

Library Consortia: Benefits And Models Of E-Journal Consortia

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ABSTRACT: The emergence of the Internet, particularly the World Wide Web, as a new medium of information storage and delivery in the 21st century. 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, need, factors, advantages, disadvantages of library consortia. Also this paper covers various models and the benefits of e-journals consortia.

Keywords Library Consortia, E-Journal; Information explosion

I. INTRODUCTION

The explosion of information and inadequate library urged the libraries to adopt new philosophies and technologies for collection development and reduce the costs information. Library Consortium is an Association of a group of libraries to achieve mutually the common objective. It is felt that the concept of E-Journals consortia can work well the libraries without requiring additional fees to access the e-journal.

II. DEFINITION CONSORTIA

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

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

III. FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE CONSORTIA FORMATION

Various factors to be taken for an effective functioning of a successful consortium. Like resources identification on the basis of usage and usability, longrun planning of the technology infracture, access to back runs of periodicals will have to clearly spelt, copyright and licensing, archival issue, price issue should be economically favourable. Last but not least, designing and launching a library consortium should be long term sustenance and robust models towards achieving the above goals.

Advantages Of Consortia

Some of the important advantages of the proposed library consortium are as follows:

- i. Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost;
- ii. Optimum utilization of funds.
- iii) Facilities to build up digital libraries
- iv) Helpul to provide better library srvcies like CAS and SDI
- v) Cost Sharing for Technical and training support
- v) Electronic Journlas demand neither library space nor sheling costs nor can they be stolen from the library
- vi) 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;
- viii) Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ix) Economy in maintain

IV. DISADVANTAGES OF CONSORTIA

Absence of a printed copy of Journals
Require training of staffs in handling electronic documnts etc.

Consortia requires high intitial investments in licensees and information and communication thnology.

Copyright problems Unreliable telecommunication links and insufficient bandwidth Lack of archiving and back files availability Internet Access id necessary Users are not accepting e-journals as per with the printed Journals

V. CONSORTIA MODELS

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

i) 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.

ii). Closed Group Consortia 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 by DSIR.

vi. 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

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

Examples of E-Journals Consortia India

INDEST-AICTE Consortium

(<http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/>)

UGCINFONET(<http://web.inflibnet.ac.in/info/ugcinfonet/ugcinfonet.jsp>)

FORSA Consortium (Astronomy and Astrophysics Libraries)

(<http://www.iiap.res.in/library/forsa.html>)

CSIR Library Consortium

<http://www.niscair.res.in/ActivitiesandServices/MajorProjects/majproj.htm#ejournalconsortia>

ISRO Library Consortium

IIM Library Consortium

HELINET (Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka)(<http://www.rguhs.ac.in/hn/newhel.html>) ICMR Library Consortium

VI. BENEFITS OF E-JOURNAL CONSORTIA

Scope for electronic archives; Availability and monitoring of usage statistics; Getting deep discounts through joint pricing negotiations – hence lower unit cost Of

information;

can be read anywhere in the world, at any time, by any number of people as long as the readers have an internet connection;

Also allow the inclusion of audio-visual material as well as the other formats and technological innovations that are available on the Internet, such as keyword searching;

articles include links to other cited journals, e-books, and other supporting material making research more convenient;

Reduced storage costs;

Developing common resources databases;

Effective document delivery systems; A single

interface and access point; Enhanced search

facilities; Better scope for developing a union catalogue among participating libraries,

VII. CONCLUSION

The consortium, with its collective strength of participating institutions, has attracted highly discounted rates of subscription with most favorable terms of agreement. Consortia are tools, which will aid in exploiting the features of the e-journals as well as in effecting savings.

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