MAJOR E-JOURNAL CONSORTIUM IN INDIA

Dr. Prashant P. Deshmukh
Librarian
P. N. College, Pusad
Dist. Yavatmal-445 204 (MS), India

Abstract : Presently E-Journals have become the largest and fastest growing areas of the digital collections for most of our libraries & higher education. Today, now running in many thousands and the rate of growth is phenomenal as well as amazing. The advancements in digital technologies and the recent proliferation of E-Publishing across the world have brought in a revolution in journal publication, subscription, access and delivery mechanism. E-journals are the electronic equivalents of their print counter parts possessing numerous additional features. E-Journals often referred to interchangeably as "Electronic Serials", "Online Journals" and "Electronic Periodicals". Lancaster (1995) defines E-Journal as "a journal created for the electronic medium and available only in this medium. Electronic serials may be defined very broadly as any journal, magazine or newsletter which is available over the internet.

We are living in the information age. The availability of online information and its effective use contributes to all round development of individuals and nations. Information is the most crucial input resource for development and it has been rightly said that "the future of each nation as well as that of mankind is based on, now more that ever, on information or knowledge gained rather than any other material or resources. Information leads to knowledge and in turn to innovation and development"1 At the higher education level everyone needs advanced and scholarly literature to improve the quality of study, teaching and research. With remarkable development in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT), information resource in abundance is made available through the consortia approach on the net/online. Scholarly journals provide basic theoretical background as well as an in put for the research at the higher education level. Because of the ICT and consortia approach for resource sharing, today majority of the research articles are available online. These online electronic journals are bargained, negotiated and acquired from the publishers and other database vendors and access for the same is enabled by the consortia on 7x24 hour basis at the desk top of the academician. The electronic journals are made available beyond the barriers of time, distance and cost.

ICT Is A Means To Library Consortia :

Today Library Consortia mainly stands on the ICT platform and facilitate online access to information at finger tips of the end users. The primary purpose of establishing a library consortia is to share all the available resources including, e-resources , online databases, books and periodicals amongst members. However, the mode of consortia

approach has gone under transformation with infusion of new ICT. Today focus has been also shifting from print-media to digital and on-line environment. The emergence of internet, particularly the World Wide Web (WWW) as a new media of information delivery triggered proliferation of web-based full-text online resources

Subscription, Access and Pricing Models :

A variety of subscriptions, access and pricing models are in vogue for E-journals. Electronic journals are literally the entire journal, along with the full content retained in print (if there exists a print version), available in digital format and accessible online throughout the world. An electronic journal is therefore a whole journal, and libraries can subscribe to electronic journals from publishers or through a second party (e.g. vendors) just like they subscribe to print journals. This distinction between publishers and second parties is an important one, as these are the major two ways libraries get electronic journals. Some companies (also known as aggregators) create collections of entire journals and sell access to these collections. In summary, there are three major ways through which electronic journals could be sourced in libraries:

1. E-Journal sourced directly from publishers
2. E-Journal through second parties such as journal vendors and Gateways
3. E-Journal through journal aggregators

Access to E-Journals could be arranged from the respective publishers against User ID /Password or through IP authentication. For a wider audience (campus-wide, enterprise-wide), IP based access is mostly preferred. Some publishers even offer both the access options. These decisions are mainly based on the publisher's policy on online access and how much restricted the access to be. There exist a number of pricing models for electronic journals such as the online only, online and print, print and online, flip-pricing, pay-per-hit, pay-per-view, pay-per-download, pay-preprint, deeply discounted pricing etc. Some of the other popular models include the FTE (Full Time Equivalence) based pricing", "core subscription plus pay-per-view", "usage based pricing", "licensee membership fees" etc. Based on the nature of the subscription / licensing arrangements and the availability of funds a number of models can coexist in a practical library setting. It is disheartening to note that neither the libraries nor the publishers have sufficient experience towards fixing the cost of E-Journals. This is an area where libraries are being severely exploited and this need to be addressed on a war footing.

Consortia Initiatives—Indian Cenario :

In India, library network and co-operation started with the initiatives of NISSAT in forming CALIBNET in 1986 and DELNET in 1988. The UGC set up INFLIBNET in 1988[2]. Many libraries in India have set up consortia among themselves for resource sharing. At the national level INFLIBNET has taken initiative for a change in developing adequate infrastructure in academic libraries to be a part of networked environment. Some of the important consortia pertaining to e-resources are FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy & Astrophysics), CSIR Consortium, INDEST Consortium, IIM Consortium,

Volume - 1 (2021)
Issue - 1 (August)

LIBRARY SCHOLAR
International Peer-Reviewed Journal of Library Science

ISSN
2583-2549

MCIT Library Consortium (The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Library Consortium), UGC-INFONET E-Journals Consortium, DeLCON –Electronic Library Consortium etc

Much importance is given to research and development activities in India. Hence, there has been a voluminous growth of published documents in the recent past. The increasing cost of information resources, technological advancements that offer never methods of information processing. Retrieval and dissemination are some of the factors which have made partnership a necessity and which led to the formation of e-journal consortium. The development of the consortium is the outcome of the desire for resource sharing.

1.   UGC- INFONET :

http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/UGC-Infonet//

Professor Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, UGC set up a committee to study the possibility of setting up a consortium of universities to obtain Internet access to scholarly journals. The national negotiation committee set up by UGC recommended a number of resources covering all areas of learning. The UGC and Information and Library Network (INFLIBET) extended the program in three phases to about 150 universities. It is expected that the entire university system will be covered under the program very soon. They also planning to extend this program to the 17,000 colleges in a phased manner.. Universities will become members of the consortium after signing a MOU with the UGC and INFLIBNET. The UGC provide funds for the program, which will be free of cost for the universities.

2.   INDEST (Indian National Digital Library in Science and Technology)
http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/

The "Consortia-based subscription to Electronic Resources for Technical Education System in India" is the most ambitious initiative taken so far in the country by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan. The benefit of consortia-based subscription to electronic resources is not confined to 38 major technological institutions in the country but is also extended to all AICTE-accredited and UGC affiliated institutions. 91 Engineering colleges and Institutions have already joined to consortium on their own. Moreover, the INDEST Consortium, as an open-ended proposition, welcomes other institutions to join it on their own for sharing benefits it offers in terms of highly discounted rates of subscription and better terms of agreement with the publishers. All electronic resources being subscribed are available from the publishers Website.   The Consortium has an active mailing list and a Website hosted. Like all IITs can access to major full text databases from different suppliers whereas category two institutions can access to only four full text databases. Institutions can access to only four full text databases. Institutions desirous to access the resources can join and become member of this consortium. The consortium is biggest in the field of Engineering and Technology, with its members spread across the country. It offer access to multiple electronic resources from different reputed publishers.

3. FORSA Consortium (Astronomy and Astrophysics)

http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/library/forsaweb/index.htm

The Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics is a consortium of Raman Research Institute (RRI), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Inter-university Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), and Physical Research Laboratory (PRL). In this consortium, subscription for both print and electronic format is paid by the supplier. Each member maintains its own print subscription and by paying an additional 12 per cent of its print subscriptions can access the journals subscribed by other libraries electronically. This consortium has successfully negotiated with publishers of Nature to provide access to its e-version at a price of almost one third of the list price.

4. CSIR Consortium
http://www.niscair.res.in

National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi along with other Laboratories of CSIR formed a Consortium called "Consortium for CAIR Laboratories for Accessing E-journals". The consortium started functioning in June 2002 after an agreement with the Elsevier Science. It is one of the CSIR Networked Projects under the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The objectives behind this Consortia was to strengthen the pooling, sharing and electronically accessing the CSIR library resources, to provide access to world S&T literature to SCIR labs and to nucleate the culture of electronic access resulting into evolution of digital libraries. The Consortium has signed an agreement with e-journal publisher, Elsevier Science for a period four years for 1200+ journals.

5. HELINET Consortium – Health Sciences Library & Information Network
http://www.rguhs.ac.in

HELINET was an initiative of Rajiv Gandhi Universities of Health Sciences, Karnataka. Launched on 15th March 2003, it is the first Medical Library Consortium in the country. The main aim is to establish a network of libraries in the college affiliated to the RGUHS, so as to promote resource sharing and digitization of library resources. Under the HELINET scheme, the member can access to around 600 scholarly, international biomedical journals, from 24 leading publishers, at about one-third price of their print subscription. Moreover, the member colleges can get all time access to the current journals as well as archives i.e. the back-volumes of journals for a period of seven to 10 years.

The University has spent Rs. Two crores for establishing the consortium on a cooperative e-access model and subscribing to Elsevier's Science Direct, Ovid Biomedical Collection , Annual Reviews Biomedical Suite, J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia and J-Gate.

6. DeLCON –Electronic Library Consortium
http://www.nbrc.ac.in/delcon/index.html

Volume - 1 (2021)
Issue - 1 (August)

LIBRARY SCHOLAR
International Peer-Reviewed Journal of Library Science

ISSN
2583-2549

Over the past eight years several national level consortium have come into existence and started playing around in the country in various disciplines. In the galaxy of library e-consortiums in India, one new name has been added i.e. DeLCON Electronic Library Consortium launched in January 2009 by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Currently, the Consortium comprises of 8 DBT Institutions, DBT (HQ) and ICGEB. The aim of DeLCON is to maximize access to a large number of high impact journals by the Scientist at the member institutions. The main objectives and scope of the DeLCON Consortium.

7. IIM Library Consortia (The Indian Institute of Management)
http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/library/vslib/consortia.htm

IIM Library consortia is a Digital Library network system based on internet technology to provided the IIM community (faculty, students and staff) an online web enabled access to the information resources available in all the IIMs without any barriers of time and distance. It will be a simple, efficient and cost effective system. The basic operating principle of this system is decentralized acquisition, decentralized processing and centralized utilization.

8. MCIT Library Consortium
http://www.http:// mcitconsortium.nic.in

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology comprises of three departments those are Department of Information Technology (DIT); Department of Telecommunication (DOT) and ; Department of Post (DOP) . Each department has a number of PSU/Organizations/Autonomous Bodies.

These organizations have their own Libraries, Documentation Centres and Information Centres to meet the information needs of their officials. These organizations spend huge amount of their budget to purchase/subscribe books, journals etc. Sometimes it has been observed that these libraries purchase common/similar information resources separately. Thus there is a need of common purchasing and sharing of information resources among these organizations for the best utilization of their library budget as well as information resources

9. ISI Library Consortia
http://www.isical.ac.in

Consortia based subscription of electronic resources in the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Library, Kolkata, was first mooted in 1999. Primarily it was initiated by the then Chief Librarian (Mr. C. Bhattacharyya) at a meeting of the Library Committee; in the presence of the member coordinator, National Board of Higher Mathematics, DAE, GOI, held at ISI Library. The initiative came into existence with a consortia-based subscription to MathSciNet database, and the agreement was signed on 29th November 1999. By this agreement, the AMS grants a license of access to MathSciNet on web, subject to the terms and conditions agreed between the AMS and participating consortium members..

ERMED Consortium (Electronics Resources in Medicine)

http://www.nmlermed.in/aboutArmed .htm

Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED) Consortium is an initiative taken by Director General of Heath Services (DGHS) to develop nation wide electronic information resources in the field of medicine for delivering effective health care for all. The authorities decided to provide financial support required for the purchase of electronic journals under the ERMED consortium project for Government medical colleges and institutions. For private Medical colleges/institutions the payment per site for e-resources purchased by the consortium will be charged. The Consortium is being coordinated through it's headquarter set up at the National Medical Library (NML).

Conclusion :

In the 21st century a new paradigm has emerged for libraries. Whereas serials used to be handled mainly by subscription agents for libraries, now, in many instances, library consortium has taken on that role. Particularly with the advent of the e-journal, there is a need to have a strong negotiator working for libraries. Libraries have come to trust their consortium to work on their behalf. Most consortiums are generally nonprofit operations. In addition, consortium saves the libraries money through their low overhead. Libraries more than ever before, need to work collaboratively toward common pruposes, in ways that strengthen their position both at local level and at consortium level.

Library Consortia is at the doorsteps to prove cooperation locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is an encouraging sign with good number of consortia efforts are undergoing in India. But consortia efforts are time consuming, frustrating and difficult to build and maintained by groups of interested institutions in India. Hence, it is suggested that the issues can be taken at Central Government level and form a national level consortia covering all the educational and research libraries irrespective of ministry, departments and states in India. This will provide good opportunities for exploiting the consortia resources effectively and efficiently in use.

Reference :

- Arora Jagdish. (2003). INDEST- A proposal for strategic co-operationfor consortia based Access to E-Resources, Intl. Inform & Lib. Rev. 35,1-17.
- Arora, Jagdish , *et al.* Library consortia and resource sharing initiatives in India: A white paper. *In* Proceedings of the *HELINET Consortium*, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, May 1 May 2004, Bangalore.
- **Brown, J.H.U.,** The **Research** Consortium, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION, VOL. 34, NO. 2, JUNE **1991**
- Murthy, TAV, Access to scholarly Journals and Database" UGC INFONET E-journals Consortium, University News, Vol.42, No. 2 Aug 23-29, 2004.

- MURTHY (et al) . UGC-Infonet: E-journals consortium : An Indian model bridging the gap between scholarly information and user. Paper presented at CALIBER -2005 Cochin , India, February.
- Lancaster F.W. 'The evolution of electronic publishing'. Library Trends, 43(4), 1995, pp. 518-27.