Role of library networks and consortia in information retrieval

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Abstract
In ancient times the trend of making the group to fulfill the needs was emerged. Many libraries had made the group on the bases of cooperative efforts that may be seen as the development of consortia which is now driven to fulfill the need of remote users through electronic network connectivity. Library networks made the concept of consortia successful. This paper focuses on the benefits and utility of library networks and consortia.

Keywords: library consortia, library network, resource sharing, information technology

Introduction
Modern libraries are full of e-resources and e-services. The sharing of resources and services are becoming common to IT based libraries and are becoming user friendly. Sharing of resources at regional and national level is the need of today to fulfill the user's demand and thrust of knowledge. Through the development of internet all these services and facilities have become possible for all. Due to internet OPAC came into existence and converted in MARC (Machine Readable Catalogue) to access other library catalogues at own pace.

According to UNISIT it is "A set of inter-related information system associated with communication facilities, which are cooperating through more or less formal agreement in order to implement information handling operations to offer better services to the users". The participating libraries and information centers are connected via telecommunication network. New technological inventions made the work of libraries automated to facilitate the users by dissemination of information with easy access. Library network minimize the problem of duplication and overburdened work. In sharing the resources modern communication technologies play an important role like computer with internet connection and connected with international databases are providing the facility of delivery of document.

Network and Consortia
According to Martin "A network is a group of individuals or organizations that are interconnected. The linking must include a communication mechanism, and may network exist for the express purpose of facilitating certain types of communication among their members. In the library world, institutions from network primarily to achieve better sharing of resources-resource consisting of bibliographic information and of collection and better services to patrons'. It must be emphasized that the particular focus in the gathering will be on online networks, those using computers and linking members to the computer resources by means of telecommunication connections."

Today's libraries and information carters are using the techno savvy user services and adopting the technology based services. It is the group of many libraries and information centers join together to fulfill their objectives with co-operation and understanding. They come together to ensure to clear their mutual goals and purpose. Consortia are made to fulfill the combined requirements and share the resources among group members. The type of consortium is depends upon the region and it may be local, regional, state, national and international. Today due to information explosion and diversity of user need consortium help in many way like reduce the finance problem and solve the matter of self-sufficiency. Before making the consortium some important things are to be taken on priority like longrun planning, resources identification, availability of back volumes of periodicals, copyright issues and licensing, price issues, archival issues. The consortium should depend upon common goals and long term bonding.

Library associations and networks in India
National Library of India, National Medical Library, Bombay Library Network (BOSLA), Central Reference Library, Kolkata, Defense Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Indian Library Association (ILA), Kerala Libarry Association, Madras Library Association, Kesvan Institute of Information and Knowledge Management, National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, New Delhi (NISCAIR formerly INSDOC), National Center for Science Information, Bangalore (NCSI), SAARC Documentation Centre, National Social Science Documentation Centre, New Delhi (NASSDOC), National Mission on Libraries (NML), Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRLF), SAARC Documentation Centers, Special Library Association (SLA), Society for Information Sciences (SALIS)

Library association and network at international level
Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) American Library Association (ALA), Association for Information Management (ASLIB), Association for library and Information Science Education, Charted Institute of Library and Information Professionals, UK (CLIP), International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA), International Library Information and Analytical Center, Council on Library and Information Resources, Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association, Special Library Association.

Fig 1: A Network

Resource Sharing
Resource sharing among libraries and information institutions cover various fields like human resource, reference services, interlibrary loans, union catalogue, database creation, library softwares, centralised processing, collection building, membership strategy, contents page services, training of staff etc. Decentralization of centralised data has significance to keep going on human efforts and scientific endeavors. Scientific and field based information give contribution for promotion of research and development work in the economy. In economy information whose database is prepared, checked, stored, processed and retrieved. Thus in rapid growth of economy resource sharing form conventional means is less rather than the utility of networks and consortia.

Various issues are responsible for resource sharing
1. Continuous growth of library users
2. Knowledge explosion due to Emergence and diverse collection of new disciplines.
3. Time and cost consumption in CAS and SDI services
4. Necessity of web based services on national and international level.
5. Growing literature and library material due to large intake create acquision problem, space problem and collection building problem.
6. Rising cost of journals, books and other e-reading material. Financial budgeting problem for libraries
7. Problem of communication gap among library users and staff.
8. Physical presence problem from remote areas and reasonal access problem for users
9. Manual hassles for library staff member.

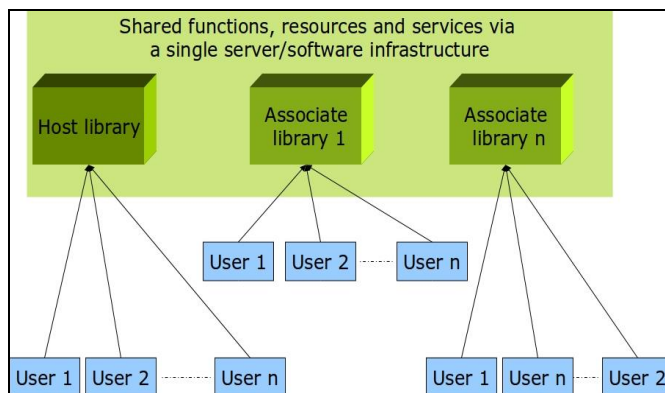10. Database searching and slow access and retrieval of information.

Fig 2

Library networks and consortia in India
It is the cooperative arrangement of library group members agreed to share the cost of resources like printed journals and online material. Earlier sharing of resources through library was ILL (Inter Library Loan), DDS (Document Deliver System) but with the use of new technologies in the field of library services and acquisition of material libraries are providing the techno based services and saving the cost and time of ever user and library staff. Now a days Library Networks and Consortia have taken place over traditional way of services.

Some network and consortia
1. Inflibnet
Major Library Networks in India aims to share the resources and services among all academic and research institutions. It is providing the services in library automation and development of library standards, catalogue, serials, thesis, books, non book material, bibliographic information etc.
This network was started in March 1991 under MHRD and became an independent inter-University Centre in 1996. It is providing the state-of art technologies for utilisation of information. This network is promoting the scholarly communication among all researcher and academicians in India. It's aim to modernizing university libraries and connecting them with high speed data network.

2. Csirnet
(Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) Consortium is working for research and development activities in many disciplines. It is the networking centre for E-resources for all science and technological activities

3. Indest
INDEST AICTE (Indian National Digital Library in Engineering and Technology) consortium) established in 2005 by MHRD under the chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan. In this consortium technological and engineering institutions are enrolled and share selected e- resources. Funds for subscription being provided by Ministry (Govt. of India). Around 62 centrally funded govt. Institutions like IITs, IISc Banglore, IIMs, NITTTR's, ISM and few others are enrolled

for consortium. 1235 university/ institutions members have joined this consortium. It is an open ended consortium.

4. Delnet
Developing Library Network started in January 1988 and registed as a society in 1992. It is supported by NISSAT and NIC . The main objective of this network is to share the resources to all member libraries and information centers. The network collect, store and disseminate all information to users.

5. IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Consortium
This Consortia established in 2001, TIFR Libraries Consortium established in 2002 and it is digital library network system. All IIM intuitions are able to access online resources and information.

6. Forsa
It is the forum for Astronomy and Astrophysics. It is established in 1982. In 2004 libraries of Physics and Mathematics having common interests took the membership of FORSA. The consortia provide the online access to electronic resources.

7. UGC - Infonet
INFLIBNET on behalf of UGC is executing this network in collaboration with the ERNET. It is the network of UGC aims to modernizing the university libraries with state-of-art campus wide communication network. UGC INFONET is the boon for higher education system and helpful in distance learning. It is the form of collaboration among students and teachers worldwide and a channel of education globally. This network is funded by UGC. JTTC is the setup to monitor and to guide this network. INFLIBNET is the nodal agency for UGC-INFONET. The consortium subscribes the journals published by American Institute of Physics.
UGC Infonet 2.0 network is switched to BSNL in 2010 and providing the 10135 Mbps to around 200 universities on leased. It is internet bandwidth pre-requested delivery service for subscribed scholarly content through UGC-INFONET Digital Library consortium. It is providing the fast retrieval of information to participating libraries.

8. Ernet
It is Education and Research Network established to support the education and research work in the country under the Ministry of Electronic & Information Technology, Govt. of India. APAN (Asia-Pacific Advanced Network) is also a high performance network. It provides the services to Asia –Pacific Region for education and research community. ERNET has developed many projects on national and international level for educational institutions and research organizations. Many projects like smart virtual classroom project, ecosystem projects, VSAT network connectivity project, e-learning and IT based infrastructure for schools, cyber forensics, E-Linkage for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalays, Kendriya Vidyalayas, campus network, ideo conferencing, ICT certres for rural schools, etc.

9. Manlibnet
It is Management Library Network established in 2000. It purpose is to provide the forum for all management libraries. Through this network many management libraries and information centres share their views and ideas to promote the use of libraries and information centres and helpful in the development of business libraries also. Through this network management libraries promote and enhance the participation in conference, seminars, workshops, mentoring, publishing and research work. Many management libraries are having the life membership of this network.

10. Adinet
Ahmadabad Library Network was registered as a society in 1994 and sponsored by NISSAT. This network helps all the users who are seeking for information. All records of Ahmadabad libraries being formatted and merged in union catalogue and updated regularly.

Advantages
1. Provide the help in using the finance in proper ratio with optimum utilization.
2. Provide the service of SDI and CAS in electronic way and fulfill the current needs
3. Provide the facility of technical support and helpful in cost effectiveness
4. Provide the services in digital documents which are easily accessible
5. Provide the facility to share and use the resources in electronically and timely
6. Provide the facility to access e-journals, e-books, e-newspapers even from remote login.
7. Provide the facility to connect the one user to another user and break the space barrier.
8. Provide the facility to break the barrier of traditional libraries and facilitate the members libraries and users for Inter Library Loan.
9. Provide the facility of advanced technogical tools to search the database
10. Provide the facility of distance learning, remote learning, informal learning, consortia learning, and network learning to the library users.

Conclusion
All participating libraries must have common library software which is cost effective and fine in use. All software must have backup technological support. Success of library networks and consortia depends on user oriented services and solution giving platform. In India many library professionals are forced to give best services out of their limited resources in that case network and consortia help to obtain best results. A major level of commitment and involvement of participants is necessary for successful running of consortia. Consortia is the best alternative platform of sharing and fulfilling needs of potential users and a landmark for innovative ideas, formulas, coordination and cooperation among participants.

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