RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Prem Prakash Yadav,

Lecturer-Library, Govt. Girls Degree College, Bangar, Kannauj

ABSTRACT

In the contemporary information age, networking and resource sharing are crucial elements. This paper primarily emphasises the significance of resource sharing in academic libraries. It analyses the components, advantages, obstacles, and effects of networking and resource sharing in academic library services. This research study found that library networking and resource sharing are feasible through collaboration and the framework of a consortium. In conclusion, to meet user expectations, libraries must confront the realities of resource and information synergy.

Keywords: *Resource Sharing, Networking, Academic Libraries*

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary information landscape, there is a global proliferation of published materials, resulting in elevated costs for books and subscription-based publications. For an extended period, academic libraries have been engaged in information resource sharing. Academic libraries are engaging in interlibrary loans and are also contemplating resource sharing to facilitate the dissemination of rapidly proliferating information. Academic libraries are endeavouring to adhere to the principle of collection development within constrained budgets by collaborating on resource sharing. In collection development, collaborating libraries should unite and collaborate with one another. Library collaboration, networking, and resource sharing are associated with the collaborative activities of libraries and information centres.

Institutions have utilised collaboration for the sharing of their library resources. Recently, the nature of partnership has undergone transformation. The amalgamation of novel information technology. Resource sharing is understood as a contractual agreement among member libraries, whereby each member consents to share its resources with others and, in return, benefits from the resources of its peers as the need arises. At present, the utilisation of Information Technology has enabled the establishment of a cooperative practical resource-sharing library network, which is a crucial development given the current economic challenges, the rapid influx of information, and the specific needs of users that compel libraries to engage in cooperative strategies.

RESOURCE SHARING

Resource sharing refers to the collaborative exchange of resources among participating libraries based on the idea of collaboration. It signifies a method of several libraries.

"Resource sharing is a cooperative model in which all library operations are consolidated by the number of participating libraries." The term 'resource' encompasses all library items, functions, services, and both professional and nonprofessional workers. The term sharing refers to the act of permitting mutual contribution of resources. Kent and Galwin (1977) defined a resource as an entity, individual, or action that one seeks in times of

necessity. Allen Kent elucidates that the success and sustainability of large libraries are contingent upon their extent of collaboration and the nature of their partnerships with other libraries. Resource sharing refers to the distribution of library assets. In academic libraries, resource sharing is essential due to the substantial expansion of literature, rising document costs, and diminishing library budgets.

Miller states, "It is a collaborative system formed by libraries and information centres united by common subjects and geographic proximity to share informational resources, human resources, and all other components vital for delivering effective information services." Allen Kent defines resource sharing as a method of operation in which multiple libraries collectively share similar functions.

NETWORKING

In the contemporary world, information networks are crucial; they have gained significant popularity and are routinely utilised by information professionals. Reynard C. Swank asserts that a library network is a method to include the advancement of a cooperative system of libraries. Networking centres orchestrate internal operations and facilitate the input and output systems. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) in the USA elucidated that a library network consists of two or more libraries collaborating to communicate information in a uniform manner.

OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate resource sharing among member libraries.
- Provide access to scholarly materials for others.
- Establish an extensive repository of electronic journals.
- Address the digital divide and progress towards an information-abundant society.

- Distribute the responsibility for the acquisition and processing of library materials.
- Disseminate library services and professional knowledge.
- Minimise expenses and facilitate the exploitation of resources.
- Refrain from acquiring duplicate materials to conserve the budget.
- Facilitate the comprehensive utilisation of resources.
- Ensure that all institutional members actively contribute to the sustainability of the consortium.

NEEDS OF RESOURCE SHARING

A vast array of resources exists globally, making it impractical for the library to obtain or maintain all credentials requested by its users. Currently, no library can afford to buy even half of all published materials due to the costs associated with expenditure, investment in space and human resources, and the time necessary to process and offer access to an ever-growing volume of information.

An interdisciplinary literary inquiry requires reliance on additional libraries. The limitations of finances and space, along with inadequate distribution routes for publications and insufficient book selection tools, hinder the acquisition of published works in libraries. It has been observed that numerous libraries have been replicating efforts and resources, resulting in suboptimal utilisation of total items and expenditures. There has been a significant rise in both the number of users and their demands. The sought information has grown highly broad; libraries are now attempting to expand their variety of services and holdings.

FORMS OF RESOURCE SHARING

Resource sharing manifests through Inter Library Loan (ILL), Cooperative Acquisition, Cooperative

Storage, Cooperative Processing, Union Catalogues, Personnel Exchange and Training Facilities, Technical Processing, and Web-Based Sharing, among others.

Interlibrary Loan: It is a process whereby one library provides its resources to a user via another library. Currently, interlibrary loan (ILL) is facilitated by technology such as computer systems, facsimile devices, networks, and photocopying equipment.

Cooperative Acquisition: Libraries invest their resources, including time, finances, and effort, in the procurement of materials. The buying procedures are consistent across all libraries. When a cooperative acquisition is implemented, libraries may be circumvented.

Cooperative Storage: Would yield savings in space and finances, while preventing redundancy.

Cooperative processing: In the collaborative processing of materials, encompassing classification and cataloguing, both manpower and cost constraints can be distributed.

Union catalogues: A common catalogue of materials accessible within all participants of a resource-sharing program. It serves as a valuable locational instrument within an interlibrary loan scheme. It functions as a significant bibliography.

Collaborative Service delivery: In this process, the user physically visits the library to obtain the specific volume needed and borrows the literature.
Personnel exchange and training facilities: The expertise of a specialist from another library can be utilised, and training for internal staff can be arranged.

Technical process: The emergence of computers and copying machines has rendered centralised cataloguing and processing operations viable.
Web-based resource sharing involves the distribution of materials housed online, hence diminishing communication barriers and expediting delivery services.

ADVANTAGES OF RESOURCE SHARING

- Resource sharing adheres to the five principles of library science. Interlibrary borrowing enables all users to access any book of their interest. Every book finds its reader, so conserving the user's time in seeking information. The library, as an evolving entity, benefits from resource sharing by conserving space.
- Standardised formats in classification and cataloguing can be sustained. The union catalogue enables all librarians to uphold the common classification method, facilitating the cataloguing of books.
- Avoid redundancy in papers and tasks. Resource sharing enables us to borrow materials from other libraries, eliminating the necessity to acquire all items independently. It conserves financial resources and time. It prevents redundant acquisitions and guarantees the procurement of specialised materials and services.
- Facilitate the provision of research materials to scholars Resource sharing enables users to borrow materials from external libraries, thereby facilitating researchers in obtaining all necessary resources for their studies.
- An effective communication system can be implemented.
  The information marketing process can be enhanced through resource sharing, hence regulating the quality of collections.

BARRIERS TO RESOURCE SHARING

Inadequate ICT infrastructure: The deficiency of ICT infrastructure is hindering academic libraries from fulfilling user requirements. Resource

sharing and networking rely on information and communication technology (ICT).

- Resource sharing necessitates a computer network and proficient personnel.
- Certain institutions continue to favour ownership.
- Adverse stance of the institution and legal administration.
- Incapable of fulfilling urgent demands due to insufficient resolve and commitment.
- Challenges in reaching mutual agreements.
- The quantity of books available for lending diminishes if all libraries rely on resource sharing.
- A significant deficiency in the library's collection will arise if the cooperative acquisition fails to function effectively.
- Resource sharing would possess minimal value in the absence of advanced technology.
- Financial constraints may preclude resource sharing. The publisher's revenue diminishes as a result of resource sharing.
- A substantial collection of libraries will have an increased burden of lending, which is detrimental to them.

LIBRARY NETWORKS

The library network comprises participating libraries, enabling all members to benefit from the resources of each member library. It is a consensus among libraries to furnish information and services to the patrons of the participating libraries, which may be located in disparate geographical regions, yet mutually assist each other based on user needs. CALIBNET was established in Calcutta in 1986, DELNET in Delhi in 1988, PUNENET in Pune in 1992, ADINET in Ahmedabad in 1993, BONET in Mumbai in 1994, MALIBNET in Chennai in 1993, and BALNET in Bangalore in 1997.

Susan Martin defines "the library network" as a consortium of individuals and organisations that are interconnected to enhance resource sharing. The resource comprises bibliographic information and collections, enhancing service to users.

INFLIBNET

INFLIBNET is an autonomous inter-university centre of the UGC situated on the Gujarat University campus in Ahmedabad. It is a national network of libraries and information centres within universities, higher education institutions, and research and development organisations in India, designed to facilitate intellectual contact among academics and researchers in the country.

OBJECTIVES OF INFLIBNET

The primary aim of INFLIBNET is to promote resource sharing among libraries. This is accomplished by establishing a network of libraries and information centres within universities, colleges, and research and development institutions. Services may be provided through the storage and dissemination of information, the provision of computerised information services to users, and the coordination of activities for appropriate collection development while minimising unnecessary duplication whenever feasible. This consequently enhances scholarship, learning, research, and academic endeavours. A database of projects, institutions, and professionals will be established, and online information will be made available. Standards and uniform recommendations for techniques, procedures, hardware, software, and services shall be developed and promoted for adoption.

INFLIBNET SERVICES

- Catalogue based services
- Database services
- Document supply services
- Collection development

- Communication based services

INFLIBNET MAJOR PROJECTS

The University Grants Commission has launched an ambitious initiative named UGC-INFONET for university campuses utilising cutting-edge technologies.

INFLIBNET is overseeing and administering the entire project.

The UGC-INFONET e-journals consortium is an initiative for higher education that establishes a nationwide communication network. This curriculum utilises Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the internet to turn e-resources into multidimensional formats. This cooperation will disseminate educational materials and periodicals to the most remote places of consumers. Current information will be sent to the researchers and intellectuals. UGC-INFONET will create a conduit for the globalisation of education and assist universities in promoting their services and advancements.

This program will provide the finest contemporary and archive monthly literature from around the globe to the university community. UGC-INFONET serves as a platform for collaboration between educators and students, both nationally and globally. The e-journal consortium seeks to encompass all domains of knowledge pertinent to diverse universities, including Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics.

STEPS TO PROMOTE RESOURCE SHARING THROUGH NETWORK

- Library networking is essential for resource sharing and can be advocated at local, national, and worldwide levels. The following measures can be implemented to enhance resource sharing via networks.
- All libraries must compile their catalogues or bibliographies in a machine-readable format to deliver computer-aided information services to users. All libraries ought to advocate for the automation of functions including cataloguing, circulation, bibliography preparation, and union cataloguing.
- Resource sharing among libraries can be enhanced by providing computerised services to users.
- Shared cataloguing enhances resource utilisation, prevents acquisition duplication, and facilitates interlibrary lending services, catalogue preparation, and collection development.
- By fostering collaboration among libraries, underfunded resource centres augment their assets through partnerships with other libraries.
- It is essential to empower all institutions to prioritise computer and networking technology.
- All libraries must utilise data from the central port to facilitate in-house activities, including acquisition, cataloguing, classification, serials management, circulation, SDI, and current awareness services.
- Participation libraries must adhere to the established format for categorising or compiling the bibliography. They must adhere to all the network's rules and regulations.
- All collaborating libraries must establish the standard catalogue.
- Participating libraries necessitate technological support for the development of bibliographic databases. An expert panel is necessary for networking, which should offer support, and a central host machine must be established to create a union catalogue and consolidate the catalogues of all participating libraries.
- All participating libraries must adhere to the same classification system. A network must facilitate interlibrary loan

services and the distribution of foreign journals, thereby preventing duplication and conserving the library's budget. An effective courier service necessitates the facilitation of resource sharing.

- All serials should be published in electronic format, as it facilitates ease of distribution.

CONCLUSION

Resource sharing and networking are essential to meet the user's requirements. Librarians can supply all necessary materials to patrons without acquisition, thereby conserving the library's budget. A methodical approach and proficient personnel are necessary for resource allocation. Resource sharing addresses the librarian's difficulties related to space constraints, standardisation, staff professional development, emerging technologies, and significant reductions in the library budget. Libraries may shift their emphasis from the collection of informational materials to facilitating access. The rising value and demand for information exert pressure on librarians to provide more efficient services to their patrons. Libraries and information providers across are forming strategic partnerships to achieve their objectives.

Contemporary users require accurate information promptly in this age of information proliferation. Information professionals ought to embrace all available technologies and tools to enhance service delivery. The interlibrary lending system is seeing enhancements in the current era of information and communication technologies. Information workers must possess the requisite abilities to fulfil the needs of accomplished research scholars, faculty, and both graduate and undergraduate students. With careful planning by professionals, resource sharing will significantly contribute to the transformation of libraries into world-class information centres.

The notion of resource sharing is need-based, grounded in the fundamental principle of reciprocity. During the information era, the proliferation of publications necessitated the introduction of collection development policies to identify and select essential documents, while sharing the surplus with other librarians or networks due to escalating publication costs and their remarkable expansion across various subjects. To enhance resource sharing across libraries across diverse geographical areas and to encompass all types of documents, many library networks have been established. Networking can often be classified into library networks, computer networks, and communication networks. Among the three aforementioned networking libraries, Network is notably pioneering in character. The notion of library networks has developed through resource sharing over time.

REFERENCES

- Mary, Huston-Somerville. *Networks and resource sharing in the 21st century*. New York: Haworth Press, 1995.

- Seel, H., Lee. *Access, ownership and resource sharing*. New York: Haworth Press, 1994.

- Shirley K., Baker, and Jackson Mary E. *The future ofresource sharing*. New York.

- *http://irjlis.com*

- *http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com*

- *http://pawankumarjha.tripod.com*

- *http://repository.londonmet.ac.uk*

- *http://www.academia.edu*

- *http://www.ijird.com*

- *https://digitalcommons.unl.edu*

- *https://www.ideals.illinois.edu*