
It is a common proverb “union is the Strength”, so the organizations or institutions applying this wisdom form consortium. A consortium is said to be a co-operative arrangement among groups or institutions, or an association or society. Cooperation among institutions for sharing their resources is being practiced for many decades. Consortia are commonly formed to increase the purchasing capacity of the collaborating institutions, to expand the resource availability and to offer automated services. Traditionally, the primary purpose of establishing a library consortium was to share physical resources including books and periodicals amongst participating members. However, the mode of cooperation has undergone a transformation with infusion of new information and communication technology from print-based environment to digital environment. Shared subscription or consortia-based subscription to electronic resources through the consortia of libraries, on one hand, permits successful deployment and desktop access to electronic resources at highly discounted rates of subscription and on the other hand, it meets with the increasing pressures of diminishing budget, increased users’ demand and rising cost of journals.

The book under review which is carved up into 15 chapters grapple the area of resource sharing through consortia in the new information technological era. The book is all-encompassing a wide range of topics on library consortia. The first chapter of the book provides all-round glance of different aspects of library consortium like resource sharing, scholarly publishing, consortia and pricing models and emergence of library consortia in India. The next chapter of the book gives a concise outlook of historical, current and latest developments in the area of resource sharing. Chapter 3 provides a panoptic view on scholarly electronic publishing and the distribution mechanism. Chapter 4 gives a brief account of the mission, goals and policies of making library consortia. It also highlights wide range of efforts and activities which took place worldwide and the user expectations from the library consortium. The next chapter provides an insight into the organizational models and library consortia types developed around the world and in India. The chapter 6 throws light on the different pricing models and the concerns of publishers, libraries and scholars regarding the consortia purchasing. Chapter 7 dispenses elaborated glimpse of consortia licensing and issues related to the model licensing. Chapter 8 gives a lookout into the national consortium site licensing and its importance. The next chapter evinces the impact of *Big Deal* on consortia purchasing and the alternate ways to
find cost effective purchases of scholarly journals. Chapter 10 deals with the library consortia’s negotiation with the publishers or aggregators of the scholarly publishing to bring about win-win situation to all stakeholders. Chapter 11 provides an outlook of infrastructure requirements and standards/ protocols like COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources), SERU (Shared E-Resource Understanding), PIRUSE2 (Publishers and Institutional Repository Usage Statistics2) and SUSHI (Standardized Usage Statistics harvesting Initiative). Chapter 12 deals with library consortia and digital preservation of subscribed scholarly content and its guaranteed perpetual access while as Chapter 13 highlights the importance of coalesce of library consortia’s and its impact on the interests of its members. The library consortia, on the basis of sheer strength of the number of institutions, offer healthy business growth opportunities to the electronic publishers and thus attract the best possible price and terms of agreements. Chapters 14 and 15 present a detailed account of the library consortia in India and their role in catering the multifarious needs of its users. They also makes us aware about India’s experience gained through smooth and successful deployment of consortia, and how it helped to develop a firm confidence for running consortia on a sustainable basis. The final chapters that should provide an overview of Indian consortia experience do not summarize anything and reminds one of lecture notes or a seminar plan. On the other hand, the text of the chapters is fragmented into too many sub-chapters. They are of unequal significance and size, some reduced to bulleted lists only.

The author has made a very commendable and stupendous work. It reflects the sincere and wholehearted efforts of the author employed while bringing out this publication. I found this book useful as a means of expanding my knowledge to different areas of library consortia. On the contrary the chapters lack footnotes. The other slight concern is that the author does not follow right citation style. Otherwise the format and style of the book make it easy to read and even easier to dip into specific segments of interest when required. The book thus is a good read especially for librarians and authorities of universities, colleges and research institutes which have ventured to form library consortium. It really deserves a place in every library where consortium is a concern of every one but revised edition if brought will be much better.

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