Consortia: An Overview

K. S. Satyashree[1], Y. Mahesh[2], K. S. Chudamani[3]

[1]Librarian, Government Engineering College, Ramanagara, India
[2]Assistant Librarian, Smt. Nagarathnamma College of Nursing, Bangalore, India
[3]Deputy Librarian (Retd.), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Abstract: **This paper mainly concentrated on library consortia in Indian scenario. Consortia are the non-profitable organization formed the association of libraries in single umbrella. Major purpose of Consortia is to share/transfer or distribute electronics resources through the internet among participated libraries. Some of the leading consortia in India are INFLIBNET, DELNET, and INDEST AICTE etc.**

Keywords: **Library consortia; INDEST AICTE; UGC-INFONET; CSIR.**

1. Introduction

Library and Information Centre's are the repositories of knowledge and form an integral part of education. Now a day's information growth and cost is increased. Importantly development of countries depended on availability of information, it emphasis the Information era. In this context libraries and information center requirements are very important and vital to help for the growth in all the way. Most of the libraries have insufficient amount of materials for information accumulation and dissemination. To overcome these problems, libraries and information centers ideated and initiated the concept of ILL (Inter Library Loan) it is a mutual understanding of two libraries for sharing or transferring the information which is required to users not available in particular library through this ILL user could able to get required information/ document from another library which connected through inter library loan theme. Lateral developed the network for sharing the resources under the name of consortia. A library consortium is an association of libraries established by formal agreement, usually the purpose of improving services by sharing resources among users.

The term is delivered from the Latin word for 'fellowship'; the meaning emphasizes the coming together of separate groups for a purpose. It refers to partnership or association. We called one more word as an alliance, coalition or cooperation. Consortium is not a library association. Basically consortia not a library association some of the library are engaged in the consortia activities.

This consortium member they get huge discount price to the participating libraries. Ex: The Emerald Full-Text Library published by the Emerald Publishing Group (formerly MCB University Press).

2. Previous Research/ study on Consortium

Library consortium is an "association of libraries established by formal agreement, usually for the purpose of improving services or facilities through resource sharing among its members" (Dong and Zou 2009) [1]. Library consortium as a generic term to indicate any group of libraries that are working together towards a common goal, whether to expand cooperation on traditional library services (such as collection development) or electronic information services. It is now used perhaps too broadly, and encompasses everything from formal legal entities to information groups that come together solely to achieve better pricing for purchasing electronic information (Allen and Hirshon 1968) [2]. Origin of usage of the word Consortium and stated that it first began to appear in the library literature as well as the field of science and education during the 1950s and 1960s (Kopp, JJ 1998)3. Library Consortium the concept was used as "association" or "partnership." The term association of the library provides meaning as a group to deal with the information services providers as well as the partnership of the libraries for sharing the resources and services, as well as the negotiation force to deal with the government/ management for better allocation for the libraries. The term consortium refers to "cooperative arrangement among groups or institutions". More straightforward description of 'library consortia' would be "organizations of libraries formed to realize the benefits and opportunities of collaborative activity" (American Heritage Dictionary 1993) [4]. Resource sharing, library co-operation and inter library loan are the major aspects of consortium in china (Dong, EX and TJ Zou 2009) [5].

3. Objectives
- To Enhance cooperation and resource sharing activates among libraries
- To Reducing costs of subscriptions
- To improve library resources
- To provides qualitative service to users.

4. Consortium Benefits
- Consortium provides Shared Budget
- It supports to save the time of the information professionals

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- It helps cooperative acquisition process
- Information resource sharing with smaller institutions to have access to resources.
- Consortium can extend mutual support in resource access
- It provides the access of resource 24*7.

5. Need of Library Consortia

- Due to Information explosion
- Shortfall of library budget to subscribe all e- resources
- Growth of information society
- Technological development in all areas of knowledge
- Diversity of user needs

6. Consortia Models

A. Open Consortia

Open consortia is very flexible. It provides the opportunity of joining and leaving of consortium at any time to its members. Example, INDEST Consortium.

B. Closed Group Consortia

In this model consortium have been created within the closed group. This type of consortia emerged either by co-operation, affiliation and collaboration among the group like CSIR, DAE IIM Consortium. Operation of the consortia guidelines and its administration are very easy and simple in the closed group.

C. Centrally Funded Model

Centralized consortia have a sponsoring agency to advocate for external funds. These funds can provide assured purchasing power for the consortium. Some peoples suggest that the availability of pooled or centralized funding is a good idea, to support the subscriptions having limited interests from the individual members who desire it. This is essentially important, when publishers/ aggregators do not offer a discount to consortia, in such a situation centralized consortia may serve as the integrator of the publisher.

D. Shared-budget Model

In the shared budget model consortia, the participating libraries are taking major role to form the consortium. Examples of Shared Budget consortium are IIM and FORSA

E. National Consortium

National level consortium it includes the entire library from nation. Its provide the information from this consortium for member's libraries. It included only scientific and technical institution

F. Publisher Initiative's

This consortium member they get huge discount price to the participating libraries. Ex: The Emerald Full-Text Library published by the Emerald Publishing Group (formerly MCB University Press).

Table 1
Consortium India

S.No.	Name of Consortia	Funding Agency	Members
1	UGC-INFONET Digital Library	INFLIBNET	Indian Universities
2	INDEST AICTE Consortium	MHRD/IIT, Delhi	48 Institutions including IITs, NITs, IIMs, 1096 associate members
3	NKRC E-Journal Consortium CSIR/DST	NISCAIR	40 CSIR AND 26 DST Institutes
4	MCIT Library Consortium	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	DIT, DOT, DOP and their related organization and PSUs
5	DAE	Dept. of Atomic Energy	36 Institutions, Including BARC, TIFR and SAMEER
6	IIMs Consortium	IIMs	All IIMs
7	DRDO Consortium	DRDO	DRDO Labs
8	FORSA Consortium	Indian Institute of Astro Physics	11 Institutions including TIFR PRL , IUCAA etc.,
9	RGUHS HELINET Consortium	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science	All the Affiliated college of RGUHS
10	DeLCON Consortium	Department of Biotechnology	14 DBT institutions including ICGEB New Delhi and 18 North Eastern Region Intuitions
11	ERMED Consortium	National Medical Library	72 Government Medical college/Institutes including ICMR affiliated research Institutes
12	NLIST Consortium	INFLIBNET Centre	Govt. aided /Non aided colleges
13	Consortium for E-resources in Agriculture CeRA	ICAR	123 agriculture science Universities/Deemed Uni/ICAR
14.	VTU Consortium	VTU	All Engineering College Libraries

G. Indest consortium

INDEST stands for Indian National Digital library in Engineering Science and Technology was established by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). MHRD provides funds to strengthen the Consortia. IISc, IITs, IIMs, NITs are the member institutions of this consortia. It also includes engineering and technical institutions. It covers 17 full-texts and 6 bibliographic databases related to engineering as well as Science and Technology. It provides information to the innovation and research community. Now these consortia merged with e-shodhsindhu.

1) UGC infonet

UGC-INFONET consortium was started by University

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Grants Commission (UGC) in the year 2004 for providing e-resource access to all universities in different phases. It facilitates free access to scholarly journals and databases in all fields and disciplines by the research and academic community across the country. All universities who are under the purview of UGC have been provided UGC-INFONET Connectivity and access to scholarly e-Journals and Databases.

2) FORSA Consortium

The Indian Astrophysics consortium called FORSA Forum. FORSA consortia or Indian Astrophysics Consortium includes nature publications nature online as well as print publications. At present it is looking forward for consortium formation with AIP and other publishers.

3) CSIR Library Consortium

CSIR consortium is a public funded R & D organization with chain of 37 National laboratories and institute located all over the India. The CSIR set up the Electronic Journals Consortium to provide access to 1200 odd journals of Elsevier Science to all its users. Presently NKRC facilitates access to 5,000+ e-journals of all major publishers, patents, standards, citation and bibliographic databases. Apart from licensed resources, NKRC is also a single point entity that provides its users with access to a multitude of open access resources. The Consortium envisions emerging as a leader to serve the R&D sector with much needed information to strengthen the research and development organizations.

National Medical Library's Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED) Consortium is an initiative taken by DGHS & MOHFW to develop nationwide electronic information resources in the field of medicine for delivering effective health care. This consortia working under the chairmanship of Dr. K.P Singh. NML Started ERMED e-journal consortium in 2008 with 40 members including 28 ICMR+10 DGHS + AIIMS + NTR Health University, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. 70 state and centrally funded Government Institutions including all AIIMS are selected as its members. 242 quality of journals subscribed from leading publishers.

- British Medical Journal Publishing
- Cambridge University Press
- Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
- Oxford University Press
- John Wiley

4) HELINET (Health Science Library and Information Science Network)

HELINET is the first and foremost India Medical science consortia launched by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science, Bangalore. Primary objective of the HELINET is that networking the libraries and promote the resource sharing mainly focused on international journals and Databases.

5) IIM Library Consortia

The idea of library consortia was initiated in the year 2000 by IIMs librarians with the main objective of resource sharing of digital databases to the IIM community (faculty, students and research scholars). Online web enabled access to the information resources available in all the IIMs without any barriers of time and distance. It will be a simple, efficient and cost effective system. The basic operating principle of this system is to centralized acquisition, processing and utilization of the resources.

6) DeLCON: DBT-Electronic Library Consortium

DBT e-Library Consortium (DeLCON) is a unique Electronic Journal Consortium which is operational since January 2009 and it's located at Gurgaon. Currently the Consortium includes 14 DBT Institutions including ICGEB (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology) New Delhi and 18 North Eastern Region (NER) Institutions. The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Programme (BIRAP), New Delhi is also part of DeLCON. Now, the total 'DeLCON Members' are 33. A total of 917 selective Journals and a Database (SCOPUS) are covered under DeLCON.

7) N-LIST

N-LIST "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. Authorized users can download the articles from the publisher website.

As on Oct 20 2012, a total number of 2963 colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 2714 Govt. / Govt.-aided colleges covered under the UGC act section 12 B/2F as well as Non-Aided colleges.

(http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in).

8) DELNET

DELNET (Developing Library Network) was established in the year 1988. earlier it was called Delhi Library Network. It was initially support by the NISSAT (National information system for Science & Technology). NISSAT provide the financial assistance to the DELNET. Main objective of Delnet was to sharing of resource among the libraries through the development of network.

9) CeRA

CeRA launched by National Agricultural Research Institute and funded by National Agricultural Innovation Project for the developing this consortium. Under these consortia 126 are members. CeRA providing the information more than 10.000 users related Agriculture innovation. ICAR spending per Annum 100 million for the consortia.

10) ICICI Knowledge Park

Knowledge Park started by ICICC Bank Ltd., and Andhra Pradesh Government. This park is committed to facilitating business-driven Research & Development

11) VTU Consortium

VTU consortia established by Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum. Its member is 211 institutions of VTU affiliated technical institutions. The primary objective of this

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consortium is to promote the use of e- resources to its affiliated institutions. Other objectives are to promote rapid and efficient access to scholarly content to the users. To promote interaction and inter library co-operation amongst the participating institutions and also provide training to the students, research scholars, faculty members and librarians of the institution to use of electronic resources effectively and efficiently. VTU consortia provide full text as well as bibliographic databases to its member institutions. And also facilitate remote access of e-resources.

Table 2
List of E- Resources through VTU Consortia for the year 2019

1	Elsevier - Science Direct	304
2	Taylor & Francis	536
3	Springer Nature	690
4	Institute of Civil Engineers, UK (Civil Jrls)	31
5	Emerald (Management)	120
	Total	1681
	E-Books (Perpetual access)	
6	Packt (Professional)	5000
7	Taylor & Francis	4950
8	McGraw Hill Express	505
9	Elsevier SD (Engineering)	436
10	New Age International	220
	Total No of E-Books	11,111
	Technology Platform	
11	Knimbus (e-Library + Remote access + Mobile App) Platform	
12	NetAnalytiks Platform	
13	Turn tin (Plagiarism Software Online Tool)	

7. Conclusion

Consortia play an important role in academic libraries. Through consortia libraries will get N number of scholarly publication with least cost. A consortium provides very good network or platform to their member libraries to access required material under consortium made. Its helps their researcher, faculty members and students to get relevant or required information to fulfill their academic needs

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