

Library consortia in digital Era

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Abstract

In the present age of multidisciplinary research supported by information and communication technology no library is self-sufficient. It is challenge for the libraries to find out the ways to full fill the information requirement of the user. Consortia is all about sharing of resources among the libraries with common missions, goals and users. At present the consortia mainly provide access to online databases and e journals. Consortia has solved one of the major problems of the budget crunches among the libraries and information centres.

Keywords: Consortis, Library Consortia, Resource Sharing

Introduction

No library in this world is self-sufficient due to multidimensional growth of both print and electronic information resources. It is true that from a very long time libraries were participating in recourse sharing with the other libraries having the similar aims and objectives Today due to information explosion the old concept of resource sharing has changed the inadequate library budget and increasing cost of books and journals has forced the libraries to go for new concepts of library cooperation which we call it as Library Consortia.

The terms resource sharing, Library cooperation and consortium are often used in place of one another the objective of each of which is to full fill the information requirement of the user.

Consortia meaning

A consortia is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal. Consortia is a latin word meaning partnership, association or society and derives from consors "partner", cons means "together" sors "fate".

According to Chartron (2001) "Consortia is derived from the field of economics and refer to the grouping together of different independent companies in order to bringing together financial or material resources under a single managing body or joint performance of specific operations

Library Consortia



Dheeraj Singh Negi

Library consortia

Library Consortia means a group of libraries working together for a common cause, a collaborative or common effort for meeting the information requirements of the user.

The roots of the word consortia came first time from academic libraries, at that time consortia was formed for the sharing of printed material such as chapters of books and periodical articles in print format. Few years back the common platform for libraries was mainly created for the sharing of union catalogue, document delivery service, storage facilities, cooperative cataloguing and sharing of human resources at local, regional and at national level. Now a day's academic libraries are having consortia to provide of electronic resources at low price over the internet under the single umbrella to the libraries under the consortia.

Need of library consortia

1. **Information explosion:** Multidisciplinary research and information technology is resulting in availability of information in various forms and the number is increasing exponentially. Now it is becoming impossible for the individual libraries to procure or subscribe all relevant information resources. A library consortium with the collective resources of various participating libraries is in a better position to address and solve the problem of acquiring the relevant electronic resources.
2. **Restricted budget:** In the present time of electronic publishing when most of the information resources are in electronic form libraries are committing most of their allocated budget on the procurement or subscription of e resources. The price policies of the publishers are posing problems for the Academic libraries as they have to manage the e recourses in the restricted budget so the consortia is the only solution to get rid of e recourse crisis..
3. **Speedy access of information:** With the emergence of information communication technology the researchers are now expecting the e journal articles for their research work in minimum possible time.
4. **Quality research:** Every institution wants their research to be of top label for that subscription to top quality

databases of international standards is required which is only possible through consortia.

5. **No library is self-sufficient:** In the Digital era no library is self-sufficient in fulfilling the information requirement of the user which pull the library to be a part of consortia.
6. **Changing role of librarian:** Today the role of the librarian has been changed from conservator of information to the disseminator of information which is possible due to consortia.

Major library consortia in India

1. E Shodh Sindhu

E Shodh Sindhu is the consortium for higher education

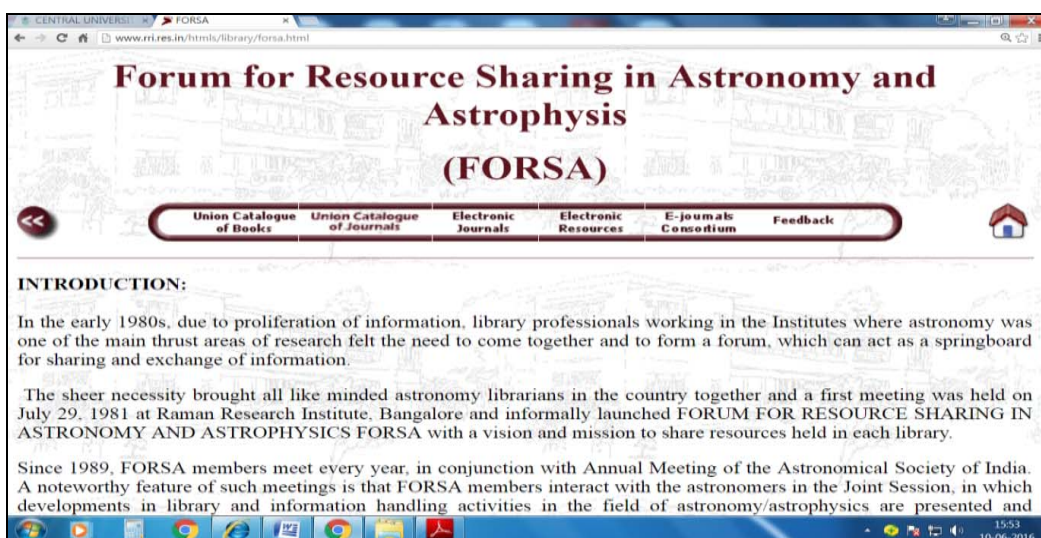
electronic resources. It provides access to e resources for Universities, Colleges and centerly funded technical institutions in India. E Shodh Sindhu is formed by merging of three consortia NLIST, UGC-INFONET digital library consortium and INDEST-AICTE consortium. E Shodh Sindhu provide access to more than 1500 core and peer reviewed journals and many bibliographic and citation databases in different subjects from various publishers around the world. The main objective is to provide access to full text, bibliographic and factual databases to academic institutions at lower rates of subscription. All Centrally funded technical institutions, Universities and Colleges covered under 12(B) AND 2(F) section of UGC act are eligible for membership.



2. FORSA

FORSA is a forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics. Some likeminded Library Professionals working in the instructions with Astronomy and Astrophysics as the core area of teaching or research joined there resources

together to form a forum in early 1980's. As the result FORSA was framed in 1981 at Raman Research Institute. FORSA Consortium is providing access to e resources of various prominent publishers in the field of Astrophysics and Astronomy.



3. National Knowledge Resource Consortium

The National Knowledge Resource Consortium was established in 2009. The present strength of the member's libraries include 43 CSIR libraries and information centres and 26 DST institutes. NKPC started as electronic journal

consortium in 1981 with 1200 journals of Elsevier Science. At present it provides access to 5000+ e journals of all reputed publishers. It also provides access to patents, standards, citations & bibliographic databases. Besides it also provide access to open access resources to its members.



4. HeliNet Consortium

Health Science Library and Information Network is first of its kind in the country. It was started in March, 2003. About 600+ core international e journals, 2000+ e books, 1500+ videos and databases are being provided to the research scholars,

faculty and students admitted in various courses of health sciences of the affiliated colleges under RGUHS. More than one million article are downloaded annually. The resources can be accessed my the member libraries through various gate ways.



Advantages of consortia

1. In Consortium based subscription the collective strength of the participating institutions lead to attractive and high discounts rates of subscription with favourable agreement terms & conditions.
2. Consortia based subscription to electronic resources provide access to large number of resources at low cost.
3. The Consortium provides better licenses terms for preservation, archival access and use of subscribed electronic resources which is impossible for single institution in reality.
4. In the consortia environment the libraries are free from all the problems associated with print material because most of the resources are available in the electronic form.
5. It is very easy to make the future strategy regarding the subscribed e resources as the usage statistics are

available and are monitored by the consortia for the member libraries.

6. Pooling of expertise in resolving complicated problems is an added benefit for participating libraries.
7. Searching of data is easy for the scholars from a single interface.

Conclusion

Today in the age of information technology where whole world has become global village information has become a major commodity for everyone. With the explosion of information followed by budget constraints specially in Academic libraries which are the hubs of research, library consortia has emerged as necessity. In the consortia environment the problems like professional development of the library staff, Standardization, space problems and the most important the budget problem is solved as the e resources are

accessed at lower subscription rates with easy terms of subscription under the single window.

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