Publisher Initiatives: The Emerald Full-Text Library published by the Emerald Publishing Group(formerly MCB University Press) is recent example. Here, the consortium members will get deep discount price to the participating libraries

Emergence of Library Consortium in India:

sum of the individual parts". A library Consortium formation can be local, regional, state, sum of the individual parts sum of the individual part Closed Group Consortium the sum of the individual parts". A library Consortium formation can be local, regional, state, national and inter institutional level. The accessibility to international journals in Indian universities and technical institutions has improved many folds with setting-up of a few Government-funded library consortia. Prior to setting up of these consortia, the access to e-journals was restricted to a premier institutions like IISc, IITs, IIMs and a few central universities who were subscribing to a few e-resources including bibliographic databases on CD ROM, a few e-journals accessible free with National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium"

in 2003 and "UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium" in 2004, availability and accessibility of e-subscription to their resources increased phenomenally in centrally-funded technical print versions and a negligible fraction of journals on subscription. After launch of the "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium" in 2003 and "UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium" in 2004, availability and accessibility of e-resources increased phenomenally in centrally-funded technical institutions (IITs, IISc, IIMs, IIITs etc) and universities, setting in a new culture of electronic access and browsing in educational institutions. A number of library consortia have emerged in India in past fifteen years.

Leading Indian Library Consortium:

The leading and important library consortia in India are listed in table-1

Sr. No.	Library Consortia	Web Address
1	UGC-INFONET DL	http://web.inflibnet.ac.in/info/ugcinfonet/ugcinfonet.jsp
2	INDEST-AICTE	http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest
3	DAE (Dept. of Atomic Energy)	http://www.csr.res.in/csr_indore_library.html
4	National Knowledge Resource Consortium (CSIR)	http://krc.cecri.res.in/csir.html/
5	IIM Libraries	http://www.iimb.erner.in
6	IISER Libraries	http://www.iisc.ernet.in
7	FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics	http://www.iiap.res.in/library/forsa.html
8	ICICI Knowledge Park (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India)	http://www.icicknowledgepark.com
9	HELINET (Health Sciences Library & Information Network)	www.rgulse.in/HELINETHOSTCONSORTIM
10	ERMED (Electronic Resources in Medicine	http://web.tnmgrmu.ac.in/index.php/library-menu/ermed-consortium/
11	CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture	http://cera.iari.res.in/
12	MCIT (Min. of Comm. & IT)	mcitconsortium.nic.in
13	ISRO Libraries	http://www.isro.org/satellites/studsat.aspx/
14	N-LIST	http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/about.php
15	TIFR Consortium,	http://library.hbcse.tifr.res.in/journals/ugc-infonet-digital-library-consortium
16	ISI Library Consortia Deals, etc.	http://www.isical.ac.in/~serial/consortia/CBSOR-09.pdf/
17	DeLCON (DBT Elec. Library Consortium	http://delcon.gov.in

List of functional Library Consortia in India

Need for Library Consortium:

The consortium is needed for libraries because of

1. Information explosion
2. Diversity of user needs
3. Financial crunch
4. Impossibility of self-sufficiency
5. Advantages of Consortia

Benefits of Library Consortium Participation:
In participation in library consortia, there are many benefits. Nabi Hasan(2013) highlighted following benefits for a library to participating in a library consortium:

i. Increased financial benefits: One of the most common reasons that libraries join consortia is to gain some financial benefits. All library consortia have one goal in common: pooling their collective financial resources to leverage greater economic control over their marketplace.

ii. Resource sharing: Besides sharing financial resources, members of consortia can share a variety of other resources. The consortia provide shared expertise, access to new electronic and print resources, professional development, new sources of funds, sharing catalogues, sharing collections, sharing storage of resources, sharing archiving of resources, sharing staff expertise, sharing risk, sharing success and professional glamour.

iii. Encourage discussion, collective thinking & leadership: Intangible benefits, such as the encouragement of discussion and collective thinking are a valuable part of being a member of a consortium. The value of increased communication between libraries cannot be overlooked. Leadership is also an important part of library management. Consortium services manage more than the cost and a consortium can do this by providing leadership for its members that generates cooperative action for the advancement of educational environment, institution's fiscal health, and the quality of services for the client of the library cooperative action for the advancement of educational environment, institution's fiscal health, and the quality of services for the client of the library

iv. Enhance library services to the users: Benefits of consortia should be customer-focused. If becoming a consortium member is not going to benefit the library's users, then the library must question its reasons for becoming a member .

v. Demonstrate reduced cost: In a situation of limited funds, any measures taken by a library to reduce costs can be seen by stakeholders and the public as a positive way for libraries to maximize their resources. To reduce the cost of member library operation, consortia act as an agent on behalf of the member libraries to seek a reduced group purchase price for information resources that is lower than that which any one institution could achieve alone. Therefore, it considers new ways to consolidate global resources amongst the participating libraries in order to maximize their resources within limited budget

vi. Facilitates the change management: One of the most complex issues facing libraries today is change management. A library consortium is particularly valuable in managing the change. The process of change management normally proceeds through a series of steps. Each of these steps involves significant risk. Change management is the process of minimizing those risks and optimizing the opportunities.

vii. Provides training and workshop: To manage change, libraries must have an understanding of emerging issues. The consortium can play an invaluable role by providing training and organizing new programs or promotional activities, etc

viii. Facilitates better management : Consortia can manage the electronic information resources in a better way and save the library from the hassle of print-resource management. It enhances buying power through the consolidation of collection and services.

ix. Sustains the pressure : Successfully meets the pressure of diminishing budget, increased users' demand, and rising cost of library resources.

x. Benefits are manifold: facilitates ongoing communication, co-ordination, awareness, creates information super-highway, professional improvement, forces to maintain standard, cultural openness, increased visibility, preferred partnership, marketing and advertising opportunities.

xi. Accelerates sustainable growth of libraries: The collective strength of consortia members facilitates the libraries to get equal benefit of wider access to electronic resources at an affordable cost and at the best terms and conditions. It also demonstrates the benefits to offer not only in terms of discounted subscription rates but also value added services like DDL and Search Interfaces and finally it brings the uniform growth, standard, and compatibility among the member libraries in a better off situation. All these are indicative of the sustainability of the growth of libraries

Conclusion:
The development of Library consortia has reinforced in academic libraries with spirit of cooperation that is essential for the library services, especially in present digital environment. Resource sharing demands shared values, vision, and commitment, as well as a good political situation, special funding and full participation by all the stakeholders. Members of a consortium belong to different parent institutions with different organizations and rules, and administration of a consortium is not an easy task. Consortia subscriptions are the most common channel of resource sharing. In view of the globalization of all spheres of life, this trend will continue. Library consortia are really helping the researchers, faculties and the students to retrieve the information and save their time. It benefits the libraries to procure more electronic resources in the library with limited library budget and this is what the libraries require in the present scenario.

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