

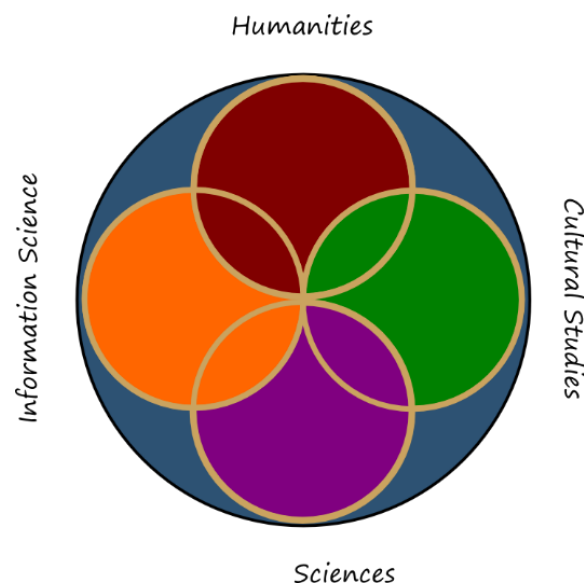
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E-Resources Use Through Library Consortia in Indian Initiatives: A Study

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ABSTRACT

The consortia-based subscription to e-resources is a valuable solution for increasing the access to electronic resources across institutions at a lower rate of subscription. Consortia are all about sharing resources and improving access to information these resources are shared among libraries that have common missions, goals and clients. The following study focuses on the use of e-resources through library consortia in Indian initiatives, it also explains the definition, advantages and types of e- resources and consortia.

Keywords: *E- Resources, Library Consortia, Consortium in India.*

FULL PAPER**E-Resources Use Through Library Consortia in Indian Initiatives: A Study****Dr. Gajanan Rode****Introduction**

Today the value of Information and users need have increased enormously so much, no library, however big it may be, is able to satisfy all the needs of its user due to various constraints; to cope up with this situation, the phenomenon of consortia has become very important in the last few years. By forming a consortium among libraries, it becomes possible to purchase information in stabilized and reasonable prices. Consortia of libraries is known for sharing of e- resources at local, national and international levels, several organizations have formed consortia to share their electronic resources in order to satisfy the users expectations and demands for rendering quality services. However, consortium now being overheard everywhere is because of digital form of information, it refers to co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration between and amongst libraries for the purpose of sharing e- resources.

E- Resources

An "electronic resource" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. An electronic resource is defined as "A resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based." Electronic resources have great potential and bright future to attract users, it combines all the benefits of the multimedia, digital coding and Internet. It enable user to carry everywhere and can be read on all types of computers including handled device.

Types of E-Resources

E-Resources usually consist of E-Journals, E-books, ETD's (Electronic Theses and Dissertations), E-papers, E-images, E-audio, CD-ROMs, Database, E-thesis, E-newspapers, E-Magazines, www, E-research f report, OPAC, Help and tutorials and Digital Repository.

These e- resources has been made available in electronic format and provided many possibilities and opportunities for providing faster and quicker access to information, these are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc.

Advantages of E-Resources

Electronic resources are able to meet the users' increasing demands and expectations. There are many advantages of e-resources in enhancing and supporting research and education.

- The main benefits of electronic resources are the factors such as accessibility and desktop access, home access, ease of retrieval.
- Electronic information sources are faster than consulting print indexes, when searching retrospectively.
- It is beneficial, especially to distance learners or those with limited time to access the library, is their availability from outside the library by dial-up access.
- E-resources have impact on the competence level of an individual and improve the intellectual activity necessary for research. Electronic resources allow users to directly access and use the materials which cannot be found otherwise.

E-resources are quick to access, save time and keep up-to-date with the current happenings in the specific fields and related areas.

Use of E- Resources through Consortia

E-Resources have occupied a vital role in the collection and budget of almost all libraries, use of electronic information resources in the libraries for rapid development is necessary and important. To satisfy the varied user needs, libraries require availability and accessibility to a variety of electronic resources. The usage of electronic resources increases with time, these e-resources are paid resources and only accessible after payment, these resources are only limited access, and available in so many different packages in different price ranges. These resources are available through some major consortia initiatives in India on some discounted prices.

Electronic information resources play a pivotal role in enhancing the research and development activities and improving the productivity of an individual. A consortium is a best solution towards the challenges before libraries through

consortia more and more libraries will get maximum information resources at lesser price.

Definition of Consortium

Webster's dictionary defines a consortium as "an agreement, combination, or group formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member."

A Consortium refers to a "temporary cooperation of a number of powers, companies etc., for a common purpose. It is an association of similar types of Organization/institution who are engaged for producing and servicing the common things for providing services for a specific purpose of its users."

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan says that "Library is a growing organism" commands the whole world to the wave of consortium. If the library becomes the part of the consortium, they can spread their wings all over the world with more resources and services.

Objective of Consortium

- To make awareness among the users and academicians about maximum utilization of available e- resources.
- Increased in inter-institutional cooperation, coordination and collaboration amongst beneficiary institutions should be one of the goals of the consortium.
- Reduce duplication and redundancy, gain access to federal agency funding, recruit international students, engage in advanced research, and utilize high-cost facilities.
- Increase productivity of scientific and research output both in quantity and quality.

Advantages of Library Consortia

Some of the important advantages of library consortium are as follows.

- Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost; many electronic resources, normally out of reach for a single institution, are made available to them.
- The consortium have been offered better terms of licenses for use, archival access and preservation of subscribed electronic resources, which would not have been possible for any single institution.

- Electronic resources including the creation of digital collections-sharing among consortium members need not be just in terms of licensing products it can also include sharing in the creation of digital collections.
- Library finds itself saving a great deal on funding by sharing resources with other members of the consortia.
- Increase the purchasing capacity of the collaborating institutions, to expand the resource availability and to offer automated service.
- It saves the time of the users since instant access will be available after every updating unlike the shipping time, missing issues etc. which prevail in respect of print media.
- Helps in meeting the high expectations of researchers in the fast-changing technological environment.

Consortium Initiatives in India

Library consortium initiatives in India are of recent origin and are fast evolving. In India the types of consortia on various models depending upon participations affiliation and funding sources. Types of consortia are Open Consortia, Closed Group Consortia, Centrally Funded Consortia, Shared Budget Consortia, Publisher initiative. India has seen publisher-initiated consortia models too, coming up in the recent years. Following consortium are successfully working in India and helping the librarians to expand the number of electronic resources. Some major consortiums are described.

1. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

The UGC-Info net Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003. The consortium provides current 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. 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. It is an innovative project launched by UGC to facilitate scholarly e-journals to Indian academics through a joint partnership of UGC, INFLIBNET and ERNET.

2. INDEST-Consortium

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) set up the "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology (INDEST) Consortium" in 2003. The Ministry provides funds for access to electronic resources subscribed for the consortium to the 1235 members through the consortia headquarters setup at the IIT, Delhi. It is the biggest Consortium in terms of number of member institutions in Asia.

3. National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC)

The National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC), established in year 2009, is a network of libraries and information 43 CSIR and 26 DST institutes. NKRC's origin to the centres of year 2001. Today, NKRC facilitates access to 5,000+ e-journals of all major publishers, patents, standards, citation and bibliographies databases.

4. Consortium for E-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA)

The Consortium for e-resources in Agriculture, popularly known as CeRA, facilitates online access to about more than 2900 journals in agriculture and allied sciences. Currently 147 institutions in NARS have 24x7 online access to important journals in CeRA platform.

5. Department of -Technology e-Library Consortium (DeLCON)

DBT e-Library Consortium (DeLCON) is a unique Electronic Journal Consortium which is operational since January 2009. Currently the Consortium includes 16 DBT Institutions. The total 'DeLCON Members' are 34. A total of 1171 selective Journals and a Database (SCOPUS) are covered under DeLCON.

6. Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy (FORSA)

FORSA consists of 11 members and has identified a subscription agent as a supplier of journals. Subscriptions for both paper and electronic format are paid through this supplier. At present, there are eleven institute members, viz. ARIES, Bose Institute, CASA-OU HRI, IIA, IUCAA, NCRA (TIFR), PRL, RRI, SINP and TIFR.

7. ISRO Library Consortium

8. Indian Institute of Management Consortium(IIM)

9. Consortium Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)

10. Health Science Library and Information Network (HELINET)

11. MCIT Library Consortium

12.UGC-DAE- Consortium for Scientific Research

Conclusion

E-resources offer a range of potential advantages to libraries and end-users: multiple simultaneous access facilities, multi-media capabilities and reduced storage to the same issue, remote access, in-built searching concerns. Consortium based library subscriptions to e-journals, e-books and electronic full-text databases are picking up good momentum in India. With the emergence of consortium concept, the libraries in developing countries like India are at the verge of self-sufficiency by endowing with electronic resources

at deeply discounted prices. Among all else, the ideal consortium will be based on an understanding that organizational change in response to market shifts necessitates flexibility, long-range planning, and adequate e-resources.

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