

# **Consortia: A New Trends in Library and Information Science**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Any library cannot full fill the total requirement of the reader. It is essential to establish resource sharing among the library to achieve the objectives. The increasing Information demand of the reader, limited financial resources compiled the library Profession to establish 'consortia' concept in the profession. This paper discusses the need, importance, limitation, National and International consortia. Introduction In the professional literature the term 'consortia' cover a great diversity of Cooperation, situation and experiences according to the different contexts and times they Were developed. The ideals and practice of library cooperation were progressively Affirmed during the last century , giving rise to a considerable variety of activities and Organizational form with various names, often related to the most fashionable cultural Trends or suggested by new technologies and innovative models developed in business contexts.*

**KEYWORDS:** Consortia, Library, Information Science, Services.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Term 'consortia' was used first time in the North American library lexicon in the 1960. And it means form of structured cooperation focused primarily on resource sharing and cost reduction. In some European countries, use of the term 'consortia' in library contexts has very remote origin.

In the beginning, consortia focused on Inter Library Loan (ILL) and document delivery service based on union catalogues and locally held resources. Retrospective conversion and preservation initiatives followed. Today, emphasis is on buying, cooperatives, influencing policy, specifically scholarly publication pattern, research and development to improve content delivery and standard for developing and managing collection often through grants, and expanding access to specialized resources. Meaning of Library Consortia - A library consortia is a concept which facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and at the best terms of licenses. Group of libraries come together with common interest to form consortium. One of the libraries or agencies will work as coordinator for identification of libraries for each publisher, legal matter etc. The aim of consortia is to achieve what the members of group cannot achieve individually.

In other world “Consortia is a strategic alliance of institution that have common interest “

### **Need of Consortia**

Following are some point to describe why consortia is essential

- 1) Indian Universities are finding it hard to maintain the subscription to even for core Journals subscription and also shrinking budget.
- 2) Recent trends and developments in the area of communication, computer and information technology.
- 3) Improving the quality and standard of research in Indian universities by improving the access base of literature to them is essential.
- 4) Whole World is moving towards electronic publishing and the cost of electronic publishing is much cheaper than that of the print version.
- 5) Provides more, better, faster, and cheaper services for less money.
- 6) Qualitative resource sharing for effective document delivery service.
- 7) Information explosion.
- 8) Diversity of user needs.
- 9) Impossibility of self-sufficiency

### **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, long run planning of the technology infrastructure, access to back runs of periodicals will have to clearly spelt, copyright and licensing, archival issue, price issue should be economically favorable. Last but not least, designing and launching a library consortium should be long term sustenance and robust models towards achieving the above goals Function of Consortia.

### **Following are the major function of consortia**

- 1) Collection Sharing
- 2) Electronic Content Licensing.
- 3) Inter – Library Loan / Document Delivery.
- 4) Preservation.
- 5) Training.
- 6) Union List / Shared Online catalogues

### **Objectives of Consortia**

- 1) To provide better services
- 2) To avoid duplication in resources among libraries of interest.
- 3) Increase the access base with more E-journal.
- 4) Increase the cost benefit per subscription.
- 5) Develop technical capability of the staff in operating and using electronic publication database.
- 6) Reduced information cost.
- 7) Improved resource sharing.

### **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) Helpful to provide better library services like CAS and SDI.
- iv) Cost Sharing for Technical and training support
- v) Electronic Journals demand neither library space nor shelling 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

### **Consortia – drawbacks Indian Situation**

- 1) Lack of awareness about consortia benefit.
- 2) Difficulties in changing the traditional mind setup of librarian.
- 3) Inadequate funds.
- 4) Pay-Per-View not yet acceptable.
- 5) Lack of appropriate bibliographical tools.
- 6) Lack of trained person for handling new technologies.
- 7) Lack of proper infrastructure.

### **Consortia at International and National level**

#### **Indian Consortia Websites**

Indian Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology Consortium (INDEST)

<http://www.library.iitb.ac.in/indest/>

Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics

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

UGC-INFONET

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

#### **International Consortia Websites**

Ohio Link

<http://www.ohiolink.edu>

South Asia Library Consortia

[www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/soa6.html](http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/soa6.html)

Dynix.com - Library Consortia Solutions

[www.dynix.com/solutions/consortia/](http://www.dynix.com/solutions/consortia/)

International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/statement.html>

Library Consortia Documents Online -- About this Site

[www.lis.uiuc.edu/~b-sloan/consort.htm](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~b-sloan/consort.htm)

Consortia Canada Web Site

<http://concan.sols.org/main.htm>

The Washington Research Library Consortium

<http://www.wrlc.org>

## **CONCLUSION**

At the present time consortia has become a very important feature of the academic Library. It provide more information sources at least cost to full fill the requirement of the User. The librarian has to face several problems to implement the 'consortia' concept. One of them is space To overcome this problem consortia is best way because all information are available of internet & with the help of computer more & more user can easily used at a time. Apart from the drawback we could think of the benefit of the 'consortia', there is no reason why the next ten years should not see the availability of consortia deals for Access to all electronic publication.

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