



RESOURCE SHARING IN ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

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Abstract:

The word 'Sharing' denotes apportioning, allotting or contributing, something that is owned, to benefit others. 'Resource Sharing' in its most positive aspects, entails reciprocity, implying a partnership in which, each member has something useful to contribute to others and which, each is willing and able to make available when needed. 'Library Resources' however, have been defined in several ways.

Key words: Resource Sharing, Agreements, Steps to Promote Resource Sharing through Network, Library Consortium.

- 1. Introduction:** The concept of one collection serving multiple uses is not new. Although the libraries may appear to have similar missions and goals, their methods of service or emphasis may be very different. An engineering college library needs to be easy to access by faculty and staff and located near classrooms. Engineering college libraries require a restrained atmosphere incompatible with the activities of young children. Engineering college Libraries may have confidential or very valuable collections with restricted use. Materials that are suitable for adults or post secondary students, other possible conflicts in services, extreme care In developing agreements and contracts between Location of the library building, locations of collections, responsibility for collections, staffing, and budgets, special arrangements, authority for the library, building maintenance and other areas must all be considered In planning for shared-use. Today, the object of resource sharing has changed the old concept of resource sharing due to multi-dimensional growth of published documents in recent past, increasing cost of books and subscribing periodicals, advancement of new technology for information processing and dissemination are some of the fundamentals factors which require information resource sharing among the libraries. From a long time, libraries were practicing information resource sharing among libraries. Besides entering into inter-library loan practice, libraries thought seriously of resource sharing for the proliferation of information which is the out come of the rapid growth of publications and staying in the limited budget they are trying to integrate libraries cautiously for resource sharing in their principle of collection development. Emergence of library consortia is a very promising development in this direction.
- 2. Definitional Analysis Key Concept of Resource Sharing:**
Resource Sharing: According to the American Library Association (ALA)



“The co-operative structures, which cross jurisdictional, institutional, and often political boundaries to join in a common enterprise, several types of libraries — academic, special, and public”

- The term ‘Resource’ applies to any thing, person or action to which one turns for aid in time of need.
- Library resource comprises man power, materials, functions, methods and services.
- Any and all of the materials, functions, and services which constitute a modern library system... It is ... amalgamation of people (manpower), processes, ideas, materials, and money which form the substance of a library and can be described as its resources. The word ‘Sharing’ denotes apportioning, allotting or contributing, something that is owned, to benefit others. ‘Resource Sharing’ in its most positive aspects, entails reciprocity, implying a partnership in which, each member has something useful to contribute to others and which, each is willing and able to make available when needed. ‘Library Resources’ however, have been defined in several ways.

3. Objectives of Resource Sharing:

- Providing convenient access to information to library users irrespective of the location of the resources. In other words, libraries go beyond their own resources to satisfy the user requirements. This is achieved by sharing the resources of other libraries.
- Reduction in all round cost.
- Avoidance of unnecessary duplication of information resources and their processing and maintenance costs.
- Provision of greater access to information resources to a wider category of users
- Development of specialised areas of collection building, each library concentrating on areas of its own concern.
- Maximizing the availability of library materials and services at the minimal expense.

4. Agreements on Basic Records and Technology:

One of the significant aspects that needs attention is that each participating library should have a clear cut policy as regards the type of resources it would be in a position to share' with other member libraries. In other words, the library will necessarily have some books and journals which are very much used by its own clientele and cannot be lent out of the premises: Such documents do not fall under the purview of resources sharing. Therefore, for effective resource sharing among libraries, it is important to reach an agreement on some of the under mentioned issues:

Agreements On-

- Type of material to be shared
- Acquisition policies both to ensure consistent development of holdings and also to avoid duplication when this is considered to be non-productive by the member libraries;
- Loan periods, renewal procedures, payment for materials lost during transactions, etc.;
- Production of tools such as union catalogues with uniformity and standardization for bibliographic control;
- Cooperative cataloguing or shared cataloguing;
- Maintenance of up-to-date catalogues, etc.



- In addition to the aspects mentioned above; it is necessary that there should be :
- Positive procedures for delivering materials and their timely return;
- Bibliographic access to local holdings and on order and in-process records of the participant libraries;
- Establishment of facilities for storing little used or discarded materials, their maintenance and use as and when required.
- Once material of interest has been located elsewhere, it becomes necessary to determine whether it is indeed available, or is in use by others. Resource sharing requires access to circulation information to avoid disappointment and to accelerate the process of locating the required material in another library. Once this is done, the next step entails transfer of the physical material to the point of need. Resource sharing, therefore, involves establishing positive procedures for delivering materials, and for ensuring their return in a timely manner. Resource Sharing Concept.
- If resource sharing is to be successful and effective, all procedures must occur with sufficient speed so that the client has the desired material in hand before the need for it is evaporated. Technology may become useful tool in this regard

5. Library Resource sharing initiatives in India:

The need for networking of libraries with the objective of resource sharing was felt in the - 1980s after witnessing a great deal of progress made by the developed countries in this direction. The 'Working Group.' of the Planning Commission on libraries and informatics headed by Dr. N. Seshagiri recommended the need for modernisation of library services and inter-linking of library systems during the 7th plan period (1985-1990).

In 1985 NISSAT convened a meeting under the chairmanship of Director-General, CSIR. One of the recommendations of this- meeting was establishment of a Science and Technology library in Calcutta and the promotion of automation and networking in the city. CMC Ltd. - was commissioned by NISSAT to prepare the feasibility report on the Calcutta Library ` Network (CALIBNET). The report was completed and published in 1989. In the meanwhile, in January 1988, India International Centre, New Delhi with the support of NISSAT began the work on Delhi Library Network (DELNET) as a project of the Centre. In July 1992; it was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

The recommendations of the Working Group on Modernisation of Library Service and Informatics headed by Dr: Seshagiri, paved the way for the establishment of an Information ' and Library Network (INFLIBNET). The report of INFLIBNET was published in 1989. In 1991, INFLIBNET opened its office at Ahmedabad as soon as funds became available under the Eighth Plan, INFLIBNET began its work. In the meantime proposals were made regarding the establishment of more networks. in cities like Chennai, Pune, Bombay and Bangalore. Therefore, besides CALIBNET, DELNET and INFLIBNET the library networks started in one form or the other in Bombay, Bangalore, Chennai, Pune and Ahmedabad. '

Thus, library network are commonly formed to negotiate joint purchases (e.g. of equipment, software, books, library materials and licensed electronic databases and resources) and to share resources. Following table no. 1 shows major library consortia used for resource sharing.



Table – 1 MAJOR LIBRARY CONSORTIA NETWORKS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

S.N.	Name of the library Consortia	Year Of	URL
	Center for Research Libraries, North America	1949	http://www.crl.edu
	South Asia Library Consortium	1993	
	JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee)	1993	http://www.jisc.ac.uk
	VIVA	1995	http://www.viva.lib.va.us
	GALILIO	1996	http://www.Galileo.gsu.edu/Homepage.cgi
	Texshare	1996	http://www.exlibrisuls.vcu.edu
	ICOLC	1996	http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia
	OhioLINK	1997	http://www.ohiolink.edu
	BC Electronic Library Network	*	http://www.eln.bc.ca
	Washington Research Library Consortia	1987	http://www.wrtc.org
	Library Consortia in Oregon	*	http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/orbis.consort
	NESLI (National Electronic Site Licensing Initiative, Great Britain)	*	Hme.imagnet.co.za/liasa/the%20South%20African%20Initiative.htm
	IDAL (iiiNOS Digital Academic Library)	2005	http://www.idal.illinois.edu
	CALIS (China Academic Library and Information System)	*	http://www.lib.pku.edu.cn/html/caails
	KERIS (Korean Education and Research Information Service)	*	http://www.keris.or.r/english/index.jsp
	CONCERT (Consortium on Core Electronic Resources in Taiwan)	*	http://www.stic.gov.tw/Eglish/e_COCERT.htm
	ANUL (Association of National University Libraries, Japan)	*	http://www.soc.nil.ac.jp/au/netindex.html
	KORSA (Korea Research Sharing Alliance)	*	http://www.korsaor.kr
	TEBNET (Taiwan EBook Net_	*	http://www.tebet.lib.fc.edu.tw
20	MUA (Ministry of University Affairs, Thai LIS)	*	http://www.uni.net.th
21	CeRA (Consortium of e-Resources in Agriculture)		

Table1 shows that consortium network concept was started from 1949 onwards and most of the library consortium started between 1993 1997's at International level.



Table – 2 Library Consortia network at National Level

S.N.	Name of the Library Consortia	Full Form	URL
	INDEST Consortia	Indian National Digital Library in Sci. & tech	http://www.panitt.iitd.ac.in/indest
	UGC INFONET	University Grant Commission Information Network	http://www.web.inflibnet.ac.in/info/ugcinfonet/ugcinfonet.jsp
	CSIR Consortia	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	http://www.niscair.res.in/activities/Services/majorprojects.htm#ejournalconsortia
	DAE	Indian Space Research Organization	http://www.isro.org
	DAE Library Consortia	Department of Atomic Energy	http://www.tifr.res.in/-libws
	IIM library Consortia	Indian Institute of Management	http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/library.consortia.htm
	HELNET Consortia	Health Sciences Library and Information Network Consortium	http://www.rguhs.ac.in/hn/newhell.htm
	ICICI KP	ICICI Knowledge Park	http://www.iciciknowledgepark.com
	ICMR Consortium	Indian Council of Medical Research Consortium	http://www.jcc-icmr.informindia.co.in/about/about.asp
	FORSA Consortium	Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics	http://www.iiap.res.in/library/forsa.html
	MCIT Consortium	Ministry of Communication & Information Technology Library Consortium	http://www.mcitconsortium.nic.in

Table 2 is showing information regarding Library consortium in India and their URL's

6. Advantages of Resource Sharing:

1. To reduce the cost of library operations by obtaining a group purchased price for information product.
2. To bring pressure on, providers especially publishers to reduce the rate of rise in the cost of purchasing information. Thus, library is commonly formed to negotiate joint purchases (e.g. of



equipment, software books library material and licensed electronic data base and resources) and to share resources.

3. To leverage resources by sharing existing resources or collection through virtual union Catalogue and sharing of Collections and collaborating on collection development; each library is able to contribute unique titles to the consortium – avoid duplication Electronic resources including the creation of digital collections-sharing among Consortium members need not be just in terms of licensing products- it can also include sharing in the creation of digital collections.

- Storage of resources – Space is an issue for many libraries
- Sharing the archiving of resources
- Sharing staff expertise- a consortium provides opportunities for staff members to develop new skills and interact with a variety of people who would not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise
- Sharing risk- by sharing risk, members of a consortium can undertake projects that are larger than one institution can safely take on its own.
- This form of cooperation enables the consortia libraries to borrow books, periodicals, articles, and scientific journals, which are not available locally.
- Electronic access enables the user initiate their own search of remote catalogues and make requests for information.
- Sharing catalogues—to enable user’s greater access to larger collection
- CD-ROM union catalogue that provides access to books, videos and recording for each institution.

Union List of Serials that provides access to the journal holdings of all member Libraries

7. **Conclusion:** With the explosion of knowledge, constraints on the financial resources, resource sharing has emerged as necessity. The problems of space, standardization, professional development of the staff, challenges posed by new technologies, and drastic cut in the library budgets have aggravated the problem of the present day librarianship. In India, Resource Sharing, in its true spirit has not yet developed Library Consortia some library networks started such as CALIBNET, MALIBNET, DELNET, INFLIBNET, etc. The accessibility to international journals in Indian universities and technical institutions has improved many folds with setting-up of a few Government-funded library consortia. Prior to setting up of these consortia, the access to e-journals was restricted to a premier institutions like IISc, IITs, IIMs and a few central universities who were subscribing to a few e-resources including bibliographic databases on CD ROM, a few e-journals accessible free with subscription to their print versions and a negligible fraction of journals on subscription. After launch of the “Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium” in 2003 and “UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium” in 2004, availability and accessibility of e-resources increased phenomenally in centrally-funded technical institutions (IITs, IISc, IIMs, IITs, etc.) and universities, setting in a new culture of electronic access and browsing in educational institutions. A number of library consortia have emerged in India in past five to six years. Library consortia helps to library to achieve library objective, every library have common objective “right information to right user, at right time” for satisfy our users.



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