Resource sharing and networking of libraries: an overview

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Abstract: *Resource Sharing is the activity is the result from an agreement, formal & informal among a group of Libraries (usually a consortium or network) to share collection, data, facilities, personnel etc, for the benefit of the users and to reduce expense of Collection development. Resource sharing is nothing but sharing of library resources by certain participating libraries among themselves on the basis of the principle of co-operation. This is applicable in sharing of documents, manpower, services, space and equipments.*

Keywords: Resource Sharing, Steps to Promote Resource Sharing through Network, Library Consortium.

Introduction

Data and correspondence advancements have realized progressive changes in the scholastic libraries amid the previous couple of years. Amid the most recent decade there have been whirlwinds of exercises in each association little or huge, private or government, to utilize PC for data stockpiling, preparing and recovery. Amid the most recent 10 years there have been impressive changes in the media transmission front.

The instruction and library have been inseparables since sunrise of human progress. Their concurrence has been ascribed to numerous historic points in information creation and grant. There are number of examples where libraries of instructive foundations were the dominatingly learning focuses and are being cited in the authentic writings and along these lines have been one of the indispensable parts of all training and adapting, all the more so in the establishments of higher learning.

Library Cooperation

Collaboration in libraries is viewed as an idea created in the late nineteenth Century and the start of twentieth Century. Truth be told books themselves speak to a sort of collaboration for conveying singular encounters to society and this thusly, prompted formation of more information and along these lines production of libraries to efficiently compose and recover the learning, when required. Library cooperation consists of borrowing and lending the reading materials. Cooperating library is "a library that joins with another library or group of libraries in some common plan, such as coordinated development of collections and services or contribution of to a union catalogue." observes that in modern times the cooperation is found helpful in following main activities in libraries:

- Acquiring books - selection, ordering, and purchase, etc.
- Recording books - cataloguing and classification
- Making them available - their own books by consultation and lending books not held by them by borrowing from elsewhere.
- Storing books - for present and future use.

Resource Sharing

"Resource Sharing is the activity is the result from an agreement, formal & informal among a group of Libraries (usually a consortium or network) to share collection, data, facilities, personnel etc, for the benefit of the users and to reduce expense of Collection development". (Reitz, 2004).

Resource sharing in libraries is a mode of operation, whereby functions are shared in common by a number of libraries. "Resource sharing, in its most positive aspect entails reciprocity, implying a partnership in which each member has something useful to contribute to others and in which each is willing and able to make available, when needed."

Resource sharing in libraries is a mode of operation, wherein features are shared in not unusual through some of libraries. "useful resource sharing, in its maximum fantastic component involves reciprocity, implying a partnership wherein each member has something beneficial to make a contribution to others and wherein every is inclined and able to make available, while needed."

Need for Resource Sharing

Information is an crucial ingredient of all human action. It acts as a medium for conversation of ideas, a useful resource for research and improvement essential for the sustenance and development of socio-financial well-being. The need for a ramification of statistics at the side of many complexities in its dissemination and get admission to has necessitated resorting to this phenomenon.

The various factors, which have influenced and increased the current pace of resource sharing activities, are:

- The advent of increasingly effective information technology; and above all;
- Change in emphasis from ownership to collective access, holding to document delivery; materials to client centered approach and document delivery to information delivery;
- Decreasing budgets size and buying capacity;
- Ever increasing inflationary trends;
- Exponential growth of publication and relative scarcity;
- Growing willingness to share resources;

- Growth of inter-disciplinary subjects and obsolescence of knowledge;
- Increase in variety and degree of user demands and growing awareness for access to information;
- Spiralling prices of reading materials.

Resource Sharing Tools

Resource sharing tools square measure the building blocks containing machine-readable records of varied resources or documents offered within the library. These tools facilitate data concerning the resources of libraries. Effective resource sharing will solely be done if; applicable resource sharing tools square measure offered. The beginning of the creation of such tools may be traced with the preparation of catalogues of libraries, subject bibliographies, the union list of periodical holdings etc. These records have changed from time to time from card catalogue and printed catalogue to the database, CD and online database forms, which are in machine-readable forms.

- Databases
- Cooperative Collection Development
- Union Lists and Catalogues
- Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

Library Networks

 "Networking is more structured type of cooperation in which definite regions or areas or definite organizations are connected by electronic or other means to promote inter-library loaning of materials, in-service training and other sharing of resources. (Zhang, 1990).

Library networks are often termed because the centres of resource sharing. The conception of resource sharing among libraries isn't new. Taking clue from the experiences of the society and compulsions of reciprocity all told spheres of man's journey of development, the libraries additionally resorted to networking and resource sharing for increasing the employment of their resources and satisfying the growing users demand. There has been the tremendous growth of knowledge and it becomes extraordinarily tough to amass all revealed materials by a library even in its specialised field. The ungoverned data generation, escalating the value of materials, increasing the value of process of documents and information creation, decreasing budgets and advances in IT have stressed the requirement of network based mostly cooperation.

Basic needs of Networking

- Coordinating efforts for suitable collection development and to reduce unnecessary duplication
- Coordinating with other regional, national and international networks and libraries for the exchange of documents and information through online, email and Internet.
- Maintaining of bibliographic database of books and non-books material

- Offering technical guidance to member libraries on collecting, storing, sharing and dissemination of information
- Processing and maintain electronic and mechanical equipment for speedy communication of information and delivery of electronic mail.
- Sharing cost benefits.
- Sharing efforts, expertise and technology
- Sharing the resources among libraries
- Standardizing input, output and processing of resources
- Undertaking if scientific research in information science and technology

Types of Library Networks

The main objective of library networks is to facilitate efficient and effective use of resources, to avoid unnecessary wastage of scarce resources. Different types/ models of networks came into being to achieve higher user satisfaction without involving extra costs on materials. The following are some of the models.

- Collection centered Cooperative Networks
- Client centered Cooperative Networks
- Resource sharing Network
- Multi-type Library Network

Library networks in India

- Developing Library Network (DELNET)
- Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)
- Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET)
- Ahmadabad Library Network (ADINET)
- Mysore Library Network (MYLIBNET)
- Pune Library Network (PUNENET)
- Madras Library Network (MALIBNET)
- Bombay Library Network (BONET)
- UGC -Info net E-Journals Consortium
- Indian National Digital Library in Science and Technology INDEST Consortium
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research CSIR Consortium
- Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy FORSA Consortium

Major Core Areas for Resource Sharing and Networking of Libraries

Keeping in view the need and emerging thrust areas for colleges, the following core areas for resource sharing are identified; Union Catalogue, Collection Building Strategy, Exchange of Publications, Training of Staff, Exchange of Experience and Expertise, Document Delivery Service, Consortium Approach, Impact.

The higher than discussions build it clear that resource sharing philosophy is extremely a lot of helpful to all or any academic institutions. The implementation of resource sharing can eliminate the sensation among the users that our institute isn't having the specified resource. Resource sharing arrangement can facilitate the librarians to produce the document and knowledge that isn't obtainable at the institution. we are able to visualize the subsequent impact of resource sharing on the faculty libraries; Users Satisfaction, Coverage of Collections, Time Saving, area Saving, Library Image, Efficiency.

Conclusion

Information and Communication technology nowadays has created resource sharing a reality. Therefore, it's necessary to create a Resource sharing and Networking for school libraries in Asian country. Asian country has basic infrastructure for making of a resource sharing network. nowadays web creating the full world as a world village, this web conjointly has the aptitude to integrate all the libraries of world to one international library with the event of resource sharing network. in sight of the higher than discussions, it will be over that Resource Sharing may be a nice boon that has to be enforced more and more and professionally in university and faculties libraries in Asian country. This initiative can generate optimum satisfaction among users and conjointly save appreciable national resources.

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