E-journals & consortia

M S Sridhar, ISRO, B'lore

E-journals : resource sharing and consortia approach

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Factors considered
- Cost
- Use
- User opinion
- Alternate ways (ILL & DDS)
- TOC services
- Availability in cooperating libraries
- E-version
- Exchange

Costly journals subscribed by ISRO libraries

Costly journals cancelled by ISAC library

Cost vs. use of journals

Cell 1: Low cost and low use journals: A library does not mind having such journals as long as they are not creating an abnormal maintenance cost. Alternatively, as long as they are not to be kept in the library for a long time, they are desirable.

Cell 2: Low cost and high use journals: These are the ideal journals from a CBA angle for any library.

Cell 3: High cost and high use journals: These need to be carefully considered for cancellation. Strong user opinion and non-economic considerations need to be given attention.

Cell 4: High cost and low use journals: These need to be carefully considered for cancellation.

Overlapping subscriptions to costly journals

Chart 3: Overlapping subscription to costly journals

ISAC
SAC
SHAR
VSSC
NRSA
ISRO HQ.
LEOS
ADMIN
ISTRAC
MCF

0 50 100 150 200 250 300

NO. OF JLS >$500

RS. IN LAKHS

LIBRARY NO. OF RS. IN JLS >$500 LAKHS
INAC 154 46.39
SAC 147 46.92
SHAR 146 15.31
VSSC 201 14.83
NRSA 23 11.34
ISRO HQ. 19 12.92
LEOS 8 5.73
ADMIN 10 8.08
ISTRAC 6 1.99
MCF 8 3.66

TOTAL 579 297.91

Costly journals cancelled

Year | No. (annually) |
--- | --- |
1989 | 13 8.60 |
1990 | 42 4.80 |
1991 | 16 1.43 |
1992 | 86 14.27 |
1993 | 4 0.27 |
1998 | 25 11.85 |
2000 | 11 3.98 |
2001 | 18 7.81 |
2002 | 16 6.62 |
Total | 248 49.33 |

Year | Jls sub |
--- | --- |
1980 | 533 |
1985 | 519 |
1990 | 444 |
1995 | 416 |
2000 | 326 |
2002 | 300 |

No. OF COPIES OF JLS |
--- |
1 160 145.98 145.98 |
2 36 28.65 53.51 |
3 128 23.14 68.43 |
4 6 4.81 19.26 |
5 3 1.03 5.17 |
6 2 0.53 3.21 |
7 1 0.25 1.81 |
Total | 336 202.39 298.17 |

Chart 3: Overlapping subscription to costly journals

No. of COPIES OF JLS |
--- |
1 9.5% |
2 4% |
3 4.8% |
4 1.8% |
5 1.3% |
6 0.9% |
7 0.3% |
Total 38.3% 47.8% 10.7% 1.8%
### Consortia Approach

- New marketing strategy of publishers; uses 'leveraged resources' & 'distance information'.
- Cost implications and organisational readiness (user acceptance) are important; no cost saving for existing subscriptions/subscribers.
- Tacit acceptance of current model: publishers won't accept less, libraries can't spend more; new sustainable model required.
- Publishers want current level of revenue flow to be maintained and are looking for new market; customer defined profile not accepted.
- Consortia - different needs and difficulties of negotiating with group, more flexibility needed for libraries; proportional distribution of savings to consortia participant.
- Price is same but incentives like additional databases, broader coverage of journals, links, TOC service, etc., are offered.
- Bundling and unbundling; very few exclusive titles and large number overlap; desirable titles bundled with one of 'little value' & current usefulness of other titles in doubt; customised contents (if specific documents) not possible.
- Journal war' between scientists and commercial publishers.
- High margin (35%) of some publishers.
- Low cost of production and distribution of e-journals.

### e-journals

**E-journals delivered individually or in bundles, directly or through intermediaries mostly online via web but also available on CD, by e-mail and as text incorporated into databases**

1. extent of subscription by individuals
2. extent of use under pay per use scheme
3. on-screen use without print
4. reader s/w - supporting multiple formats
5. ease of view; downloading
6. with or without print version; need for print
7. pre-print circulation
8. subscription based on no. of relevant articles appeared and/or used
9. management reports/use statistics
10. who archives them? if publisher vanishes? back volumes on CD
11. implications on resource sharing network delays
12. software/server frustrations
13. customer defined profile for aggregator; Swets Blackwell; EBSCO; Inf Qest; SwetsNet; UCLL; Gale; Bell & Howell
14. 3. m DOIs in use giving live cross-references in online journals

### Journal war

**Reed Elsevier (Anglo-Dutch co.)**

- 1. bought Harcourt General (USA) for $4.6 b
- 2. worth $10 b (specialises in science, legal, education & business)
- 3. controls 20% of science-journal market (1200+500 titles)
- 4. has 35% margin (others 20%)

**Scientists**

- 1. want free wider access to their papers
- 2. against steep increase in price
- 3. want cutting publishing delays

**Publishers**

- 1. boycott publisher who does not relinquish rights to bio-medical published papers after six months
- 2. liberate research from the gatekeeping publishers by posting papers online from the start
- 3.ACS & a group of scientists

**A Delphi survey on future of e-journals**

(45 scientists, publishers, librarians, journal agents and consultants about (1) reading (2) role as scholarly communication (3) scenarios for future (4) serials crisis/journal war (5) archiving (6) pricing & access models)

**FINDINGS:**

**AGREEMENTS**

- Other publication channels will be more effective in certain areas
- Peer-review & quality control are most important contributions of e-journals
- Scholarly communication status will fall noticeably

**Consequence of pay-per-use access**

- Pay-per-use access will become discontinued
- e-journals alone will not solve the serials crisis/journal war

**Uneversion represent transient medium**

- e-journals will fall noticeably

**DIVERGENCE**

- Holding printed versions of e-journals as archival copies will be discontinued
- Desireability of preprint archives
- Look of future e-journal
- Responsibility for archiving
- Benefit of pay-per-use access
- Consequence of consortial licence agreements

### A case of e-journals in Taiwan

**NOT ENOUGH TITLES:**

- out of 2700 titles in the Index to Chinese periodical literature, only 280 had web sites and less than 1% provided full text journals.
- Chinese periodicals directory (available online BNS 912 e-journals). But a test revealed that not accessible: 238 26.7%
- connected to URL: 654 73.3%
- needed further search to locate: 343 40.9%
- title found: 106
- title not found: 237
- under construction: 6

**ACCESSIBILITY:**

- access to over 50% of the titles could not be achieved in both tests
- INCOMPLETENESS:

  - out of 344 accessed, only 24% provided complete contents of latest issues; some were 6 issues behind schedule; back issues were only for recent 3 years

- %: 49.2 16.3 7.2 18.2 11.5 3.6 100
- less than 40% were covered by indexing journals.

### A proposal for cooperative acquisition of IEEE journals (10/10/94 - BSLG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. NO</th>
<th>TITLE (IEEE TR. ON -)</th>
<th>ISSUES/YR.</th>
<th>1994 SUBN.</th>
<th>PRICE IN $</th>
<th>ARREAR/WEIGHT</th>
<th>PRORATA (PACKAGE)</th>
<th>PRICE IN $</th>
<th>SAVING IN $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>285/66 + 351</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>147</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Broadcasting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66/33 + 83</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>90/35 + 133</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Medicine &amp; Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>105/36 + 141</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Medical Imaging</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>150/39 + 189</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Journal of Oceanic Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>115/45 + 160</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Speech &amp; Audio Processing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>122/45 + 167</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Professional communication</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>85/35 + 120</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total $ 680 (1994)**
### Consortia/ multiple copy price for selected costly journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>NO. OF LIBRARIES</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>CONSORTIA SAVING PRICE</th>
<th>(IN RS.)</th>
<th>DISCOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATERIALS SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1429</td>
<td>$525</td>
<td>$804</td>
<td>45200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPACE TECHNOLOGY / LISTER SCIENCE (180 TITLES)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEEE CSDLAP PACKAGE (17 TITLES)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rs.53080</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>Rs.129784 3%</td>
<td>15540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER IEEE JOURNALS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>Rs.37090</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTNL. JL. OF GEOGRAPHICAL INF. SC.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rs.7750</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Rs.4530</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTNL. JL. OF REMOTE SENSING</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rs.12796</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Rs.15340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total: 2.45 lakhs

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### Costly journals having marginal additional cost for online access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>NO. OF</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>SAVING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIAA JOURNAL</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1075</td>
<td>$1235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTRONICS LETTERS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$792</td>
<td>$792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEEE PROCEEDINGS (12 PARTS)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>P9120</td>
<td>P9120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTNL. JL. OF SATELLITE COMM</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1620</td>
<td>$1780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOURNAL OF CLIMATE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$446</td>
<td>$449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JL OF GUID, CONTROL &amp; DYN</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$595</td>
<td>$595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JL OF PROPULSION AND POWER</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$635</td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JL OF SPACECRAFT &amp; ROCKETS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$555</td>
<td>$640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>$443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUALITY &amp; REL ENGINEERING</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1380</td>
<td>$1449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFTWARE PRACTICE &amp; EXP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2380</td>
<td>$2449</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 2.34 lakhs

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### E-journals subscribed by ISAC library

- Can be accessed from any Internet terminal of ISAC.
- Use bookmarks kept on library terminal.

### Free e-journals

- Use bookmarks kept on Internet terminal to access 57 free e-journals.
- Same in print cost 2.5 lakh per annum.

### About the Author

Dr. M.S. Sridhar is a post graduate in mathematics and business management and a doctorate in library and information science. He is in the profession for last 35 years. Since 1978 he is heading the Library and Documentation Division of ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore. Earlier he has worked in the libraries of National Aeronautical Laboratory (Bangalore), Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore) and University of Mysore. Dr. Sridhar has published four books (‘User research: a review of information-behaviour studies in science and technology’, ‘Problems of collection development in special libraries’, ‘Information behaviour of scientists and engineers’ and ‘Use and user research with twenty case studies’) and 74 research papers, written 19 course material for BLIS and MLIS, presented over 22 papers in conferences and seminars, and contributed 5 chapters to books. E-mail: sridharmirle@yahoo.com, sridhar@isac.gov.in; Phone: 91-80-25084451; Fax: 91-80-25084475.