DLINE JOURNALS

International Journal of Information Studies

Print ISSN: 1911 8408
Online ISSN: 1911 8414

IJIS 2024; 16 (2)
https://doi.org/10.6025/ijis/2024/16/2/49-53

A View of Information Sharing Pattern through Consortia in India

Harilal Lakavath
Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology
Yamnampet, Ghatkesar, Hyderabad, India
harilal.lakavath@gmail.com

B. Ramesh
TTWRDC (M) Sangareddy
PeddaKangarla, Patanchervu, India
rameshbanoth71@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Library collaboration is reflected normally in many ways, of which library consortiums are one such model. Consortiums have been functioning across countries for the last two to three decades. In this paper, we view the consortiums available and their functioning. This paper is very generic in that it reflects a few viewpoints.

Keywords: Consortium, Library Collaboration, Information Access

Received: 2 November 2023
Revised: 13 January 2024
Accepted: 25 January 2024

1. Introduction

The sharing of data sets and metadata, models and software and other assets — promises to accelerate discovery, enhance reproducibility and drive economic growth.

Libraries and related institutions collaborate to accomplish shared objectives, pool resources, and improve services for the benefit of their communities. Collaboration involves sharing expertise, knowledge, and resources to build synergies, increase effectiveness, broaden access to information, and develop new initiatives. A library collaboration can occur at a single system level, among libraries in a region or a country, or across borders. It can also involve partnerships with education institutions, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, industry players, and other interested parties, all working together to leverage strengths to support the mission of delivering comprehensive and inclusive information services to various audiences.Collaboration in the library can take the form of a multi-organizational effort to acquire the necessary capacity. Collaboration can bring unique advantages, but not always without a significant investment of time, energy, and resources. (Brian Lovie) Universities face budget pressures, accountability issues, pedagogical shifts, and rising client expectations, especially in the student experience. (Hickman, B. (2017).

Libraries' resources and support are often invisible in the digital age. Students and researchers are increasingly self-assured in their information skills. The importance of the library as a physical space is diminishing, and there are other sources of information for students and researchers, especially in light of open-access developments.(Jeremy Atkinson 2019).

2. Background

This paper outlines a typology of persistence strategies associated with various consortia within and across information networks. Most existing literature focuses on two types of persistence: micro-level and macro-level. Micro-level persistence is achieved when users and libraries work together directly to prevent and recover information access risks. Macro-level persistence happens when libraries (including competitors) work with institutions (like government or library associations) to manage or control longer-term access risk. In this paper, we identify a third type of persistence: meso-level. When multiple access networks work together on short-to-medium-term access risks, they tend to be more flexible and ad hoc than macro or micro-level collaborations. We argue that Meso-level collaborations are complex adaptive systems with self-organization and dynamic and related characteristics.

Over the past four years, we have analysed more than a dozen science consortia engaged in data sharing and mapped the landscape of those and another 44 consortia. Consortia act as enablers when functioning effectively, enabling them to do what members cannot (Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J.2016; (Knight, E. 2015).

Consortia can bridge the gap between disciplines and cause paradigm shifts. The successful consortia we have studied allow researchers to work across disciplinary or institutional boundaries. (Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld et al. 2017)

As a result, successful consortia avoid duplicating efforts, identify bottlenecks, and adjust to rapidly varying rates of change. Science is increasingly a collaborative enterprise, but its social and technical infrastructure is not collaborative. Henry Chesbrough (2003) cited this to illustrate how knowledge was shifting from large, centralized, and horizontally structured R&D lab systems to more fragmented networks of innovation connecting companies to increasingly diverse pools of knowledge.

2. Research Issues in this Study

We aim to conduct a study that helps us understand the consortia's potential. We do not dwell in an in-depth study of existing consortia but analyse their general characteristics. This work will highlight the generic view of the consortium and its features of them. The primary aim of a consortium is to ensure higher information access and promote information use. The cost factor should not hinder the access to information. Thus, this work is a very general study of the consortium.

3. Significance of Library Consortium

Access to resources is increasingly regarded as more vital than collection creation. The collaboration enabled libraries to benefit from increased access to electronic resources at a lower cost and with the best licensing terms possible. A consortium with the aggregate resources of numerous institutions at its disposal is better positioned to confront and handle the challenge of managing, organizing, and preserving electronic resources.

4. Consortium Models

Many consortia formed in India in recent years are typically based on variables such as participation, affiliations, and financing sources. The following groupings with distinct characteristics illustrate the variety of library consortia within the academic library community in India (Varaprasad& Madhusudhan, 2010):

Open Consortia: *Libraries can join and exit as they wish. Member libraries are often homogenous and necessitate cross-sharing of resources in a particular topic area. Examples include FORSA, SNDT's LISA, and the INDEST Consortium of the MHRD, Government of India.*

S.No	Name of the Consortium	Year of Establi-shment	Initiative by Head Quarter
1	FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics)	1981	Raman Research Institute-Bangalore
2	MedIND	1985	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & National Informatics Centre (NIC) New Delhi
3	TIFR Libraries Consortium	1999	TIFR Library, Mumbai-Mumbai
4	ISI Library Consortia	1999	Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Library Kolkata
5	IIM-Consortium	2000	India Institution of Management Kozhikode
6	ICICI Knowledge Park Now IKP	2002	ICICI bank and Govt .of Telangana. Hyderabad
7	HELNET - RGUHS	2003	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science Bangalore
8	INDEST-AICTE	2003	(Consortium Indian National Digital Library In Engineering Science & Technology) New Delhi
9	UDL Consortia	2003	Universal Digital Library- Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad
10	UGC-INFONET Consortium	2003	UGC-New Delhi
11	MCIT Library Consortium	2005	MCIT, The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology-New Delhi
12	CeRA (Consortium e-Resource in Agriculture)	2007	ICAR-New Delhi
13	ERMED	2008	National Medical Library-New Delhi
14	DeLCON	2009	DBT-Gurgaon, Haryana.
15	DRDO	2009	DESIDOC, Ministry of Defence-Delhi
16	The National Knowledge Education Electronic Resources	2009	CSIR-National Institute of Science Resource (NKRC) Communication and Policy Research-New Delhi
17	N-LIST Consortium (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content)	2014	UGC &MHRD-New Delhi
18	e-Shodh Sindhu Consortium for Higher	2016	UGC & INFLIBNET MHRD-New Delhi

Table 1. Major Consortium Functioning in India

Closed Group Consortia: *These consortiums are created by coalitions, affiliations, and collaboration among exclusive member libraries.Examples include CSIR, DAE, and IIMs consortia.1. Centrally Funded Consortia: A parent body or coordinating agency will manage the consortium's finances. Examples include CSIR, INDEST, UGC-INFONET, and the ICMR Consortia.*

Shared Budget Models: *Member libraries manage finances and other factors separately—for instance, FORSA, IIMs, and HELINET.*

National Level Consortia*: In India, national-level consortia such as INDEST, UGC-Infonet, and ICARNET have member libraries from a single country.*

Publishers' Initiative: *Some publishers promote consortium formation by offering significant discount discounts to member libraries, such as Emeralds Publishing Group.*

Institutional Headquarters Funded Consortia: *Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and its branch libraries.*

International Consortium: *This model ends at the international level.*

5. Consortia in India

Consortia are in great demand for the libraries of many organisations in India. The primary reason is the functioning of many academic and research institutions where information access is important to millions of users. The network-based handling and maintenance of e-material is easier than print media, with the added benefit of remote access and content exchange. Considering these factors, the consortium is a staged bundle of systematic information. Budget-friendly and continual update are also essential criteria for determining the importance of consortia over other library systems in libraries to deliver better e-information to its clientele. Many consortia are effectively conducted by various organizations in India,as listed in Table 1.

6. Summary

A comprehensive library collaboration includes four major categories:(1) collaboration among libraries, (2) collaboration among library staff, (3) collaboration among library staff and patrons, and (4) collaboration among patrons. (Bejune 2007).

The most central issue here is that library collaboration needs to be a strategic decision that's thoughtfully considered based on the trade-offs involved in choosing a collaboration option, the environment in which the collaboration will take place, and the appropriateness of other sourcing options that might be available.

References

[1] Hickman (2017). University libraries need to start putting the students first. Guardian Retrieved from: https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2017/aug/03/university-libraries-need-to-start-putting-the-student-first)

[2] Jeremy Atkinson. (2019). Collaboration by academic libraries: What are the benefits, constraints, and what do you need to do to be successful? *New Review of Academic Librarianship*. 25, 2019 - Issue 1. p. 1-7.

[3] Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J. et al.(2016). *Data Sci. Journal,* 15, 8.

[4] Knight, E., Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J., Mittleman, B. (2015). *MIT Sloan Management Review,* 57, 16.

[5] Cutcher-Gershenfeld, J., Baker, K. S., Berente, N., Flint, C., Gershenfeld, G., Grant, B., ... Zaslavsky, I. (2017). Five ways consortia can catalyse open science. *Nature*, *543*, 615–617.

[6] Chesbrough, H. W. (2003). *Open Innovation: The New Imperative for Creating and Profiting*

from Technology. Harvard Business School Press. ISBN: 9781578518371

[7] Lavoie, B. (2022). *Library Collaboration as a Strategic Choice: Evaluating Options for Acquiring Capacity*. Dublin, OH: OCLC Research.

[8] Bejune, M. M. (2007). Wikis in Libraries. *Information Technology and Libraries*, September 2007.

[9] Retrieved from https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13614533.2019.1575016#

[10] Retrieved from https://www.lisedunetwork.com/library-collaboration/