Consortium Approach to Resource Sharing in an E-Environment

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About the Author

Dr. Y.M. Patil obtained B.Sc., B.Lib.Sc. both from Karnataka University, Dharwad; A.I.Sc (CSIR), New Delhi and Ph.D. (LIS) – RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. He served with TIFR’s Radio Astronomy Centre, Ooty; NBSS&LUP (ICAR), Nagpur and Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, from where he retired in 2010. He has over 38 years’ experience in the domain of ‘Special Librarianship’. He was able to develop libraries of these institutes on modern lines with many of best practices and IT applications.

He was a coordinator for FORSA Consortium with a dozen astronomy related institutes in the country as members and formed consortia with various publishers. He was as a lead member of DST constituted committee and responsible for DST Labs joining CSIR E-Journals Consortium and continued as Coordination Committee Member of National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC) and could involve in negotiation with many publishers for e-resources.

He was a Ph.D./M.Phil. Guide/examiner for a couple of universities and published over 35 papers in various journals and seminars. He has visited UK for an advanced training (1989) and Thailand as a member of ‘Springer Library Advisory Board’ for Board’s meeting held at Bangkok (2006).

He was honored for his contributions in Astronomy Librarianship and coordinating activities of FORSA during LISA VI International Conference (2010) held at IUCAA, Pune. He was awarded with ‘Granthalaya Seva Puraskar’ recognizing his notable contributions in Library Science for the year 2012 on the occasion of Librarians’ Day by the Department of Public Libraries, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
Consortium Approach to Resource Sharing in an E-Environment

Yalagouda M. Patil
This book is dedicated to
My grandmother
Late Smt. Parvathemma Doddagoudar (Patil)
and
My beloved parents
Freedom Fighter Late Shri M.B. Patil
(Doddagoudar)
and
Late Smt. Sangavva Patil
It is indeed a great pleasure for me to write a foreword to the book entitled “Consortium Approach to Resource Sharing in an E-Environment”, by Dr. Y.M. Patil. The consortium concept has not only attracted the attention of librarians and library science professionals, academicians, academic administrators and policy makers who are debating on the merits of a national consortium and national licenses for country-wide access to important e-resources. Several Govt.-funded institutions, under various ministries and departments, are coming together to form consortia and share resources on a larger scale due to proliferation of e-resources, escalating costs, economic constraints and ever diminishing library budgets.

The concept of library consortia came into existence to facilitate cooperation, share information and provide access to ever growing scientific and technical information. With introduction of Internet and WWW, there was a paradigm shift from print to electronic version and there emerged scholarly electronic publishing and e-journals. The explosive growth and proliferation of e-resources is bringing about extreme pressure on libraries to cope and manage with changing environment. Libraries were not in position to purchase print/electronic versions due to fund constraints. The prices of journals were soaring up higher than the inflation rates and consortia was the only solution to mitigate the access barriers to information. With advent of ICT and developments of online access to e-products, libraries were further strengthened their cooperative ventures by developing consortia at various levels.
To begin with, there were no set guidelines, procedures and policies while developing consortium. It is in this context that the book has been written in order to fulfill consortia information requirements. The present book has comprehensive coverage of wide range of topics on consortium as reflected through fifteen chapters dealing with resource sharing, electronic publishing, library consortium, consortium types and models, pricing and licensing models, big deals, consortia negotiations, consortia infrastructure requirements, archival aspects, consortia merger and migration and Indian consortia activities and experiences. The author has made honest effort to expose the readers to various aspects of consortia spectrum.

The author was responsible in forming FORSA Consortium (2002) and also involved in taking DST Labs and joining with CSIR E-Journals Consortium and forming CSIR-DST E-Journals Consortium (2009) which was rechristened as National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC). The experiences gained in the process have immensely qualified the author to embark on writing this book.

The volume could be a most useful addition to literature and a good source material for consortium activities. The targeted audiences could be consortia administrators, coordinators, decision makers, consortia participants, researchers, students and teaching faculty in Library and Information Science. It is also useful to universities, colleges, research institutes and R & D organizations who have gone into forming consortia and are active participants and stakeholders in consortia formed at various levels. The book should find a place in every library where consortium is a concern of every one.

I congratulate the author for his stupendous efforts in bringing out this timely publication.

Gandhinagar

Dr. Jagdish Arora
Director,
Information and Library Network Centre
(INFLIBNET),
(An Inter University Centre of UGC)
The theme of this book is on ‘Consortia Approach to Resource Sharing’ which stretches far back in time along with current developments. I have tried to show how library cooperation was evolved over a period of time with resource sharing with print media in focus and later developments in digital format keeping in view recent advances in information and communication technologies. I realize that my selection of the topic may be somewhat arbitrary and even biased towards those in which I have been personally involved in forming two consortia, viz. FORSA and NKRC consortia. In effect I have tried to project the consortium aspects in greater detail and ending up with developments of Indian consortia activities and experiences gained by the professionals who were involved in forming various consortia in the country. The following is the schema of the book where briefing is given as far as coverage on the entire spectrum of consortia activities in general and Indian experience in particular. There are fifteen chapters, which deal with:

   Chapter 1 – Introduction which gives bird’s-eye-view of subject matter coverage;

   Chapter 2 – Resource sharing - this gives brief account of library cooperation, coordination and collaboration; current scenario and latest developments;

   Chapter 3 – Scholarly Electronic Publishing, which brought in electronic subscription of journals, access and
delivery mechanisms, and the subscription could be purchase or lease basis; consortia approach to e-journals deals with e-products which are taken by users for the reason that of ease of usability, affordability and accessibility and saves considerable time and money;

Chapter 4 – Library Consortia highlights the whole range of consortia activities, which is a move from organizational self sufficiency to a collaborative survival mode. There was a paradigm shift from resource sharing to consortia approach as far as cooperative efforts were concerned;

Chapter – 5 Consortia Types and Models highlights consortia types at organization level, types of libraries participating and parent organizations. They belong to subject areas they cover, purpose of coming together, etc;

Chapter 6 – Consortia Pricing Models deals with different pricing models available and how they are evolving over the period of time. Pricing could be considered in relation to larger venues of library budgets, change in scholarly communication market, impact of technological changes and patron expectations;

Chapter – 7 Consortia Licensing for E-Journals gives detailed account of consortia licensing where contracts are implemented with licensing terms and conditions normally set by publishers towards subscription of e-journals;

Chapter – 8 National Consortium Site Licensing provides information on national consortium and need for National Site Licensing, involving collaboration at national level as it has potential to solve many problems in the complex nature of licensing;

Chapter 9– Consortia and ‘Big Deals’ provides information on publishers selling bundled package with significant discounts with power to control terms and conditions preventing libraries dropping lesser used titles and not allowing to share resources among themselves;

Chapter 10 – Library Consortia and Negotiations deals with basics of negotiations in the consortia environment keeping in view a wide range of values, cultures, backgrounds
of publishers, styles of operation, experiences, skills and opinions not only for prices but also for host of other items as far as licensing is concerned. Skillful negotiation brings about win-win-situation to all stakeholders;

Chapter 11 – Library Consortia and Technology Infrastructure outlines infrastructure requirements at consortia level including access to Internet, e-mail service, IP ranges, networking, archiving, etc. Also, consortia should have provision for COUNTER/SUSHI, SERU and other standards and protocols;

Chapter – 12 Consortia and Digital Preservation System, which briefs on archiving needs on a long term basis although publishers’ perpetual access suffer from trust factors, as a result of which some international agencies have emerged, viz. ADS (NASA), CLOCKSS, JSTOR, PORTICO and Mirror Sites;

Chapter 13 – Consortia Merger and Migration – briefs merger and migration in order to make better use of available information and enhance consortia interests on a much larger scales;

Chapter 14 - Emergence of Consortia in India which covers resources sharing through consortia approach and forming over 15 consortia in the country catering collective information needs of academic, research and technical institutes;

Chapter – 15 Indian Consortia experience provides information on experience gained by forming consortia in India, which created confidence and also strength to run consortia on a sustainable basis and also some uncertainties at professional, government funding and at publishers’ level.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge with thanks various authors whose papers I have referred and cited while writing this book. It was indeed a great privilege for me to work with Raman Research Institute, Bangalore where the seeds of consortium for FORSA were sown (2002) and also record my debt of gratitude to DST, Govt. of India, who had given me a chance to work and facilitate for joining DST Labs with National Knowledge Resource Consortium (2008). I thank all
those who were involved in FORSA and NKRC Consortia and also to participants in the consortia. Working with both consortia had given me an in depth working knowledge and acted as a spring board which enabled me to embark upon to write this book. I record my appreciation to my colleagues at Raman Research Institute, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research and National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR), Libraries and friends for their unstinted support while realizing this book.

I thank my wife Mrs. Shobha Patil for all her encouragement and excellent support. I also thank my son Mr. Nishant Patil and daughter-in-law Ms. Uma Maheshwari and daughter Ms. Sweta and Son-in-law Dr. Deepak D. Mariguddi for their cooperation, encouragement and moral support while writing this book.

Bengaluru

Dr. Y.M. Patil
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