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## LIBRARY CONSORTIA

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### Abstract:

*A library consortium is a group of libraries who partner to coordinate activities, share resources, and combine expertise. The International Coalition of Library Consortia is an informal discussion group of such consortia. Library consortia offer significant advantages to increasingly strapped libraries. The sharing of resources, and collaboration on shared goals often enable libraries to deliver higher quality services than they would be able to deliver on their own. inter-library loan is a system that allows for libraries to borrow and share materials across a wide variety of topics as well as vast geographic locations. It is the most common use of cooperation between libraries as well as within specific consortia. Consortia can grow into something that covers much larger ground than a simple inter-library loan agreement. So this paper introduce the Library consortia.*

### KEYWORDS:

library consortium, library consortium, Library Consortia, inter-library

### INTRODUCTION:

Library Consortia is the sharing of resources among the participant's libraries. A consortium may be a formal or in have enabled library consortia to expand both in formal agreement between two or more libraries based on a number and functions over their respected areas. Library-common principle. For example, a consortium library consortium development is rooted in the may be based on library type academic, Special, public etc. A history of library cooperative efforts for doing work. A regional and local consortium may be based also driven by the need to provide remote users on a geographical area. A consortium is "an agreement, common platform other goal, aiming to reduce costs per unit through or group (as of companies) formed to undertake formation of purchasing consortia. These national regional and an enterprise consortia will be the focus of member"

### Definition of 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.

### Concept of Library Consortia

Library consortia concepts came first time from academic libraries formed consortia for the

primary purpose of sharing printed materials. Recently, academic libraries are having consortia to provide common access to electronic resources across the Internet, and they are forming these consortia on 141 a statewide basis. This task is very difficult for a single library. However, by forming a consortium among libraries, it becomes possible to purchase information in stabilized and reasonable prices. Historically, the common platform of library co-operation was the sharing of union catalogue, document delivery services, storage facilities, collection development and human resources at local, national and regional level. Another form of co-operation was based on inter library loan services where cooperating libraries agree to share their resources among the member libraries. This form of cooperation enabled libraries to borrow books, periodicals and other reading materials which were not available locally. The sending of requests and delivery of materials through the postal, fax and courier services. However, the real drive for co-operation was seen after when more and more libraries started getting automated and used computers for libraries all house keeping programs.

### **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

### **Advantages of consortia**

The advantages of Consortia are many:

- A comprehensive collection is possible
- Building communication among different libraries
- Avoid duplication of core collection specially for core journals
- Scope of electronic archives
- Easy access to resource sharing on Internet by developing common resources database
- Reduce cost of information and time saving
- Improved resource sharing

### **Disadvantages of Consortia**

Absence of a printed copy of Journals

Require training of staffs in handling electronic documents etc. Consortia requires high initial investments in licenses and information and communication technology.  
Copyright problems Unreliable telecommunication links and insufficient bandwidth Lack of archiving and back files availability

### **Consortia initiatives in india.**

These are library consortia in India following below.

#### **1. Indian National Digital Library of Engineering, Sciences, and Technology (INDEST).**

INDEST is a consortium set up and funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in India. The ministry provides funds required for providing differential access to electronic resources subscribed to the members. It has its headquarters at IIT Delhi. Its members include 38 core institutions viz., Indian Institute of Science, IITs, IIMs, IIITs. NITs and a few other centrally funded Government institutions. The membership is open to all other educational institutions under its selfsupported category. The access to the resources is being provided directly from the publishers websites. The consortium offers a price advantage on subscription to resources that exceeds 80%. Electronic resources subscribed by INDEST consortium are full-text e-resources like (ASCE) American Society of Civil Engineers, ACM Digital Library, EBSCO databases, Elsevier's science, Emerald full-text etc. and bibliographical databases like INSPEC, J-Gate, MathSciNET, Web of Science, Scifinder Scholar etc. The consortium is also a member of International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC)

2.

## 2, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

CSIR has also formed a Consortium for which National Institute of Science, Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), a constituent establishment of CSIR formed with the merger of INSDOC and NISCOM, has been identified as the nodal agency. To augment CSIR research and development activities, NISCAIR implemented an agency for the process of providing access to globally available electronic journals to the entire S&T staff of CSIR. On behalf of CSIR, it has entered into an agreement with Elsevier science to access its odd 1,500 e-journals and intends to strengthen further its information resources base by subscribing access to more journals published globally. CSIR consortium extended its access by creating appropriate on consortium basis with the other providers of e-journals.

## 3. UGC-INFONET The University Grants Commission (UGC),

India has launched a consortium of e-journals for its member universities to provide access to journals through its nationwide communication network, UGC-INFONET. It is overlaid on Education and Research Network (ERNET) infrastructure to provide assured quality of service and optimal utilization of Bandwidth resources. On behalf of the UGC, the INFLIBNET is executing the UGC-INFONET project in collaboration with the ERNET. This Consortium aims to promote the use of electronic database and full text access to journals by the research and academic community in the country. Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, is the nodal agency for coordination of the UGC-INFONET. It facilitates linkage between UGC, ERNET and universities and coordinates the programme. It is also administering the entire programme including monitoring of bandwidth utilization and releasing the annual recurring cost of 149 universities. This Consortium subscribes to journals published by American Chemical Society, American Institute of Physics/ American Physical Society, Institute of Physics, Annual Reviews, Cambridge University Press, Project MUSE, Royal Society of Chemistry, etc. In all areas of learning like Science, Technology, Medicine, Social Science and Humanities. UGC-INFONET is a boon to the higher education system in the country. The programme helps in mitigating the severe shortage of periodicals faced by university libraries due to the ever widening gap between the growing demand for literature and the shortage of available resources. The consortia model gets the discount of 85% to 90% of list price. As per 2006 statistics, it offered e-resources from 25 major publishers/ vendor aggregators content to 100 universities and the consortia members have downloaded 2945074 full text articles in 2005. In the year 2006, there is tremendous growth in over all usage of e-resources.

## CONCLUSION

Library consortia, providing for physical and electronic delivery of materials, and integrating the collection-development process are all distinct and crucial steps in moving toward the twenty-first century library. It is the case; clearly identified landmarks represent important goals and milestones for measuring our common progress on a journey through a new and unfamiliar landscape. Consortia are tools, which will aid in exploiting the features of the e-resources as well as in effecting savings.

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