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## Library Consortia: An Overview

Prof. Shingade D. I.

Librarian, Rayat shikshan sanstha's Radhabai  
Kale Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Ahmednagar

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### Abstract:

Library Consortia is the sharing of resources among the participant's is libraries. Library Consortia is now being overheard globally. It is more because of digital form of information consortia are all about sharing resources and improving access to information. This resource is shared among libraries that have Common mission goals and client and act on those Commonalties. This paper attempts to describe about meaning, Need, Advantages, disadvantages, features, objectives and Consortia in India, of the Consortia.

### Keywords:

Consortia, INDEST, CSIR, FORSA, Library networks and Technology

### Introduction:

Resource Sharing is also known as network resources or shared resources refer to Computer data information or hardware devices that can be easily accessed form a remote Computer through a local area network (LAN) or enterprise intranet. Successful shared resource access allows users to operate as if the shared resource were on their own computer. One of the most complex issues that library professionals have been facing is how to manage with ever proliferating electronic resources and rapidly changing information technology since the early 1990 there have been tremendous changes in the area of library cooperation. Resource sharing has been the hall-mark of libraries for cooperation, coordination and collaboration between groups of libraries at different levels.

"Two or more libraries and /or other organizations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange through communications for some functional purpose. A network usually consists of a formal arrangement whereby materials, information's and services provided by a variety of types of libraries and or other organizations are made available to all potential users. Networking of computers means physically doing of something for linking more computing together for sharing selected information.

The academic libraries, being the never centers of higher education, teaching and learning, play an important role in support of all the activities of the concerned University. The increasing growth in the enrolment of students and researcher, lack of proper and adequate infrastructure further aggravates the overall problems, challenges, for the academic libraries. This situation arise the need of consortia of digital libraries. University Grants Commission (UGC) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and other government bodies of education are helping academic libraries to make automation and build their own Consortia of libraries in their area.

### Defintation:

1. "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, state, national and inter the institutional level.

2. According to Biswas and Dasgupta (2001) the term "Consortium" can be defined as temporary cooperation of a number of powers companies etc. for a common purpose. It is an association of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed into



coordinate, cooperate or consolidate certain functions to achieve mutual objectives and benefits.

3. A Cooperative association of libraries of different types its purpose is to share human and information resources so that the collection strengths of the institutions facilitate the research and learning of the members constituents supports resources sharing and provides services to users through programs in cooperative acquisition access to electronic resources, access to physical collections, enhanced interlibrary loan and document delivery.

#### Need of consortia:

1. Lack of fund.
2. To fulfill the five law of library science.
3. Whole world is moving towards electronic publishing and the cost of the electronic publishing is much cheaper than that of the print version.
4. Indian universities are finding it hard to maintain the subscriptions to even for core journals due to ever increasing cost of journals subscription and also shrinking budget.
5. Explosion of information resources.
6. Various demands of users.
7. Commercialization of library services.

#### Advantages of Consortia:

1. Electronic journals demand neither library space more can they be stolen from the library.
2. Helpful to provide better library services like CAS and SDI.
3. Optimum utilization of funds.
4. Consortium based subscription to electronic resources provides access to electronic provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost.
5. Available 24 hrs a day seven days a week.
6. 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.

7. Inter library borrowing at lower cost is possible.
8. Reduction in cost is achieved.
9. Staff development and interaction enhance the quality of service.
10. Each member library support scholarly research for its users.

#### Disadvantages of Consortia:

1. Absence of a printed copy of journals.
2. Users are not accepting e-journals as per with the printed journals.
3. Require training of staffs in handling electronic documents.
4. Internet access ID necessary.
5. Lack of archiving and back files availability.
6. Unreliable telecommunication links and insufficient bandwidth.
7. Copyright problems.
8. Consortia require high initial investments in licenses and information and communication technology.

#### Objectives:-

##### Objectives of library consortia are:-

1. Provide metadata for e resources accessible from consortia.
2. Provide access to consortium holdings recorded on consortium union catalogue to know the location of information.
3. Provide strong leadership and opportunities for innovation for the research communities.
4. Provide the community with physical and virtual access to the shared resources of all libraries.
5. Develop a plan for future direction of libraries.
6. Provide access to bibliographic resources of all libraries members.
7. Promote the rational use of funds.
8. Increase the cost benefit per subscription.



**Functions:**

**Functions of library consortia:-**

1. Electronic content licensing.
2. Union lists/shared online catalogues.
3. Training
4. Preservation.
5. Inter library loan/ document delivery.
6. Electronic content loading/ presentation.
7. Collection sharing.

**Development of Consortia:-**

Library and information centers networking in India have come to the existence almost two decade ago. In India we used the term "Inter-library loan" in the parlance of library management. This scenario has extended from its limited basis to become fully grown consortia of various kinds. Since India is the developing country, we constantly work towards improving our infrastructure and technology to meet the demands of our scientists and researchers by taking the lead from the developed countries.

**Consortia in India:**

The types of consortia models identified are generally based on various models evolved in India in a variety of forms depending on participant affiliations and main funding sources. The important types are:

Open consortia – FORSA, SADT's, LISA and INDEST

Closed group consortia – CISR, INDEST, DAE and MMS

Institutional headquarters funded consortia – TIFR

Centrally funded consortia: CSIR, INDEST, UGC-INFONET, ICMR

Shared budget models: FORSA, MMS and HELINET

National level consortia: INDEST, UGC INFONET

**A. INDEST:**

INDEST stand for Indian National Digital Library in Science and Technology. The INDEST consortium was set up in 2003 by the Ministry

of Human Resources development (MHRD) on the recommendation of an Expert Group appointed by the Ministry. The 3 Delhi has been designated as the consortium Headquarter to coordinate its activities. The consortium was re-named as INDEST-AICTE consortium in December 2005 with the AICTE playing a pivotal role in enrolling its approved engineering colleges and institutions as member of the consortium for selected e-resources at much lower role of subscription. The consortium enrolls engineering & technological institutions as its members & subscribe to electronic resources. For them at discounted rates of subscription and favorable terms and conditions. The ministry provide fund required for subscription to electronic resources for 62 centrally funded Government institution including IIT's, IISC Bangalore, NTTs, ISM, IIT's, NTTTR's and few others institutions that are considered as core members of the consortium. The benefit of consortia based subscription to electronic resources is not confined to its core members but is also extended to all educational institutions under its open ended proposition. 60 Govt./ Govt. aided engineering colleges are provided access to selected electronic resources with financial support from the AICTE and 102. Universities/institutions have pointed the consortium under its self supported category in 2012. The total number of member in the consortium has now grown to 1235.

**B. CSIR: (Council for scientific and Industrial Research)**

The National Knowledge Resource Consortia (NKRC). Established in year 2009, is a network of libraries and information centers of 39 CSIR and 24 DST institutes, NKRC's Origin goes back to the year 2001 when the CSIE set up the Electronic journals consortium to provide access to 1200 odd journals of Elsevier science to all it users. Over a period of time, the consortium not only grew in terms of the numbers of resources but also in terms of the



number of users as more like minded institutes evinced interest to join the consortium.

Now day's NKRC facilitates access to 5,000t.e. Journals of all major publishers, patents, standards action and bibliographic databases. Apart from licensed resources, NKRC is also a single point entity that provides its users with access to a multitude of open access resources. The consortium envisions emerging as a leader to serve the R&D sector, with much needed information to strengthen the research and development system in the country.

#### **C. UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium:**

The UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium is major initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC) to bring qualitative change in academic libraries in India. It was formally launched in December 2003 by Honorable Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the then presented of India, soon after providing the Internet Connectivity, to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC Infonet Programme. It is a national initiative for providing access to scholarly electronic resources including full text and bibliographic databases in all subject disciplines to academic community in India. It facilitates access to high quality e-resources to academic in the Country to improve teaching, learning and research.

The consortium provides current as well as archived access to more than, 5000 Core and peer reviewed journals and nine bibliographic Databases in different disciplines from 23 publishers and aggregators. The access to all major e-resources was given 50 universities in first phase in the year 2004. It has now been extended to 157 universities in three different phases. In terms of number of users the UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium is the largest Consortium in India with a vision and plan to research out to all universities and colleges affiliated to those universities over a period of time. The main objective of the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is to provide access

to qualitative electronic resources including full text and bibliographic databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription.

#### **D. FORSA (Forum for Resources Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics):**

It was established in 1980, due to proliferation of information, library professionals working in the Institutes where astronomy was one of the main thrust areas of research felt the need to come together and to form a forum, which can act as a spring board for sharing and exchange of information. The sheer necessity brought all like minded astronomy libraries in the country together and a first meeting was held on July 29 1981 at Raman Research Institute, Bangalore and Informally lauded forum for resource sharing in astronomy and astrophysics FORSA with a vision and mission to share resources held in each library.

Since 1989, FORSA members meet every year in conjunction with annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of India. A note worthy feature of such meetings is that FORSA members interact with the astronomers in the joint session, in which development in library and information handling activities in the field of Astronomy/ astrophysics and presented and Comments from users. Are solicited to improve expand library service.

#### **E. IIM's Library Consortia (The Indian Institute of Management):**

IIM Library Consortia is a Digital Library network system based on internet technology to provided the IIM Community (Faculty, student and Staff) an online web enabled access to the information resources available in all the IIM's 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.

#### **Conclusion:**

Library Consortia providing for physical and electronic delivery of materials and



integrating the collection development process are all distant and crucial steps in moving toward the twenty first Century library. Library consortia are really helping the resources 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 what the libraries require in the present scenario.

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## Reengineering of Academic Libraries with Electronic Publishing

Dr. Rajendra M. Marwade

Librarian, Pemraj Sarda College, Ahmednagar

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#### Abstract

Rapid development in information and communication technologies culminated in electronic publishing. There are changes in all domains of libraries due to the advancements in the area of printing, publishing, information and communication technologies. The technologies have brought about a radical change in the tools and techniques of information storage and transmission. The shifting of a paper publication to electronic publication inaugurated a new technology. This paper defines the concept of electronic publishing, its necessity and characteristics responsible for the spread of electronic publishing. It highlights the e-publishing models, changing role of libraries and information centres due to e-publishing and also its advantages and disadvantages.

**Keywords:** Academic Libraries, Electronic Publishing

#### Introduction

The computer and new technologies have brought revolutionary changes in whole world of information. The advent of information technology, followed by evolution and opulence of advanced information resources, has cast an indelible mark on libraries. In this electronic era new technologies are replacing the traditional method of collection, storage and retrieval. Johann Gutenberg can be called as the father of the art of printing. He led the inception of the



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