



Library Consortia

Dr. Avinash U. Jadhao

Librarian, Smt, Savitabai Uttamrao Deshmukh Mahavidyalay, Digras, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra, India

ABSTRACT

Library Consortia or buying clubs development is rooted in the history of library cooperative efforts and is now also driven by the need provide to remote with licensed access to electronic resources that to very economically by sharing subscription cost. The phenomenon of consortia or group of libraries buying e- information together has become very important in the last few years. This paper briefly discusses the concept, definitions, features characteristics, Reason for the formation of library consortia, advantages, disadvantages, and libraryconsortia initiations in India.

Keywords: Library consortia, E-Journal, collection developments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Consortia has become a buzzword for the library and information professional of the institutions of higher learning around the world. Today the walls of a library are giving to electronic environment to established links with the information and virtual libraries that are getting shaped on the intranet. Each individual library is acting as a place for storage and service to the users while the trends is to provide shared information to the user's library consortia have been referred to as cooperation, coordination and collaboration between and amongst libraries for the purpose of sharing information resources. Libraries are committing larger protims of their budgetary allocation for either procuring of accessing web-based resources including CD-ROMS with diminishing allocation. A new way to consolidate global resources amongst the libraries to maximize their limited financial resources, shared subscription or consortia-based subscription to electronic resources being followed every where in the world.

II. DEFINITION

A consortium could be described as a group of organisations who come together to fulfilled a combined objectives that usefully requires co-operation and the sharing of resources.

According to American heritage dictionary a consortium is "a cooperative arrangement amongst groups or institutions" or an association or society"

According to Oxford English Dictionary "Consortia means temporary cooperation of a number of power companies".

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA

- Deep interest to obtain real benefits.
- Culture of share vision and mission.
- Constant supports and commitment.

Advantages of consortia

- Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower costs.
- Facilities to build up digital libraries.
- Optimum utilization of funds.
- Cost sharing for Technical and training support
- Helpful to provide better library services like CAS and SDI.
- Electronic journals demand neither library space nor shelling costs nor can they be stolen form the library.

Disadvantages of consortia

- Copyright problems.
- Absence of a printed copy of journals.
- Requires training of staffs in handling electronic documents.
- Internet access if necessary.
- Lack of archiving and back files availability.
- Unreliable telecommunication links and insufficient bandwidth.

IV. CONSORTIA MODELS

The types of consortia identified are generally based on various models evolved in India in variety of forms depending upon participation affiliation and funding sources.

Open Consortia – This type of consortia 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.

Closed Group Consortia – It is within defined group. This kind of consortia emerge 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.

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

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

Publisher Initiatives-The Emerald Full text Library published by the Emerald publishing group is recent example. Here the consortium members will get deep discount price to the participating libraries.

National Consortium- The end of this model is, national level licensing of products. And in this regard are INDEST-AICTE, UGC INFONATE.

V. CONCLUSION

In this era of technology, consortia is the dire need of time. We see that organisation of institutions with its mighty power has attracted much discounted rates of subscription. In other words, consortia is nothing but a formally organisation in which two or more institutions join together for fulfilling a particular aim. Consortia are tools, which will assist in exploiting the features of the e- journals as well as in much savings.

VI. REFERENCES

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