

Resource Sharing & Library Networks in India

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Abstract: Resource sharing or library cooperation is a term refers to libraries sharing their resources including the sources of information, staff expertise, infrastructure and finance. Resource sharing works through Library networks and library consortia. In this paper discussed the historical background of resource sharing and the role of Library Networks and Resource Sharing in Academic Library Systems. It also discussed about the policy, terms and conditions for resource sharing among the participate libraries. Lists of library networks and library consortia have been also mentioned in this paper.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cooperation between individual and organizations is a common thing in our daily life. Libraries also have been cooperating and collaborating on collection building and resource sharing from many years. Libraries cooperation assumes two or more libraries have worked together jointly to achieve their goals. It could be in two ways:

- Work separately and share
- Work together

Library cooperation could not be proved successfully due a few limitations like geographical distance and duplicate documents. But after the development of Information Technology, the libraries have changed from Stand alone to network based, Document bases to information based, Physical existent to electronic Library. Development of technology for production, storage, technical process and transmission has enabled Resource Sharing. Data and communication networks enabled Library Networks to make possible for libraries connect each other and sharing all types of resources, at any time, from anywhere.

Concept

Resource sharing is an ever talking term in LIS Literature, which was previously known as library cooperation. The term Resource Sharing which means jointly use of resources, contain two separate term-“Resource” and “Sharing”. Resource refers to the source which is used to get some work done. Resources may be physical such, documents, information etc.; or intellectual such as human resource/expertise. Sharing means a relationship between two parties, where they offer their resources to each other for mutual benefit. In context of library, Resource sharing refers to libraries sharing their resources including the sources of information, staff expertise, infrastructure and finance. As technology develops day to day, libraries have been connected each other through creating networks among them and able to overcome all the limitations. Library cooperation, networking and resource sharing are synonymous with cooperation and collaborative activities of library and information centre.

Definition

Resource sharing refers to mutual sharing of resources by libraries to serve user’s needs most effectively. Edmonds defines it as “the reciprocally beneficial sharing of resources, developed or pre-existing, by two or more bodies. Brewer defines it as ‘an umbrella term for a wide spectrum of cooperative processes and mechanisms’”

Library Network refers to the network among libraries for sharing sources and resources. It has been defined as “group of individuals or organizations that are interconnected to form a system to accomplish some specified goal. The linkage must include a communication mechanism, and many networks exist for the express purpose of facilitating certain types of communication among members.”

II. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

Library cooperation can be traced back to the efforts of Library of Congress when it started cooperative cataloguing, thereby enabling participating libraries to know about each other’s resources. Libraries everywhere started preparing union catalogues.

- Cooperation between Alexandria Library and Pergamum Library as early as 200 B.C.
- Cooperation between monastery libraries, which was starting with required basis, later it became systematic in the 13th century.

- FID attempted to compile a world index to published information, in 1895 and finally gave UDC as a tool for representing published information.
- IFLA has started two programs viz., Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).
- UNISIST by UNESCO, the World Science Information System exists with the aim of providing processed information in science and technology to all.
- The Cooperation extended in other areas e.g., indexing and abstracting.
- The establishment of Information Systems i.e. INIS, AGRIS databases had inputs from national centers in different countries e.g., BARC and IARI in India.
- The formation of ADONIS in 1980 which was a Document Delivery System consisting of publishers- John Wiley, Elsevier, Pergamon, Blackwell Scientific, Academic Press and Springer Verlag and provided index to articles appearing in 219 biomedical journals between 1987 and 1988 in CD- ROM.
- BLDSO was actively involved in this venture and developed the software for retrieving the information.

Development of Library Networks and Resource Sharing in India

Now a large number of library resource sharing networks is under various stages of conceptualization, design and development in India. The following host of agencies are involved:

- NISSAT (The National Information System for Science and Technology)
- Department of Electronics (DOE)
- Indian national scientific documentation centre (INSDOC/)
- Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre (DESIDOC)
- UGC (University Grant Commission)
- Department of Bio Technology (DBT),
- National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)

They have taken up networking in India in different metropolitan cities, Universities and Research Institutions. The names of the Networks are given below:

- NICNET (National Informatics Centre Network)- 1975 by NIC
- CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network)-1986 by NISSAT, DSIR
- DELNET (Developing Library Network)- 1988 by NISSAT (Formerly known as Delhi Library Network)
- INFLIBNET (Information Library Network) - 1991 by UGC, India
- MALIBNET at Madras- 1991 by INSDOC
- BONET (Bombay Library Network)- 1992 by NISSAT at NCST (National Centre for Software Technology)
- PUNENET (Pune Library Network)- 1992 by University of Pune, C-DAC, NCL ,NISSAT
- ADINET (Ahmedabad Library Network) -1994 by NISSAT
- MYLIBNET (Mysore Library Network) -1995 by MCLC (Mysore city library consortium)
- BALNET (Bangalore Library Network) – 1995 by JRD Tata Memorial Library
- ERNET (Education and Research Network) at New Delhi - 1986 by UNDP
- SIRNET (Scientific and Industrial Research Network) at New Delhi - 1989 by INSDOC
- MANLIBNET (Management Library Network) at Ahmadabad -1998 by IIM Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad Management Association
- HYLIBNET (Hyderabad Library Network) - by NISSAT
- DESINET (DESIDOC Intranet) at New Delhi by DESIDOC
- OPNET (Open University Network) at New Delhi- by IGNOU
- *BTISNET* (Biotechnology Information System Network) by Dept. of Biotech.
- TIFACLINE (A project for integrated, computerized, interactive and decentralized nationally accessible technology information system) by TIFAC

Networks in Metropolitan Cities of India

Firstly the host agencies have initiated metropolitan city wise Networks and later the networks has been served all over India.

- DELNET at Delhi
- MALIBNET at Madras
- BONET at Bombay
- PUNENET at Pune
- CALIBNET at Calcutta
- MYLIBNET at Mysore
- ADNET at Ahmedabad

- HYLIBNET at Hyderabad
- BALNET at Bangalore

Networks for Educational Research Institutions in India

- ERNET for DSIR Labs
- SIRNET for CSIR Labs
- OPNET for Open Universities and Distance Education Institutions
- DESINET for Defence Laboratories
- NICNET for Knowledge Network Portal
- INFLIBNET for Universities and Research Institutions

Networks for Libraries in India

- INFLIBNET for Universities and Affiliated Colleges
- DELNET for Libraries in Delhi and out of Delhi
- CALIBNET for Libraries in Calcutta, West Bengal
- MALIBNET for Libraries in Chennai, Tamilnadu
- BONET for Libraries in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- PUNENET for Libraries in Pune, Maharashtra
- MYLIBNET for Libraries in at Mysore, Karnataka
- BALNET for Libraries in Bangalore, Karnataka
- ADNET for Libraries in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Networks for Special Sectors in India:

- BTISNET for Biotechnology
- TIFACLINE for Technology
- MANLIBNET for Business Management

Library Networks and Resource Sharing in Academic Library Systems:

The main goal of academic libraries is to fulfill its user's needs and serve them satisfactory services. Students, Teachers, Researchers are the primary users of an academic library. Always they need more effective services.

- Resource Sharing have been initiated between academic libraries to provide better services to its users as well as its partner's users too.
- Library Networks have connected libraries through internet to transmission information and share resources.

Need of Resource sharing: Libraries have been faces many problems to fulfill user's needs properly. Resource sharing overcomes these problems. The problems are:

- Increasing user's demand
- Increasing document's price
- Decreasing funds for Library
- Limit man power (Staff)

Needs of Library Networks: Without library network, Resource sharing is nothing. It could not fulfill its goals easily. Library networks are must because of:

- Increasing amount of information is in electronic form
- Bibliographic access to information is also in electronic form
- Internet
- Timely access to information

Objectives of Resource Sharing: Libraries have joined hands to cooperate at various levels to resource sharing through form of Library Networks. These are formed at local, national and regional level. The objectives of Library networks to:

- Maximize the resource base of libraries
- Provide wider access to information
- Rational acquisition
- Save resources
- Enable uniform practices in routines
- Acquisition

Advantages of Resource Sharing: A greater change and advantages have been seen in academic libraries after initiative of resource sharing. The advantages are:

- Greater numbers of documents for Collection development
- Provide Services to both its users and others users too

- Access to greater number of documents from anywhere at any time.
- Sharing of expertise of staffs
- Save time of professionals which utilize to serve user effective services.

Policies for Resource Sharing: It is necessary to formulate policies, procedures and routines for libraries. It is more difficult to do the same policies for a number of libraries and users; and variety of libraries and users. The participating libraries should objectively frame policies in regard to:

- Documents to be shared
- Terms and conditions for loan and return
- Deterrents and punitive measures to ensure safe and timely return of documents
- Union catalogue production and maintenance
- Cooperative cataloguing
- OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue)

Library Consortia

Libraries & publishers come together for mutual benefits to enabling collaborative acquisition of e-documents to a group of libraries. Consortium of libraries is known for sharing of digital resources at local, national and international levels. Several libraries in India and foreign countries have formed consortia to share their human and e- resources in order to satisfy the user's needs and demands for rendering quality services. Library consortia are a part of library resource sharing and networking. A few well-known names of library consortia are:

Consortia in India: The real drive of cooperation was seen during 1980 due to development of ICT. Some of the academic libraries in India have formed consortia. A few of them are:

- INDEST- (for IITs, Nits, ISS, and other Eng and Tech. Unv. & Colleges)- MHRD, India
- FORSA- (for Astrophysics/Astronomy)- Raman Research Institute- 1981
- UGC-INFONET- (for E-Journals and database sharing)- UGC- 2002
- CSIR E- Consortia- (E-Journal sharing)-2001
- IIM Consortia (CD-Rom, Digital Database sharing among IIMs)-2002
- HELINET- Rajeev Gandhi University of Health Science-2003

Consortia in Foreign Countries: There are hundreds of consortia in other countries. A few are:

- IDFAL- Illinois Board of Higher Education-1999
- KERIS-- Korea Education and Research Information System- 1999
- CONCERT- Taiwan- 1983
- CURL- British Isles- for all European Universities
- ICOLC- Consortium of Consortia-1997

III. CONCLUSION

Finally it appears that Library Networks and Resource sharing are quite favorable for better information services for libraries. A number of benefits are being offered to member libraries of the particular networks through resource sharing. It is a great value by low cost for libraries. It saves money, time and space. But the growth of the libraries networks is slow because of taking a long time to create and provide bibliographic databases of recognizable size, which is not a great matter. Libraries should be participating with library networks and resource sharing.

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