Library consortia and cooperation in this digital age

By

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Lecture Outline

- Definitions
- commonalities and variations
- consortial goals
- consortial models
- obstacles and barriers
- how should libraries proceed?
- Recommendations/conclusion
Library Cooperation is a reciprocal beneficial sharing of resources; developed or pre-existing by two or more libraries.
Library Cooperation is an umbrella term for a wide spectrum of cooperation processes and mechanisms.
Library Cooperation - types

- Interchange,
- Exchange
- cooperative institutions like schools of librarianship, library associations, and private/state institutions.
DEFINITIONS: Interchange

TWO OR MORE INSTITUTIONS

TEMPORARY

EXCHANGE OF RESOURCES
DEFINITIONS: Exchange

- ALL KINDS OF MATERIALS
- INFORMATION (for staff)
- INFORMATION(for reader inquiries)
- USERS
- BIBLIOGRAPHIC
- PERSONNEL
OTHER TYPES OF COOPERATION

- LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS such as PAARLNET, MAHLAP, etc.
- Interlibrary Lending projects of PRIVATE/STATE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, such as IIC, IUC, CCAL, DOST-ESEP, etc.
MOST COMMON TYPE OF LIBRARY COOPERATION - RS

- bibliographic access - know what is available for sharing
- interlibrary lending - expedite ILLS and DDS
- cooperative collection development - build complementary collections of materials on which to draw
Library Consortium

Brings together librarians and libraries for activities and objectives that cannot be as effectively undertaken individually.
Commonalities and Variations

- Consortium
- Network
- Association
- Virtual Library
Commonalities and Variations

- informal
- formal
- government - sponsored
## Consortium Continuum

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Informal</th>
<th>Formal</th>
<th>Government-sponsored</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual purpose</td>
<td>Defined purpose</td>
<td>Prescribed purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local or regional coverage</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Geographical coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No funding</td>
<td>Funding from fees/grants</td>
<td>Government funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed staff time</td>
<td>Staffed</td>
<td>Staffed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal governance</td>
<td>Formal governance</td>
<td>Government oversight</td>
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Consortial goals

- communications/networking
- cooperative programming
- economies of scale (when mass producing a good results in lower average cost)
- pooled purchasing
- Funding support
- Sharing risks
**Consortium Continuum**

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<th>Informal Consortia</th>
<th>Formal/Government Consortia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communications &amp; Networking</td>
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<td>Cooperative Programming</td>
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<td>Economies of scale</td>
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<td>Leverage of Resources</td>
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<td>Funding Procurement</td>
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<td>Risk Sharing</td>
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Models for Library Consortia

- OCLC - Online Computer Library Center
- RLIN - Research Libraries Information Network
- JANET - Joint Academic Network (UK)
- Project EARL - Electronic Access to Resources in Libraries (UK)
- ISTEC - Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium
Models for Library Consortia

**ISTEC aims**

to broaden electronic availability of materials
to upgrade the information system skills, and
to sharpen the skills and independence of user.
Models for Library Consortia

**ISTEC** has

- over 50 members and 4 regional Digital Libraries groups
- has facilitated installation of Internet based document transmission software
- has trained users to research databases
- has coordinated electronic requests and transmissions of documents for over 12 years.
Models for Library Consortia

**ISTEC - current efforts**

- enhancement of Library and Information skills
- ongoing Consortial Acquisition negotiations with major providers
- participation in major international Electronic Thesis/Dissertations projects
Models of local Library Consortia

- range from simple to the more complex
- shaped by varying needs and interests
- many are still informal and voluntary in nature
- borne from institutional linkages of academic institutions within a geographical location
- formed mainly for interlending activities and bibliographic access
- few are focused on cooperative acquisitions
Models of Early Library Consortia

- Inter-Institutional Consortium - 1972
- Academic Libraries Book Acquisitions Systems Association (ALBASA) - 1973
- Philippine Library Materials Project - late 70s
- Cagayan de Oro Cooperating Academic Libraries (CCAL) - 1988
- DOST-ESEP Library Network - 1989
- Mendiola Consortium (FAPE’s Aralin Project)
Other Library Consortia in ’90s

- European Studies Program Philippines Consortium
- LibraryLink Project (Ayala Foundation/FHL)
- Ortigas Consortium
- ALINET
- DACUN
- Intramuros Consortium
- PAARLNENET
Inter-Institutional Consortium

- Established in 1972 by five institutions: DLSU, SSC, SPC, PCU, and PNU
- Governed by a Board of Responsibilities
- With permanent Secretariat
- Funded by United Board for Higher Ed
- Members contribute annual fees
- Meet monthly and plan annually
- Report annually on all activities
- Still active as South Manila Consortium with Adamson as sixth member
- a multiple consortia and the library consortium is only one area
Manila South Consortium (IIC) - Achievements

- Cooperative cataloging
- Cooperative indexing
- Union lists
- Theses databases
- Digitization of rare Filipiniana
- Standardization of Library handbooks
- Shared access to OCLC Firstsearch
- Library skills development training programs
ALBASA

- Established in 1973 by 13 institutions as Academic Libraries Book Acquisitions Systems Association
- Initially funded by Ford Foundation and Asia Foundation
- Governed by a Board of Directors
- With permanent secretariat
- Engaged primarily in cooperative acquisitions
ALBASA - Achievements

- membership
- book purchases
- discounts
- book fairs
- continuing professional development
- staff continuity
Cagayan de Oro Cooperating Academic Libraries (CCAL)

- Established in 1988 by 5 schools
- Engaged primarily in interlibrary lending services & bib. access
- Formally estab as ALINet in 1999 with 41 members now
- Engages in cooperative cataloging
- and database-sharing on theses and Filipiniana
ALINet - Achievements

- Access to information
- Bibliographic Center / Cooperative Cataloging
- Computerized database for theses and Filipiniana collections
- Training programs, workshops, etc.
- Consulting services
- Cooperative materials development
- Assistance in computerization of member-libraries
DOST-ESEP CONSORTIUM

- Established in 1989 by 8 institutions
- Sponsored by DOST
- Funded by World Bank
- With permanent secretariat in Taguig
- Focused on science education and engineering infrastructure development
- A multiple consortia and the library consortium is only one area
DOST-ESEP CONSORTIUM

1. Collection Development
   - Evaluation of status of collection in ESEP areas of concentration
   - Improvement of areas of specialization (graduate level)
   - Re-Survey of wants and needs
   - Matching of teaching and research requirements
   - Substitution of unsupplied materials
   - Conversion of data files into digital images

2. Library Automation
   - Full operationalization of TINLIB
   - Expansion of PHNET backbone
   - Upgrading of hardware/software
   - Expansion of CD-networking
   - Full use of INTERNET
   - Access to international bibliographic networks
   - Full implementation of DDS and ILLS
   - Post-implementation evaluation of integrated programs
   - Linkages with other academic institutions here and abroad
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DOST-ESEP CONSORTIUM

- **OBJECTIVES**
- **STRATEGIES**

3. Human Resources Development

**Faculty**

1. Licensing of library faculty/asst. librarians
2. Completion of masteral studies
3. Postgraduate studies/overseas training in areas of specialization

**Staff**

4. Participation in job enrichment program
5. Team development / leadership
6. Involvement in skills training-workshops
7. Job review and reclassification
8. Hiring additional personnel

**Administrators**

9. IT training of administrators
10. Management training of supervisors
11. Exposure to international conferences
12. Evaluation of existing organizational structure, & policies & procedures
13. Evaluation of library leadership
14. Development, implementation and evaluation of programs
DOST-ESEP CONSORTIUM

OBJECTIVES

4. Physical Resources

1. Expansion & upgrading
   a. Internet facilities
   b. Multimedia equipment
   c. Storage facilities (compact/remote)
   d. CD network facilities

2. New acquisitions
   a. Flat-bed scanner; computer laptops, Pentinum computers (or higher)
   b. Modern/world-class library furnitures
   c. OHPs in all classrooms
   d. generator for lib. building
   e. additional telephone lines

3. Renovation of key areas according to master plan
   a. Circulation - work area, graduate corners
   b. Reference - Cd workstations

4. Acquisition of electronic security system/devices
LibraryLink Project

- Established in 1997 by Filipinas Heritage
- Funded by Ayala Foundation Inc.
- With permanent secretariat
- With 78 participating libraries
- Focused on building an electronic library of Filipiniana materials, with 185,000 bib. records to date
Other library consortia

- Mendiola Consortium
- European Studies Program Phils (ESPP)
- Ortigas Consortium
- Intramuros Consortium
- PAARLNET
- DACUN
DACUN (Davao Colleges and Universities Network)

1. Unification of library standards
2. Collection development enhancement
3. IT infrastructure
4. Publication

a. Monographs – LC and with other committees

b. DACUN Master’s Theses

1. Social Sciences
2. Humanities
3. Natural Science
4. Nursing and Allied Medical Fields
Philipppine eLib Project

- A govt-sponsored collaborative project
- Involving core collections from TNL, DOST, DA, and UP Library System
- Aims to make Philippine materials available in digital format (24M images)
- To provide cooperative acquisition and sharing of expensive online databases
- To house data center at TNL, with data recovery site at UP Diliman
- Uses open source/standard tools, which can be replicated
How should libraries proceed?

- mission and purpose?
- most effective model?
- consortium membership?
- consortium in place?
- resources needed?
- complementary consortia
How should libraries proceed?

- What is the consortium’s mission and purpose? Is the mission and purpose best met with a formal or informal consortium?

- Who is the consortium designed to serve: by library type, size or geography?

- Is there a consortium in place that serves or could be developed to serve that mission or purpose?

- What resources, financial or other, are needed to support the consortium’s mission and progress?

- What other consortia have complementary missions and resources which could enhance the consortium’s value to members?
Traditional Areas of Cooperation

Reciprocal Borrowing
Controlled user access to member libraries

Communications
Sharing ideas and information among member libraries

Continuing Education
Providing opportunities for education for staff and library users

Staff Development
Low cost training for professional and non-professional staff
Non-Traditional Areas

- **Technical Expertise**
  Assistance in planning and managing library automation projects

- **Cooperative acquisitions of electronic materials**
  Collective licensing agreements

- **Electronic networking**
  Sharing of digitized materials online in addition to sharing of online catalogs

- **Open Access to journals**
  Publishing online journals of scholarly works
Obstacles or Barriers

- Inadequate funding
- Limited personnel
- Outdated technology
- Lack of standards
- Insufficient knowledge
- Fear of loss
- Copyright issues
- Negative attitudes
- No tradition of cooperation or Reluctance to participate
- Other challenges
Needed changes

- Availability of publications
- Bibliographic control
- Online Union catalogs and union lists
- Increased use of technology
- Better delivery of services
- Better understanding of copyright laws
- Uniform collection of statistics
- Regular training
- Positive attitude
Conclusion

Digital technology

- transforming institutional libraries, library profession, and librarians
- building technology, standards and infrastructures
- sharing knowledge and resources for networked info and communication
Recommendations

- Provide free ILL services and formalize reciprocal agreements
- Promote standards, guidelines and procedures
- Keep pace with change. Be innovative, flexible, and determined
- Reduce the information gap
- Remove barriers for success
- Focus on team effort
- Be ready to take risks
Thank you!