# Resource Sharing and Networking of Management Libraries: A Pre-Research Approach

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### ABSTRACT

Resource sharing is an important and widely well-known concept in the field of library science. The concept recognised by the term 'library networking' deals with the interconnection of libraries so that the participating libraries can share the information and resources effectively. It aids to overcome the limitations like enormous cost of purchase, bibliography handling, storage of material etc. as a result of the surprizing growth in the produced information. Resource sharing is a solution to optimise the library resources. Thus resource sharing in libraries has becomeessential in current scenario, and it commands world-wide acceptance. This paper reviews the present literature of resource sharing in the context to the Management institute libraries in Bangalore city of India.

*Keywords:* Library networking; Resource sharing, Management Libraries, Information sharing and networking.

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This paper aims to study in detail about the concept of networking as a means of resource sharing among the libraries. Further, the study proceeds to a detailed analysis of the Prospects and perils of the same with existing literature to focus on the libraries of the management institutions situated in Bangalore.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

This study aims at fulfil the following objectives:

1. To study the existing collections, infrastructure and services offered in Management institution libraries in Bangalore.

2. To explore the issues pertaining to the existing Resources Sharing activities in Management Libraries.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The study has used general survey of literature and experts opinion with regard to resource sharing and networking of Management libraries.

## 4. INTRODUCTION

Information technology has improved the accessibility of information. Owing to this fact, libraries are on a way to modernisation and are reconsidering the age old practices associated with the procurement, storage, management, and the distribution of the information and knowledge that growing at an enormous rate (Geronimo & Aragon, 2005). The concept of libraries have changed from being mere storehouses of collection of books to dynamic service centres. An academic library is an exclusive requirement of any educational institution for developing the flow of information, increasing the efficient availability of the study materials and for providing the solution to the problems encountered in the studies done (Brophy, 2007). The libraries when organised into resource sharing consortia and networks address the conventional problems of knowledge sharing effectively. According to Silva(2002) to overcome the limitations like enormous cost of purchase, bibliography handling and the storage of material and the surprizing growth in the produced information, resource sharing is a solution to optimise the library resources.

The academic library environment is evolving in terms of resources and users; various information sources which were once available only in print format are now available in print, CD-ROM, online and other electronic sources (Ani, Esin, & Edem, 2005). The integration of information technology with traditional educational system facilitated and enhanced availability of maximum information to the learners. The digitalization in every sector made access to the available resources in convenient mode and libraries are renamed by digital and electronic libraries (Beagrie, 2008).

The very first initiative to develop library networks has been documented in the mid-19th century in the United States by establishing the American Library Association (ALA) (American Library Association,2004) and initiated the mutually accommodating cataloguing program. At the end of 1960s, Machine Readable Cataloguing (MARC) format had been developed which with the help of a unique set comprising of special characters, numbers, and letters helps identify bibliographic information documented in a computer file. Since then, MARC has been pitched as the revolution in standards of resource sharing (Le Boeuf, 2013).

The networking and resource sharing has always been an important prime factor in library services that helps to networka greater range of expertise resources available at one point (Hakansson, 2015). The sharing of information or data among libraries can only be possible if these libraries will develop along with the current advanced technologies and this could be possible by developing and implementing various modes of electronic information technological applications like adopting the mode of Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN) etc. (Ramakrishnan, et. al., 2013). The factors that are responsible for increasing demand for resource sharing are the higher cost of books, journals, advancement in Information Technology and allied processes etc. The application of information and communication technology proved to be beneficial for reducing the library service cost. There are various terms like resource sharing,

networking, cooperation and partnership that can be interchangeably and used to refer to the strategic alliance amongst libraries for meeting the demands of clients for services (Zhang, et. al., 2014).

In India, the standards of Higher education system are highly developed. The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is a program established by University Grant Commission (UGC) to interlink libraries of institutions and universities across the country. Resources sharing in India for academic libraries are even more important because of the financial status of the institutions. It is important for the country like India to create wide range of networks among all the educational institutions across the country to share their information resources to facilitate the students and scholars with the excellent collection of data and information (Ramesha & Asundi, 2015).

With a view of similar resource sharing and networking, in the city of Bangalore, a proper study on the availability of such facilities is needed to be conducted. As an extension to it, a similar resource sharing network among the libraries of Management institutions in the Bangalore city is needed to be implemented.

## 5. INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES OFFERED IN LIBRARIES OF BANGALORE

The Bangalore city has more than 225 management institutions, but out of these institutions the Indian Institute of Management (IIM-B) is commands highest prestige. Reflecting the overall sophisticated infrastructure of the IIM-B institute isits library. The library has an exhaustive and up to date collection of journals, newsletters and also boasts of access to various online databases like Bloomberg ("Indian Institute of Management Bangalore").

Similar to the IIM Bangalore, another example of highly reputed college offering programmes in management studies is the Christ College. The Christ University library has an automated library system to supplement the user community with a wide range of reference academic resources ranging from the conventional hard copies like books, periodicals to the modern electronic versions like online periodicals, databases, CDs/DVDs and well trained staff for effective utilization of the facilities ("Christ University Library»).

The infrastructure facilities given in similarly renowned management colleges like Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Department of management studies Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), NMIMS University etc. are at par with their contemporaries. It also has sophisticated knowledge sharing infrastructure which has online database access apart from the traditional sources.

Other libraries of well-known second tier management colleges like XIME Bangalore, Acharya Bangalore B-school, M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Management, Institute of finance and International management, etc. claim to have well equipped library facilities with most of them having access to moderately reputed online databases like J-Gate, EBSCO, Emerald etc.

Most of the colleges surveyed have libraries with books, printed reference materials like periodicals, journals and newsletters, and basic access to the major online management databases. In this age of information exchange, an ocean of resources is available for the cutting edge competition in the field of management which should be accessible to the students of Bangalore to bring them shoulder to shoulder with the students all across the globe. This can be done by interlinking the content of the respective Institute library's with various other libraries locally, nationally as well as globally. This helps easy inter flow

of information from the source to the desired destination which is the need of the time for the ultimate progress.

## 6. RESOURCES SHARING AND NETWORKING IN LIBRARY

A study by Muthu (2013) defines 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 equipment.

### 6.1. Objectives of Library Networking and Resource sharing

The following objectives are kept in mind while undergoing library networking and resource sharing (Sujatah, 1999).

- Increasing the accessibility and availability of resources in a way that each participating library contributes to the resources and the duplication in resources can be removed manually or by other modern means rendering a seam less free flow of information.

- Reducing the cost burden. The removal of duplicate resources helps enhance the collection with same budget resulting in a wider collection of information.

- Promoting co-operative library activities like procurement, interchange, storage, documentation, training, inter library loans, etc.

- Helping in making a unified catalogue comprising of all the materials from participating libraries.

- Improving the bibliographic control.

- Efficient exchange agreements.

- Regularise Document Delivery System.

- Interlinking with other available library networks for enhanced resource sharing.

- This yields in the stimulation for the improvement of the current library facilities and services, provision of resources outside the reach of individual libraries, and achieving an economic use of the available resources, human workforce, and storage capacity and information material.

### 6.2. Resources Sharing and Networking in India

The Resource Sharing and Networking in the North Indian University Libraries could be used for interlinking the library resources, services and facilities for North Indian university libraries. A solution model calledNIULNET (North Indian University Libraries Network) could be proposed whose main aim is to expand the facilities of libraries in the northern region by accomplishing resource sharing and library networking (Singh 2011).

Another example is DELNET which was conceived as Delhi Library Network in the year 1992. The paper gives an idea on how the DELNET which was thought for Library resource sharing only in the Delhi region has grown across the local boundaries and is now a network mapping not only the entire country of

India but also available globally. Hence the acronym DELNET has now been used to denote Developing Library Network(Kaul, 2010).

### 6.3.  Library Networking Tools in India

Initially the libraries had network connectivity using data links like NICNET, VSNL, ERNET, and private ISPs. With the recentoperation of UGC-Infonet, universities throughout the country have network connection ability which ranges from 256 Kbps to 2 Mbps subject to various criteria prescribed by the Joint Technical and Tariff Committee of the University Grants Commission. This facilitates universities to have unifiedentrance to Internet and permit the access to subscribed electronic resources. (Cholin, 2005).

## 7. DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES SHARING AND NETWORKING OF LIBRARIES

### 7.1.  Operational parameters for Resources Sharing and Networking in Libraries

The following recommendations can be considered for development of resource sharing and networking of libraries (Singh, 2011).

- Zeroing down to a specific network model according to the geography of the libraries.

- A Communication medium which can be either broadband or satellite links has to be adopted.

- An organisational structure, has to be finalised for holding a committee which is responsible for implementation and maintenance.

- A proper budgetary framework has to be laid down to avoid any sort of discrepancies in the finances or exploitation of the available services by any one institute of the network.

- Appointment of skilled staff for the maintenance of the network.

- The networking of the libraries of the Bangalore management institutes could take place in three phases. In the first phase the computer principles are established in the individual libraries. In the second phase the network is established and in the third phase, all the participating libraries are interlinked.

### 7.2.  Resources Sharing and Networking in Libraries of Management Institutions of Bangalore:

Some pilot projects have seen immense success when it comes to resourcesharing and library networking. A few of them are studied here.

### *7.2.1.  INFLIBNET*

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre is an Autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) which is involved in creating infrastructure for networking of library and information resources sharing services in Academic and Research Institutions.

INFLIBNET aims to modernize the university libraries in India by connecting these universities and other information centres throughout the country via a high speed data network mapping the entire nation and using the state-of-art tools and expertise for the finest utilisation of available information. INFLIBNET

is pitched as a major participant in encouraging intellectual statement between the Indian academicians and researchers (Waghmode, 2014).

## 7.2.2. DELNET

DELNET – Developing Library Network is an importantactive library network used for resource sharing in India. It connects 1674 libraries from all over India and seven other countries. The DELNET was conceived as Delhi Library Network in the year 1992 and initially it was for Library resource sharing only in the Delhi region, but later on it has grown across the local boundaries and is now a network mapping not only the entire country of India but also available globally. Hence the acronym DELNET has now been used to denote Developing Library Network. The primarygoals of DELNET are to endorse resource sharing between the member libraries and provide interactive services to researchers, academicians and scholars to enhancement their research activity (Kaul, 2010).

## 8. CHALLENGES IN RESOURCES SHARING AND NETWORKING IN MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS OF BANGALORE

The major challenge faced in the path of resource sharing not only in Indian region but worldwide is the one with resource building. Also a Substantial gap is seen in the area of resource sharing among libraries which is a result of the digital divide. It should also be noted that the extent to which the Internet and networked information is provided is minimal when considering the public and academic library scenario in Bangalore at present.

Underling the facts in a similar manner is a study by Assante, et. al., (2014) which says that major areas of concern in the resource sharing and library networking are

- The limited IT and networking infrastructure

- The limited availability of funds

- Lack of skilled personnel for Database development

- The limited Skills for networking

- Missing Standardization framework which unifies various libraries divided by geography

- The Agreement among participants

- The Willingness for Co-operation amongst the libraries

The availability of necessary facilities like sufficient number of computers, Internet connection and E mail facilities in libraries pose as the basic requirements for electronic access and recovery of information resources. Although many of the management institutes in Bangalore have a sophisticated IT and networking infrastructure, a large chunk of these institutes do have limitations in these facilities naming that some libraries do not even have computers to start with. Majority of public and academic libraries profoundly lack in the infrastructural facilities like hardware and software among many other. Comprehensively, the fact remains that not only in Bangalore but thelibraries in entire India; are yet to explore the 100% potential of IT and internet technologies (Sampath Kumar &Biradar, 2010).

The literature reviewed points out that the Indian libraries; especially the ones in the management institutes of Bangalore, are slowly and steadily readying themselves for resource sharing undertakings although there are a huge number of them deprived of basic internet access and an array of shortcomings are faced; the initiatives from various sources like the government, the parent universities, the library networks, the publishing industry, etc. are being made to resolve the above issues and open the restricted doors of local libraries to a wide open world of information. Existing Resources Sharing and Networking approaches for Libraries in Management Institutions

A survey conducted by Suku and Pillai (2005) about the current scenario of automation undertakings in university libraries in Kerala, answers various characteristics of library automation like in-house activities, information technology infrastructure, data services and their usage, manpower training, and budget allocation. The study also highlighted the role of INFLIBNET Centre in catalysing the automation accomplishments of university libraries, particularly in the perspective of the UGC-Infonet agenda.

The Bangalore University is focussed in a study by Pradhan (2014). A total of 440 affiliated Colleges constitute resource sharing scheme of the Bangalore University. The Jnana Bharti which is the Central library of the university and a Branch library located elsewhere and all the independent libraries of the 440 affiliated colleges are thought to be connected. The study revealed that numerous of these libraries have computerised their book keeping operations and have digital bibliographical databases. A scheme called BALNET (Bangalore University Academic Library Network) is proposed for resource sharing model by the means of which all the participating libraries can share their resources, avail document delivery services and inter-library lending. However the BALNET was not succeeded due to many other reasons.

Bansode and Periera (2008) have studied a similar setting in 23 college libraries of Goa, India. They concluded that a vast majority of the libraries lack the skilled staff required for automation apart from the traditional barriers such as lack of funds, space, and maintenance staff among others.

Sampath Kumar & Biradar (2010) study the implementation of the above scheme in colleges of Karnataka and quoted the short budget, lack of workforce and skilled staff as well as training as the main motives for not automating the library activities. However, the study also concludes that most of the staff was computer literate and implementing this idea could not be impossible just it required a positive mind set to undertake the project.

## 9. PREREQUISITES FOR RESOURCES SHARING AND NETWORKING IN LIBRARIES

McGrath (2010) underlines that apart from the basic budgetary and infrastructure requirements, the following can be considered as a map or a framework for the implementation of Resource sharing and library networking.

- Adequate planning and framework is required before jumping to the idea of Library networking and resource sharing.

- A well-planned and continuous staff training and a well-conceived organisational structure is the basis for the implementation of library networks.

- Ensuring the technical compatibility of the participating institutions.

- Ensuring good transport and communication services for loaned materials.

- The benefits from implementation of Resource sharing can be reaped in the longer run. So, steps should be taken to avoid infant mortality of such projects.

A mutually inclusive mind-set has to be adopted by the representatives of library managements.

Improve the document delivery to an 'acceptable speed'.

## 10. CONCLUSION

The academic library environment has seen a drastic evolution in terms of resources and users; and has out grown from the print format and hard bound volumes to various electronic formats like CD-ROM, online and other electronic sources. This evolution can be taken to the inception of another generation of academic libraries with the aid of technologies like resource sharing and library networking. The networking and resource sharing will make the library services much more sophisticated helping in networking a greater range of expertise resources available at one point so that the primary purpose of library is fulfilled. Resource sharing and networking has an initial set up cost. After the implementation and successful commissioning this method has negligible costs of maintenance. Also, from the economy point of view, the idea of resource sharing is relatively inexpensive cutting the costs of paper, printing, binding etc. since most of the document and journals are available in electronic form. Also the resources are shared between libraries rendering a lower purchase cost to the individual library.

The critical examination of literature shows that resource building is a major challenge in the implementation of resource sharing worldwide. As far as the Indian scenario is concerned, it is observed that the infrastructure for internet and networked information is limited which could be a major hindrance. Similar case is applicable for Bangalore presently, when considering the public and academic library scenario. The concept of resources sharing and library networking in India has seen many pilot projects which are immensely successful; INFLIBNET and DELNET are the pioneers among them. Similar projects can be considered for implementation in the Management Colleges of Bangalore. Though there are various drawbacks (financial constraints, infrastructure, skilled manpower etc.) which hinder the implementation of resource sharing and network among libraries, but still strong and effective implementation of resource sharing and network among Management colleges in Bangalore would be a leap forth in the management institutions with valuable learning resources available at disposal. Though there are various drawbacks which hinder the implementation of resource sharing and network among libraries but still the effective implementation of resource sharing and network among Management colleges in Bangalore would be a leap forth in the management institutions with valuable learning resources available at disposal.

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