E-ShodhSindhu Consortium: A New Approach for E- Resource Sharing in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The MHRD has taken concrete steps to increase and enhance the quality services in universities, colleges and other academic institutions. E-ShodhSindu consortium has been formed to support the academic activity in higher education in India. It provides thousand of journals and book in electronic form and promotes usage of e-resources among its core members through awareness and training programmes. Through this paper, the author wants to create awareness about the aim and e-resources of ShodhSindhu.

Keywords: Library Consortia, Resource sharing, Library cooperation, E-ShodhSindhu

Introduction

Modern libraries provides literature and information through electronic sources and online services to support the academic activity and satisfy the user's information needs, so it is considered as the backbone of any research organization. The development of technology is changing the pattern of library resources and also changing the process of storage and retrieval in the digital environment from the traditional physical environment. Now the modern library is acquiring e-resources through consortia approach. Consortia approach is one of the ways to maintain cooperation, coordination and collaboration between libraries for resources sharing and work as a technology for collection development and minimize the cost of resources of shared organizations.

Concept of Consortia

Libraries are service oriented organization, where they strive to use all their resources to provide the best services. With the Information explosion, it is becoming difficult for the librarian to satisfy the increasing information need of the users. Due to economic reason no library is in a position to acquire all such information in print or other form. This incident the concept of resource sharing has evolved. Initially, resource sharing activities were known as library collaboration. Kaula (1986) also said that, "resource sharing is not a new concept in the field of libraries. The concept that goes by the term 'library co-operation' has been in use all along among those who had been working in libraries or had anything to do with the development of libraries. The term, however, has been replaced by a new coinage — 'Resource Sharing'— which sounds more attractive and makes better sense in this age of inflation and budgetary reduction." Hirshon (1999) accept the budgetary reduction and said that, "helping libraries to reduce the cost of purchasing electronic information is a desirable

short-term goal. However, the true value of a consortium comes from helping the library learn how to analyze the quality of the resources, how to choose among different purchasing options (e.g., whether to buy journal articles article-by article or by subscription), how to realign the budget to provide capital to invest in electronic resources, how to choose among various options, and how to establish priorities for implementation. A library consortium, with a broad understanding of how each of its members is coping with these issues, has an ideal opportunity to explore these issues objectively, to understand and articulate trends as they are emerging, and to create standardized methodologies that individual libraries can employ and customize at their own institutions."

Consortium is well known for resources sharing all over the world. Consortium is a community where two or more organizations are come together to fulfill their common goal through sharing their resources. Library Consortia refers to collaboration between libraries for sharing information resources to satisfy the increasing information need of the users.

E-ShodhSindu: Consortium for Higher Education E-Resources

UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium have been merged on the basis of the recommendation of an expert committee by MHRD and formed as new consortia namely e-ShodhSindhu. It will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act. ((INFLIBNET, 2017)

Aims and Objectives

E-ShodhSindhu Consortium has been established with objective to provide qualitative electronic resources at a lower rate of subscription. The major aims and objectives are as follows:

- To develop a impressively large collection of e-journals and e-books with archival and perpetual access basis;
- To promote usage of e-resources among universities, colleges and technical institutions in India through awareness and training programmes;
- To monitor usage of e-resources in member;
- To provide access to subscription-based scholarly information to all educational institutions;
- To provide open access scholarly content through subject portals and subject gateways;
- To move towards information-rich society by Bridge digital divide
- To provide access to selected e-resources to additional institutions including open universities and MHRD-funded institutions that are not covered under existing consortia;
- To provide collaborative platform to meet additional activities and services; and
- To moving towards developing a National Electronic Library with electronic journals and electronic books as its major building blocks.

Members

The members of the e-Shardhindhu Consortium have the following three categories:

Universities
- 12(B) and 2(f) State Universities
- Central Universities
- Deemed University (UGC Funded)
- National Law Schools/University
- Inter-University Centres of UGC

Central Funded Technical Institute
- NITs, SLIET & NERIST
- IITs & IISc
- IIMs
- IIITs, IIEST, NITIE, NIFFT and NITTTR
- IISERs

Technical Colleges
- AICTE Funded Engineering College

E-Resources accessible in Shodhsindhu consortia

Electronic resources are the resources that are generated through some electronic medium and made available to a wide range of viewers both on-site and off-site via some electronic transferring machine or internet" Saye (2001). E-ShodhSindhu provides access to a vast collection of full-text electronic resource and database to all its core members. All these resources have been organized in the A to Z list, subject, publisher and collection wise.

List of full text e-resources accessible in Shodhsindhu consortia

American Chemical Society	JSTOR ht
ACM Digital Library	Nature
American Institute of Physics	Optical Society of America
American Physical Society	Oxford University Press
Annual Reviews	Portland Press
ASCE Journals Online	Project Euclid
ASME Journals Online	Project Muse
ASTM Standards + Digital library	Proquest
Cambridge University Press	Royal Society of Chemistry
Economic & Political Weekly	SIAM Journals
Elsevier Science Direct	pringer Link
Emerald Publishing	Taylor & Francis
IEEE/IET Electronic Library Online	Wiley Blackwell Publishing
Institute of Physics	

List of Database accessible in Shodhsindhu consortia

- Capitaline
- CRIS INFAC Industrial Information
- Euromonitor
- INSIGHT
- ISID
- JGate Plus
- Manupatra
- MathSciNet
- SciFinder Scholar
- Web of Science
- Westlaw India

Conclusion

India is one of the countries having the largest higher education systems in the world and libraries have been playing as a role of knowledge centers in education and research through collection, preservation, retrieval and communication of information. "Libraries today are facing increasing demands for services while struggling with the challenges such as the rise in the information resources, high cost of library materials, high expectations from users, budget cuts and much more" Golnessa (2009). The facilities for access of e-resources have been provided in the most of Indian libraries to support higher education and research institutions. MHRD have been formed the e-ShodhSindhu for servicing e-resources to universities, colleges and centrally funded technical institutions in India with the objective to promote usage of e-resources among its core members through awareness and training programmes.

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