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College libraries consortium in Karnataka: a proposal

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[ABSTRACT: No single library and information centre can have all books, journals and other kind of documents required for its patrons. The libraries with very high budget can’t acquire documents exhaustively even for a specialized subject area. The availability of resources in electronic form and enabling access technologies has facilitated the formation of consortia. The main attraction for joining consortia is to access more information at less cost. Library consortia also facilitate optimal utilization of budget manpower and infrastructure. This paper attempts to highlight multifaceted activities and responsibilities of library consortia, especially with a proposal to set up a college libraries consortium in Karnataka.]

1. Introduction

All the college libraries of Karnataka have some shortcomings of resources and proper utilization of it. By sharing the resources of each library through a consortium, good utilization of resources and the problem of scarcity may be solved. This paper deals with the ways and means of resource sharing through the creation of a consortium of college libraries. The objectives, its impact, prerequisites and types of resource sharing and different activities for the resource sharing to be performed are described.

2. Resource sharing through consortium

Due to scarcity of fund library budget is lowering and the prices of the information products are going higher and higher so resource sharing is necessary for good utilization of more and more resources and mutual benefits. It may be done properly creation a consortium of college libraries of Karnataka. If this proposal is implemented, clients will be benefited.

3. Objectives of resource sharing

The main objectives of resource sharing are as follows;

• More and more access to information.
Resource Sharing, Networking and consortia

- To make easy and economic information services.
- Efficient utilization of the resources of each other impact of resource sharing.

Resource sharing or library network is a solution to many problems of information access and use. The impact of resource sharing in many fields, which are

- Due to change of environment for the application of information technology,
- Emphasis on cooperation from competition.
- Priority of access to information rather than ownership of information.
- Right to know the information and formulation of laws regarding right to information by the state legislatures.

4. Perquisites of resource sharing

The access of resource sharing activities needs to fulfill such as:

- There must be good cooperation between the participating libraries of resource sharing.
- Developing consortium knowledge database of the participation libraries by creation of database of each and every library.
- Good communication system developing between the libraries.
- Properly collection development through group purchase.
- Qualitative services to the clients by the properly trained manpower.
- For rendering qualitative services to the clients continuous trying and education programme must be given to the staff for updating recent developed knowledge.

5. Type of resource sharing

The amenable scope of resource sharing in libraries includes:

- On site use of collection by visiting the library
- Direct mailing services to the clients of the library
- Inter library loan services
- On line remote access of information of the library
There are different types of activities to be performed for the proper resource sharing of a library consortium, these are as follows.

- Compilation of union catalogue of different library holdings.
- Build proper collection by collection good and useful documents.
- Develop standard resource sharing system and uniform rules to regulate proper resource sharing among the participation libraries of the consortium.
- Develop joint resource database of the libraries.
- Implement document delivery services.
- Implement reprography and information technology based services.
- Develop good communication system between the libraries.
- Share professional expertise.
- Develop continuing education programme for the library staff.
- Develop proper information access and delivery mode information access may be physical and electronic mode.

6. **Physical mode**
   - On site visit to the library.
   - Common library membership.
   - By common membership a client may use the resources of all the libraries.

7. **Electronic Mode Library Services**
   - On line remote search of the library
   - CD Search within the library
   - E-mail & data transfer services

8. **Conclusion**

   If resource sharing is properly done through the consortium of college libraries by proper planning the college library services will be more useful to the clients of the library. The library clients will be more and more benefited.
References


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