Chapter 4
Special Library Consortia:
A Resource Sharing Approach in an Electronic Milieu

Tawfeeq Nazir
University of Kashmir, India

ABSTRACT

Due to increase in costs, proliferation of electronic resources and dwindling library budgets, cooperative e-acquisition has become a compelling proposition in a library consortium environment. The user community also has been greatly influenced by newer technologies facilitating seamless access to information. Users demand to have a wide array of electronic information services. As such, the current library scenario has reached a critical mass both in terms of e-products as well as increased number of virtual users. Due to journal crisis, and cuts in library budgets, the special library professionals are forced to come together in forming a consortium for subscription of e-journals. This chapter provides an outlook of special library consortia in India and the rest of the world.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries today are facing increasing demand for services while concerned with the challenges such as the remarkable rise in managing information resources, elevated cost of library materials, high expectations from users, budget cuts and much more. The solution to these crises is to establish library consortium especially in relation to the acquisition of electronic resources. Library consortia are created to help

libraries obtain better prices by buying joint access for a greater number of users, expanding access to print and electronic collections and developing new services to meet the customers' needs.

Consortia approach has come into view as the hallmark of libraries in order to feat electronic resources effectively. As noted by Vasishta and Jyoti (2007), Allen Kent stressed that, "the success and survival of libraries will much depend on how much and to what extent the libraries cooperate with each other in future". A consortium is said to be a cooperative array among groups, institutions, association or society (Bansode, 2007). Huarng & Yu (2011) shared that library consortium "refers to co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration between, and among, libraries for the purpose of sharing information resources". Consortium among the libraries is useful in various ways. It will be beneficial for getting cooperation among its member libraries in acquiring electronic databases, communication of information and inter-library loan. It will be supportive for balanced use of library funds that even small libraries can also derive benefits out of their tight budget. Consortium provides an effective information infrastructure to its member libraries.

According to Varaprasad & Madhusudhan (2010), there are different kinds of consortium:

1. Open Consortium: In this type, libraries are free to join and leave when they please. Member libraries are usually homogeneous in nature and require cross-sharing of the resources in a specific subject area. For example, INDEST-AICTE Consortium.
2. Closed Consortium: As the name indicates, this type of consortium is formed by coalition, affiliation, and collaboration among exclusive member libraries. For example, CSIR, DAE, and IIM Consortium.
3. Centrally-funded: In this type, a parent body or the coordinating agency will have the financial responsibility for running the consortium. For example, CSIR, INDEST, UGC INFONET, and ICMR Consortia, etc.
4. Special Library Consortium: Consortium formed by corporate libraries, law libraries, medical libraries, museum libraries, news libraries, and non-profit libraries.
5. Shared Budget: In this type, management of funds and other aspects are handled individually by the member libraries. For example, IIM, and Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FORSA).
6. Publishers' Initiative: Certain publishers are also encouraging consortium formation by giving a deep discount in prices to the member libraries. For example, Emeralds' Publishing Group.

32 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/special-library-consortia/138853

Related Content

Invisible Community?: Bringing Online Graduate Students to the Library
Sheila Bonnandand Mary Anne Hansen (2018). *Library Science and Administration: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications (pp. 931-945).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/invisible-community/191549

Determinants of Web Search Effectiveness From the Perspective of Library and Information Science Students
Adeyinka Tella, Saheed Oyeniranand Ebenezer Sanya Ibironke (2021). *International Journal of Library and Information Services (pp. 1-15).*
www.irma-international.org/article/determinants-of-web-search-effectiveness-from-the-perspective-of-library-and-information-science-students/280359

Information Literacy Skills Among the Undergraduate Students at the University of Livingstonia, Malawi
Donald Flyweland Boemo N. Jorosi (2018). *International Journal of Library and Information Services (pp. 43-56).*
www.irma-international.org/article/information-literacy-skills-among-the-undergraduate-students-at-the-university-of-livingstonia-malawi/206868

Supporting Information Literacy Skills of Students for a Successful Transition to Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges for Libraries in the Digital Era
Josiline Phiri Chigwada (2019). *International Journal of Library and Information Services (pp. 24-30).*
www.irma-international.org/article/supporting-information-literacy-skills-of-students-for-a-successful-transition-to-higher-education/214910

Analyzing the Conceptualization of and Challenges to Adopt Smart Public Library in Indonesia
Djoko Sigit Sayogo, Sri Budi Cantika Yuliand Wiyono (2021). *Research Anthology on Collaboration, Digital Services, and Resource Management for the Sustainability of Libraries (pp. 549-569).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/analyzing-the-conceptualization-of-and-challenges-to-adopt-smart-public-library-in-indonesia/274775