

# **Course-III (A): University and College Library System**

## **Unit 4: Networks, Consortia and ICT Applications**

### **Topic: Library Network & Resource Sharing**

**DR. R.K. BHATT**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**



# Library Network, Resource sharing and Consortia

- Introduction
- Library Network (concept, needs, goals).
- Resource Sharing (concept, objectives, needs, areas of application).
- Resource sharing through Networks (characteristics, objectives, importance, methods).

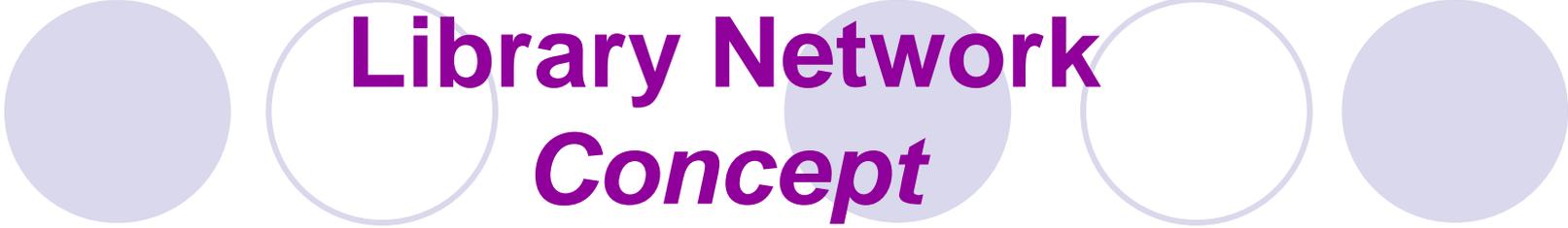
# Library Network, Resource sharing and Consortia

- Library Consortium (concept, needs, definition, objectives, benefits, licensing models, organizational models, Indian scenario).
- Major issues of Consortia Approach.
- Electronic Resource Consortium worldwide.
- Consortia – Drawbacks in Indian situation.
- Conclusion



# Introduction

Consortium, network, and cooperatives – these are the terms used to label the organizational arrangements for achieving a variety of resource - sharing objectives. With the convergence of technological developments, computer – based library networks have assumed an increasingly prominent role in cooperative ventures.



# Library Network *Concept*

Library network is defined as “Two or more Libraries and/or other organizations engaged in common pattern of information exchange, through communications ,for some functional purpose. A network consists of formal arrangements whereby materials, information and services provided by a type of library are made available to all potential users. “

Computers and telecommunications may be among the tools used for facilitating communication among them.

E.g. INFLIBNET, ERNET, INDONET, I- NET, DELNET, CALIBNET, NICNET, etc.



# Library Network *Needs*

- Increase in cost of providing services.
- Exponential growth of publications.
- Relative scarcity of information materials.
- Rapid fragmentation or “balkanization of knowledge”.
- Obsolescence of publications.
- Increase in variety of user demands.



# Library Network *Needs*

- Shift in emphasis from:
  - Local ownership to collective access
  - Library/Information Centre holdings to document delivery cap
  - Materials-orientation to client orientation
  - Document-delivery to information delivery
- Increasing effective technological capabilities.
- People's willingness to share resources.



# Library Network *Goals*

- a) More services for the same cost;
- b) Reducing and/or controlling the cost of the existing services;
- c) Minimizing the operational cost of the collection development; and
- d) Improving the quality of information services provided to the user community.



# Resource Sharing *Concept*

“Resource sharing is a sort of implied agreement amongst participating libraries wherein each participant is willing to spare its resources to other members and in turn is privileged to share the resources of its partners as and when the need arises.”

***Resource:*** The term is used to designate any or all of the materials, functions, services and the expertise of the professional and non-professional staff. Resource implies a thing, a person or an action to which one turns for aid and help in time of need



# Resource Sharing Concept

***Sharing:*** The Resource Sharing term implies apportioning, allocating or contributing something that is owned to benefit others. It implies partnership for mutual benefit.

***Library Resources:*** Encompasses print and non-print materials as well as human resources that are eligible to be shared in ways that enhance the quality of service.



# Resource Sharing *Needs*

- ✓ Proliferation of literature in each and every field of knowledge;
- ✓ Multiplicity of documents in different subjects, language and formats;
- ✓ Development of new subjects and subjects specialization;
- ✓ Increasing of reading community and information seekers;



# Resource Sharing Needs

- ✓ Diversity of user group and their information needs;
- ✓ Demand of pinpointed, exhaustive and expeditious information services;
- ✓ The increase access to information and services at existing cost;
- ✓ Access to existing information and services at least cost;



# Resource Sharing *Needs*

- ✓ The quantity and cost of current publications has increased to such an extent that libraries cannot be self-sufficient;
- ✓ Demands of users have increased, especially for those materials, which are difficult to obtain as well as are expensive;
- ✓ Further, as libraries continue to add materials, they find the space inadequate for storing purposes and hence they think of cooperative storage;
- ✓ The most important of all the reason for resource sharing among libraries is their limited budget.



# Resource sharing *Objectives*

- To optimize the utilization of information resources through shared cataloging, Inter-library loan services, catalogue production, collection development and avoiding duplication in acquisition to the maximum extent possible.
- To encourage cooperation among libraries, documentation centers so that pooled resources can help to arrange weaker resource centers.



# Resource sharing *Objectives*

- Assist the member libraries in the selection of materials.
- Assist the member library activities such as purchase, catalogue and process library materials.
- Promote the development of programmes for expanded use of library resources.



# Resource sharing *Objectives*

- Stimulate the improvement of library facilities and services.
- Cooperative in the development of library personnel.
- Provide, through cooperative acquisition by voluntary organization, materials, beyond the reach of individual libraries.



# Resource sharing *Objectives*

- Reduce the total budget of a library;
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of information materials and efforts;
- Develop specialized activities concentrating on a particular area; and
- Provide maximum accessibility of information.



# Resource Sharing *Areas*

- Inter library loan.
- Cooperative acquisition.
- Specialized purchasing programmes.
- Centralized processing.
- Shared Cataloguing.
- Sharing of bibliographical data.



# Resource Sharing *Areas*

- Centralized periodical collection for loan purposes.
- Cooperative microfilming.
- Preparation and maintenance of Union Catalogue & Union list of serials.
- Exchange of publications; and
- Exchange of experts.



# Resource Sharing Through Networks *Characteristics*

- ✓ Two or more libraries with common desire and goals;
- ✓ Two way communication system for free flow of information from one source to another; and
- ✓ Distribution of information in so many forms: such as catalogue card, print out etc.

# Resource Sharing Through Networks

## *Objectives*

- Improve the sharing of resources among the member libraries.
- Centralize the information processing system, and
- Reduce the communication gap among the libraries.
- Bibliographic controlling of the explosion of literature and knowledge;

# Resource Sharing Through Networks

## *Importance*

- ❖ Avoiding the duplication in purchase of costly documents;
- ❖ Facilitating the adoption of new areas in every field of knowledge;
- ❖ For improving the mobility of data; and
- ❖ Develop the flow of information among the special information centers/ libraries and the other types of libraries.

# Resource Sharing Through Networks

## *Methods*

- I. Library Resource Sharing through telecommunication networks, and
- II. Library Resource Sharing through databases in optical media.



# Library Consortia *Concept*

The concept of “consortium” perhaps originated or evolved from the concepts of co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration. 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, negotiation, legal matters etc. Thus “ Consortia is a strategic alliance of institutions that have common interests.”



# **Library Consortia Needs**

- i. The pressure of competition in information market is enhancing and compelling the information providers i.e. publisher, libraries etc. to exploit new technologies and processes under the umbrella of library consortia.
- ii. It is required to reduce the cost of collection development, particularly the cost of electronic indexes and journals.
- iii. Provides more, better, faster and cheaper services for less money.



# Library Consortia *Needs*

- iv. Indian universities are finding it hard to maintain the subscriptions to even for core journals due to ever increasing cost of the journals subscriptions and also shrinking budget.
- v. Shrinking fiscal resources, price hike in Scientific and Technical journals and also social science titles.
- vi. Recent trends and developments in the area of communication, computer and information technology.



# Library Consortia *Needs*

- vii. Improving the quality and standard of research in Indian universities by improving the access-base of literature to them is essential.
- viii. Academic and Research users can now hope to have access to their learned journal articles in electronic form, as the electronic access is comparatively cheaper.
- ix. Reduction in the staff strength- cost savings for library budget.



# Library Consortia *Needs*

- x. Able to change themselves and reengineer their services and operations in such a way that they meet use expectations better for less money.
- xi. Rational utilization of funds a little more investment pays a lot.
- xii. Qualitative resource sharing for Effective document delivery.



# Library Consortia *Definition*

“Library Consortia is nothing but a strategic planning on the basis of share strength of number of institutions, studies, business opportunities, attracts the best possible price and terms of agreements. Therefore the collective strength of consortium facilities the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to e-resources at affordable cost and at the best terms and conditions.”



# Library Consortia *Objectives*

- Examine and review national and international issues such as pricing policies and copyright law.
- Bring pressure on commercial publishers to reduce the “growth rate” in the cost of information and to bring down the unit cost of information.
- To provide more coverage of collections and facilities to provide wider access to users.
- To avoid duplication of resources among libraries of interest.



# **Library Consortia *Objectives***

- Encourage access and sharing of unique and special collection which are available in member libraries.
- Recognize few libraries, so that they can take the responsibility of developing and maintaining collection which are of archival value.
- Develop technical capabilities of the staff in operating and using electronic publication databases.
- Reduced information cost.



# Library Consortia *Benefits*

- Ensuring availability of information resources for a long period,
- Good product quality through the service,
- Availability of documents/data on desktop,
- Simultaneous access by a large number of users,
- All-time accessibility to information,
- Saving of funds,



# Library Consortia *Benefits*

- Functional advantages of e-services as opposed to that of print, such as fast search, print, and downloading of full text; and
- Browse additional facilities such SDI and link to other internal and or external information sources.



# Library Consortia *Licensing Models*

The electronic journals are made through the Web at varying price models, in most of the cases linked to printed counterparts, i.e. it may be offered free with subscription( e.g. publications of APS and ASCE) or priced at a fixed percentage over the print subscriptions (e.g. journals of Elsevier Science, Springer Verlag and IEEE) or it may also be offered exclusive in electronic media. ICOLC outlines the different content purchase models, which are as follows:



# **Library Consortia** **Licensing Models**

- i. Title-by-title subscription Model
- ii. Print Plus Model
- iii. Electronic Plus Model
- iv. All-You-Can-Eat model
- v. Pay-by-the-Drink Model



# Library Consortia *Organizational Models*

Right selection of organizational model brings requisite strength for the survival of any organization and so is the case for library networks. A wide variety of consortium exists today, all over the world, each being shaped by a number of cultural, political and financial needs and factors. These range very simple to very complex organizations.



# Library Consortia

## Organizational Models

The predominating patterns that are found in the nature of the consortia are:

- i. Loosely Knit federation
- ii. Multi-Type/ Multi-State network
- iii. Tightly Knit Federation
- iv. Centrally Funded Statewide Consortium



# Library Consortia *Indian Scenario*

- INDEST Consortium.
- UGC INFONET (UGC, Government of India).
- IIM Consortium (Consortium of all CSIR Laboratories in India).
- CSIR Consortium (Consortium of all CSIR Laboratories in India).
- FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics).



# Library Consortia *Indian Scenario*

- Consortium of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Library & Information Systems for Resource sharing and Creating a Digital Library.
- Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, (RGUHS)
- DAE Consortia (Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India Consortium).
- IUC-DAEF (Inter University Consortium)

# Major issues of Consortia Approach

- Selecting a coordinating agency to deal on behalf of entire group of participants and executing and monitoring the work.
- Identification of libraries interested in participating and agreeing to common terms.
- Identification of potential publishers to provide access under consortia purchase.
- Negotiating with publisher to get a commonly acceptable and affordable price.

# Major issues of Consortia Approach

- Source of funding to meet the subscription cost.
- Legal issues involved in contracts and usage of material within the consortia.
- Informing the usefulness/importance of the consortia to the higher authorities, Professors etc to act upon the issue.
- Identifying the necessary infrastructure for e-access to resources.
- Issue related to the backup of databases.

# Major issues of Consortia Approach

- Identification & selection of databases to be acquired and hosted by nodal agency & member libraries.
- Documentation and training to staff.
- Access rights-whether to provide direct access from publisher site or mount databases at nodal agency.
- Center like INFLIBNET can work as facilitator (nodal agency) for academic libraries in India.



# Consortia-Drawbacks *Indian Situation*

- Lack of awareness about consortia benefits.
- Slow acceptance of e-information by the users.
- Difficulties in changing the mind setup of librarians.
- Maintenance and balancing both physical and digital library.
- Inadequate funds.
- Single point payment.
- Rigid administrative, financial and auditing rules.
- Absence of strong professional associations.



# Consortia-Drawbacks

## *Indian Situation*

- Problems of defining asset against payment.
- Pay-Per-View not yet acceptable.
- Uncertainty about the persistence of digital resources.
- Lack of infrastructure for accessing electronic sources.
- Unreliable telecom links and insufficient bandwidth.
- Lack of appropriate bibliographic tools.
- Lack of trained personnel for handling new technologies.
- Big brother attitude of libraries.

# Electronic Resource Consortium *Worldwide*

- ❖ International Coalition of Library Consortia (**ICOLC**).
- ❖ Washington Research Library Consortium (**WRLC**).
- ❖ Ohio Library and Information Network (**Ohio Link**).
- ❖ SUNY connect, USA.
- ❖ Joint information systems Committee (**JISC**)

# Electronic Resource Consortium *Worldwide*

- ❖ National Electronic Site Licensing Initiative, Great Britain (**NESLI**).
- ❖ Center for Research Libraries, North America (**CRL**).
- ❖ Illinois Digital Academic Library (**IDAL**).
- ❖ Library Consortia In Oregon, Washington (**LCO**).
- ❖ South Asia Library Consortia (**SALC**)

# Library Consortia

## *Major problems faced by the member libraries*

- ✓ E- journals or e-resources, which have been subscribed by the consortia, are bulk packaged or whole publications of the publishers. The same terms and conditions are extended by consortia to their member libraries, which do not allow subscribing some or a few journals as per their own requisition; they are bound to procure the full package of the publisher.

# Library Consortia

## *Major problems faced by the member libraries*

- ✓ In Indian scenario, the concept of consortia and facilities under it is a new way of providing the information and the services to the ultimate user. The readers are not much aware about the electronic facilities extended to them; this is another problem for the libraries and has become their duty make them aware by conducting user e-education training programme.

# Library Consortia

## *Major problems faced by the member libraries*

- ✓ Sometimes it has been observed that the sanctioning authority or persons involved in the decision making are not satisfied with the concept of electronic accessing, because there is nothing physical and they are not ready to approve the finance. Without physical presence, the audit does not accept the argument of librarian and they always make these objections,

# Library Consortia

## *Major problems faced by the member libraries*

because all the resources provided by the publishers are based on IP address or password, which can be accessed for the limited period of subscription. After expiry of subscription, there is nothing to prove that the library had been subscribing the e-resources. So it becomes the duty and responsibility of head of the library to convince the decision making authority as well as satisfy the audit party.



# Conclusion

The libraries and information centers with their diminishing or at best static financial allocations, have to consider new ways to consolidate global resource amongst them in order to maximize their limited financial resources. The combinations of these developments have resulted in development of “*shared subscription*” or “*consortia based subscription*” of journals everywhere in the world.



# Conclusion

It is clear that the technology of the web, the increasing importance of electronic resources, the advances in the resource sharing systems and the library consortia have created new opportunities for library and information professionals to provide more and more information and knowledge to cater to the information needs to the users.