

Chapter 50

Use of E–Resources Through Consortia With Special Reference to College Libraries

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ABSTRACT

A consortium 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. Library consortium gives the freedom for a library having a smaller collection to access any product at a nominal price. The chapter has shown that 58 (31.53%) assistant professors occasionally use it, followed by 44 (23.92%) respondents using it frequently, 39 (21.2%) respondents use it rarely, 26 (14.14%) respondents use it very frequently, and 17 (09.24%) respondents never use it.

INTRODUCTION

Education plays an important role in the growth of any civilization. College level education is one among the different levels in the education scheme in divulging the value-based education in different disciplines. Colleges are the most important institutions of society for the creation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge as well as the custodians of intellectual and ethical traditions and values in society. Colleges serve teaching, learning and research needs of education in the country. Information and Communication Technology Consists of the hardware, software, networks, and media for the collection, storage, processing, transmission and presentation of information (voice, data, text, images) as well as related services. Academic libraries are the nerve centers of academic institutions and must support teaching, research, and other academic programmers. The situation in academic libraries of India

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is the same as that of academic libraries in the world over; still, India the college libraries are providing maximum information with limited resources.

The library holdings in terms of books, journals, and other learning materials and technology-aided learning mechanisms which enable students and faculty members to acquire information, knowledge, and skills required for their study programmes. A recent development in the field due to the availability of digital means, the functioning of the library has undergone a drastic change. Uses of e-journals and books, providing remote access to e-resources in the library have become a matter of necessity. Providing for these and such other developments as well as utilizing them well are important indicators of the quality of an academic institution. The modernization of libraries and information centers enabled to information transfer and access, thereby helping in established of well-known the network of libraries and information centers. This initiative paved the way for resource development, resource sharing and their utilization at various levels.

Library Consortium

Library consortium is an umbrella term which covers the concept with co-operation it was possible for sharing of union catalog, document delivery services, storage facilities, collection development, and human resources at local, national and regional level. It is the single solution of these concepts consortium gives the freedom for a library having less collection as they can access any product at the nominal price. The concept of consortium originated from the concept of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration. The consortium is originated from the Latin word “Conсор” where “con” indicates the meaning of together and “sor” describes the meaning of partnership, association or society. The term ‘consortia’ is used synonymously as an alliance, coalition, collaboration, cooperation, partnership, etc.

Consortium plays a very important role in the field of library and information centers for resources sharing because it provides better sharing options for available resources in E-format. Presently Academic libraries were meet the problems due to the increasing costs of publications, particularly periodicals and the reducing space capacity of libraries it has become difficult to buy e-resources. Resource sharing as a concept has evolved into the conception of library consortia. According to ICOLC (International Coalition Of Library Consortia), the library partnership is an important concept leading to consortia formation, which brings about the following activities within the group: Licensing (e-journal, core e-resources and full text), Governance (Funding, strategic planning, membership), Library and management system migration, linked systems projects and virtual union catalogs, with patron-initiates ILL, Cooperative collection and management, training, creation of digital collections and shared storage. The core values of consortia are collaboration, joint procurement, and networking (IOCLC Guidelines).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rajawat (2018) in his study entitled “Library Consortia in India” has discussed the role of consortia in providing a great effect on the libraries and its particular users. The journals and e-journals though produced at high speed were relatively insufficient to the demands and the budget of the library could not be able to procure their demanded resources. The consortium had grown up due to budget insufficiency, demanding a variety of information needs, better and effective utilization of resources. The study analyzed the ever-present funding problem as consortia demand initial investments in licenses and

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