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Role of Library Consortium in Higher Education with Special Reference of E-ShodhSindhu e-Journals Consortium

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Abstract:

E-ShodhSindhu Consortium is an innovative project conceived and launched by MHRD Government of India and executed by INFLIBNET Centre to provide access to full text resources and database to the research and academic community in India. At present the university libraries in India are actively engaged in incorporating electronic information resources and services. UGC had initiated Infonet E-journals Consortium. Recently MHRD formed e-ShodhSindhu merging three consortia, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. This study seeks to examine how far the research community is aware of and is making use of e-ShodhSindhu E-journals Consortium. The study also seeks to examine the full text e-resources, database, and membership all over the India.

Keywords: E-Shodh Sindhu, Digital Library Consortia, E-resources, INFLIBNET, N-List

Introduction:

The modern era is witnessing the information/knowledge revolution. The information needs of the society are growing continuously at tremendous speed, hence the production of information. Only answer to manage this new information scenario is the resource sharing. The ever growing information needs of the modern age can be satisfied by the resource sharing among the library and information centers. "Traditionally, the primary purpose of establishing a Library Consortium is to share physical resources including books and periodicals amongst members. However, Libraries have been cooperating and collaborating on collection building and resource sharing for many years. Information explosion, emergence of internet and particularly World Wide Web as a new medium of information storage make the concept more come into sight than earlier. Considering the emerging ever growing scholarly academic requirements of the Indian higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched two ambitious and revolutionary programmes for academic community in higher education institutes under its purview. The first initiative namely "UGC-INFONET connectivity Programme" aims at networking university campuses with state-of-the-art campus wide networks and Internet bandwidth and the second initiative is known as "UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium" which provides access to selected core and peer reviewed electronic journals and databases in various disciplines. The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is the executing and monitoring body of both the programmes. In this paper authors have tried to depict important aspects of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. The MHRD has formed e-Shodh Sindhu merging three consortia

initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The e-Shodh Sindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act.

Library Consortium an Overview :

The word 'Consortium' has been originated from the Latin in early 19th Century in the sense of partnership. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary depicts consortium as 'a Group of people, countries, companies, etc. who are working together on a particular project'. A library consortium is a network of Libraries/Information Centers that agree for resource sharing in order to satisfy the information needs of users on the basis of library cooperation. Potter (1997) identified the following reasons for formation of Consortia. (Potter, W. 1997. Recent Trends in State wide Academic Library Consortia, Library Trends, 45(3), 417-419.)

- Better sharing of existing resources and jointly acquiring new resources at great savings
- Providing enhanced library services with an emphasis on access to new electronic resource including databases and services offered through the internet and the WWW.
- Expediting inter library borrowing, which has evolved into providing as many electronic resources as possible at the lowest cost to consortia members.

Library consortium is a "community of two or

more information agencies which have formally agreed to coordinate, cooperate or consolidate certain function" to achieve mutual objectives. This type of association of a group of libraries generally formed to achieve mutually the joint benefits. Library consortia is a network for buying and accessing e- information in a cooperative arrangement among a group of libraries in providing instant access to greater resources for the users of the individual libraries. One of the libraries or agencies of the consortia works as coordinator for identification of libraries for each publisher, negotiation, legal matters, etc. Library consortia may vary from being decentralized to highly centralize in nature. The degree of centralization of consortium is the primary factor affecting not only how member institutions interact with one another, but also maintain relationship with external party (publisher/vendor). More decentralized the consortium, the greater the degree of autonomy each member retains. (Dr. Manoj Kumar Varma)

Definition :

A consortia is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal. Consortium is a Latin word, meaning 'partnership, association or society' and derives from censors 'partner', itself from con- 'together' and sores 'fate', meaning owner of means or comrade.

According to online free dictionary (2013) - An association or a combination, as of businesses, financial institutions, or investors for the purpose of engaging in a joint ventures or a cooperative arrangement among the groups or institutions is called consortium.

According to Biswas and Dasgupta (2001), the term consortium can be defined as follows:

"A consortium refers to a "temporary cooperation of a number of powers, companies etc, for a common purpose. It is an association of similar types of organization /institution who are engaged for producing and servicing the common things/for providing services for a specific purpose of its users."

Need of the Study:

Need of the Study Doctoral students and researchers have realized the advantage of e-Journals. At present the university libraries in India, are actively engaged in incorporating electronic information resources and services to provide much needed primary research information. It is very important to know how far the research community is aware of and makes use of e-ShodhSindhu e-Journals Consortium.

Features of Library Consortia :

These are the features of library consortia following below.

- It provides each organizations and institutions with the capacity to share their resources without sacrificing the individuality of each member library
- The collections of the Consortium libraries enable each member library to support scholarly research for its users.
- Cooperative research and development in application of information communication and technology enhances service and realizes cost effectiveness.
- Staff development and interaction with quality of service.
- It is the cooperative task to reduce the cost of purchase consortia. As a result, end users can take benefits of more resources than would be available through one library.
- To advance library services are provided with an emphasis on access to new E- resources including databases and services offered through the internet and www.
- To expanding inter library searching at less cost is possible.
- Uncertainties in legal issues are handled with more confidence.

Advantage :

Some of the important advantages of the library consortium are as following below.

- Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost;
- Optimum utilization of funds.
- Facilities to build up digital libraries Helpful to provide better library services like CAS and SDI
- Cost Sharing for Technical and training support
- Electronic Journals demand neither library space nor shelling costs nor can they be stolen from the library
- 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; and Available 24/7.
- Less economy expansion.

Disadvantage :

Some of the important disadvantages of the library consortium are as following below.

- Absence of a printed copy of Journals
- Require training of staffs in handling electronic

documents etc.

- Consortia requires high initial investments in licensee and information and communication technology.
- Copyright problems
- Unreliable telecommunication links and insufficient bandwidth
- Lack of archiving and back files availability
- Internet Access id necessary
- Users are not accepting e-journals as per with the printed Journals

Role of Library Consortium in Education :

The following benefits have been noticed in modern educational system after incorporating the concept of consortium with libraries.(Narendra Kumar & Rupesh Gour)

1. Process and maintenance of large flow of information has become easier as digital contents have been increasing day by day and become double after one or two months which leads the problem of organizing and managing according to the demand of academic industry and scholars.
2. Consortium improves the efficiency of the libraries and is responsible to change the orientation of the library and its services.
3. Accessibility of e-resources is made possible 24*7*365 days on centralized platform
4. E-books may be consulted with no beginning and no ending concept as numbers of key-words are available to access the information from different databases on single platform.
5. Consortium package gives the liberty to pick and choose the titles of the journals and conference proceedings as per the requirement of interest libraries so that the low budget libraries can also participate in the world of digital contents or web.
6. Online indexing and abstracting services help in retrieving the authentic source of information for preparing the references and bibliographies
7. Consortium allows the administrator to prepare the statistics of the usages of any title from subscribed e-resources, In fact, gives alarming on low usage of any title. Therefore, this facility may help in choosing the titles according to the requirements. Likewise, libraries may be benefitted and can save the cost to avoid the unwanted titles from their e-resources package
8. Consortium helps in marinating the databases

of required titles only on minimal price

9. Consortium helps the new researchers in selecting their research topics and provide opportunity to explore and understand the titles as unlimited international standard data

Library Consortium in India:

These are library consortia in India following below

Table:-I List of Consortium

Sr. No.	Name of Consortium	Year of established	Website/URL
1	Forum for resource sharing in Astronomy (FORSA)	1982	http://www.res.in/india/library-fora.html
2	LIBRI Libraries Consortium	1999	https://www.libri.res.in
3	ISI Library Consortium	1999	https://www.isical.ac.in/~serial/consortia
4	DAL Consortium	2001	www.dal.res.in
5	IPM Libraries Consortia	2001	www.consortia.in/consortium.html
6	J-Gate	2001	https://jgateplus.com/home/
7	CSIR E-Journal Consortium	2002	www.csr.res.in
8	INDEST-AICTE Consortium	2003	http://www.indest.aicte.ac.in
9	RGUHS-Health Science Library and Information Network (HSLINET)	2003	http://gate.helnet.informedia.ac.in
10	UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium	2004	www.infonet.ac.in
11	MCTT Library Consortium	2005	http://mcttconsortium.mct.ac.in
12	Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA)	2007	http://cera.res.in
13	Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED)	2008	http://www.ermmed.in
14	The National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NGRC)	2009	http://nkrc.nkrcr.res.in/
15	DRDO Consortium	2009	https://publications.drdo.gov.in/cp/
16	DelCON Consortium	2009	http://delcon.gov.in
17	National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIS)	2010	https://nlist.infodnet.ac.in/
18	E-ShodhSindhu	2010	https://es.infonet.ac.in/
19	ICICI Knowledge Park	2011	www.iciknowledgepark.com

E-SHODHSHINDU Digital Library Consortium:

Based on the recommendation of an Expert Committee, the MHRD has formed e-ShodhSindhu merging three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The E-Shodh Sindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act

Current Status:

The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 15000 core and peer-reviewed journals and 04 bibliographic databases from 16 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. So far 217 Universities including 75 technical institution & 3200+ college and central universities that come under the purview of UGC, have been provided differential access to subscribed e-resources. These e-resources covers almost all subject

disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical Sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc.

Aims and Objectives of E-Shodh Sindhu Consortium:

The main objective of the e-Shodh Sindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text, bibliographic and factual databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The major aims and objectives of the e-Shodh Sindhu are as follows:

- Setting-up e-Shodh Sindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources by augmenting and strengthening activities and services offered by three MHRD-funded Consortia;
- Develop a formidable collection of e-journals, e-journal archives and e-books on perpetual access basis;
- Monitor and promote usage of e-resources in member universities, colleges and technical institutions in India through awareness and training programmes;
- Provide access to subscription-based scholarly information (e-books and e-journals) to all educational institutions;
- Provide access to scholarly content available in open access through subject portals and subject gateways;
- Bridge digital divide and move towards an information-rich society;
- Provide access to selected e-resources to additional institutions including open universities and MHRD-funded institutions that are not covered under existing consortia;
- Take-up additional activities and services that require collaborative platform and are not being performed by existing Consortia; and
- Moving towards developing a National Electronic Library with electronic journals and electronic books as its major building blocks. (<https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/index.php>)

Benefits:

There is no gainsaying the fact that consortia based subscription is a viable solution for increasing the access to electronic resources for a large number of institutions because the rates of subscription are low. Major benefits of consortia are listed follows: (Vasantray A Chauhan)

- Reduction in the cost of E-resources
- The Consortium provided better licences terms for preservation, archival access and use of subscribed e-resources which is impossible for single institution in reality

- Sharing of staff skills and expertise to strengthen library leadership.
- Increased effectiveness of advocacy for policy change
- Searching of data is easy for the scholars from a single interface
- Promote cost effective, customer driven services.
- It is useful for resolving complicated problems; hence it is an added benefit for participating libraries.

Full Text E- Resources:

The accessible full text resources include journals, conference proceedings, technical magazines, newsletter, guide to computing literature, peer reviewed publication. The following full text journals are accessible in Shodhsindhu consortia.

Table: 2 E-Resources

Sr No	E- Resources	URL	No. of Journals
1	ACM Digital Library	https://dl.acm.org/	145
2	American Chemical Society	https://pubs.acs.org/	49
3	American Institute of Physics	https://aip.scitation.org/	19
4	American Physical Society	https://journals.aps.org/browse.html	15
5	Annual Review	https://www.annualreviews.org/	43
6	ASCE Journals Online	http://ascelibrary.org	36
7	ASME Journals Online	http://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org	29
8	Cambridge University Press	http://journals.cambridge.org	224
9	Economic & Political Weekly	http://epw.in	01
10	Elsevier Science Direct	http://sciencedirect.com	1036
11	Emerald Publishing	http://emeraldinsight.com	133
12	IEEE-ET Electronic Library Online	http://ieeexplore.ieee.org	479
13	Institute of Physics	http://iopscience.iop.org	46
14	JSTOR	http://jstor.org	3165
15	Nature	http://nature.com	01
16	Optical Society of America	http://oposonfohase.org	18
17	Oxford University Press	http://oxfordjournals.org	262
18	Portland Press	http://portlandpresspublishing.com	08
19	Project Euclid	http://projecteuclid.org	39
20	Project Muse	http://muse.jhu.edu	676
21	Royal Society of Chemistry	http://rsc.org	29
22	SIAM Journals	http://epubs.siam.org	16
23	Springer Link	http://link.springer.com	1722
24	Taylor & Francis	http://tandfonline.com	1078
25	Wiley Blackwell Publishing	http://olabout.wiley.com	908
Total			10177

Table: 3 Database

Sr. No.	Database	URL
1	Capitaline	http://capitaline.com
2	CRIS INFAC Industrial Information	http://crisil.com
3	Eurocomitor	http://go.eurocomitor.com
4	INSIGHT	http://insight.donglobal.in
5	ISID	http://isid.org.in
6	JGate Plus	http://jgateplus.com
7	Manupatra	http://manupatra.com
8	MathSciNet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet
9	SciFinder Scholar	http://www.cas.org/SciFinder
10	Web of Science	http://webofknowledge.com
11	Westlaw India	http://westlawindia.com

Membership:

Table: 4 Membership

Sr. No.	Institutions	Total
1	State Universities	117
	Central Universities	40
	Deemed Universities	22
	National Law School/Universities	12
	IUCs of UGC	06
2	NITs, SLJET & NERIST	32
	IITs & IISc	24
	IITs, IIST, NITIE, NIFT and NITTR	11
	IISERs	07
	SPAS	03
3	AICTE Funded Colleges	60
	12(B)/2(F) State University	13
	12(B)/2(F) Central University	01
	IITs, IIST, NITIE, NIFT and NITTR	01
Total		369

Conclusion:

The e-ShodhSindhu consortia is to provide access to qualitative e-resources including full-text and databases to the member academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The consortia head quarter is assigned to function as a resource center with an aim to catering to the needs of its members for resources accessible to them in electronic format. E-ShodhSindhu is the best way of a common infrastructure and it has become very important. The budget problem is solved as the e-resources are accessed at lower subscription rates with easy terms of subscription under the single window.

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