

E-RESOURCES IN UGC-INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM: A PROFILE

Prabhakar Komrelli

Research Scholar

Dept. of Library & Inf. Science, Rayalaseema University

Kurnool- 518002, A.P., INDIA.

Email:prabhu.lib2007@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper explain the terms and definitions of Electronic Resources (E-resource), in UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium followed by the aims and objectives of the E-resources. The e-subscription initiative under UGC-INFONET is expected to trigger remarkable increase in sharing of both print and electronic resources amongst university libraries through one of the gateway portal being identified. The objective of e-resources is to provide the University community E-access to research journals, and abstracting and review publications and databases. It covers all areas of learning, science and technology, social sciences and humanities. The gateway portals play a very important role for providing access full text of the journals.

Keywords: E-resources, UGC-Infonet, Digital Library Consortium

1. Introduction

Cooperation amongst institutions for sharing their library resources is being practiced for decades. Traditionally, the primary purpose of establishing a library consortium is to share physical resources including books and periodicals amongst members. However, the mode of cooperation has gone under a transformation with infusion of new information technology from print-based environment to digital environment. The emergence of Internet, particularly, the World Wide Web (WWW) as a new media of information delivery triggered proliferation of Web-based full-text online resources. Increasing number of publishers are using the Internet as a global way to offer their publications to the international community of scientists. The technology provides an unparalleled media for delivery of information with greater speed and economy. The libraries and information centres, as heavy consumers of electronic journals and online databases, stand to benefit greatly from this technology-driven revolution. The availability of IT-based electronic information products are exerting ever-increasing pressure on libraries, which, in turn, are committing larger portions of their budgetary allocation for either procuring or accessing web-based online full-text search services, CD ROM products and online databases. The libraries with their diminishing or at the best static financial allocations have to consider new ways to consolidate global resources amongst them in order to maximize their limited financial resources. The combination of

these developments has resulted in the development of “shared subscription” or “consortia-based subscription” to journals everywhere in the world.

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 a highly discounted rates of subscription and on the other hand, it meets with the increasing pressures of diminishing budget, increased user’s demand and rising cost of journals. 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. With this welcome change, the libraries all over the world are forming consortia of all types and at all levels with an objective to take advantage of current global network to promote better, faster and more cost-effective ways of providing electronic information resources to the information seekers. GALILIO, OhioLink, TexShare, VIVA and SUNYConnect in USA, CALIS in China, CONCERT in Taiwan, INDEST-AICTE Consortium, UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and CSIR E-Journals Consortium in India are some of the well-known library consortia. Besides, library consortia that emerged with primary motive to license e-resources for their member institutions, several existing library networks have also taken-up the task to license e-resources for their members.

Considering the facts mentioned above, the University Grants Commission launched two ambitious programmes for the academic community in universities under its purview. The first initiative, namely “UGC-Infonet Connectivity Programme” provides for networking of university campuses with state-of-the-art campus wide networks and Internet bandwidth, the second initiative called the “UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium” provides access to selected scholarly electronic journals and databases in different disciplines. The INFLIBNET is responsible for execution and monitoring of both the initiatives.

2. UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium

The UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is major initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC) to bring qualitative change in academic libraries in India. It was formally launched in December, 2003 by Honorable Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, soon after providing the Internet connectivity to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC-Infonet programme. It is a national initiative for providing access to scholarly electronic resources including full-text and bibliographic databases in all subject disciplines to academic community in India. It facilitates access to high quality e-resources to academia in the country to improve teaching, learning and research. The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to nearly 9,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and five bibliographic databases in different disciplines from 42 publishers and aggregators. The access to all major e-resources was given 50 universities in first phase in the year 2004. It has now been extended to 193 universities in three different phases. In terms of number of users, the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is the largest Consortium in India

with a vision and plan to reach out to all universities and colleges affiliated to these universities, over a period of time.

History of UGC-Infonet

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003 by Honourable Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the President of India soon after providing the Internet connectivity to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC-Infonet programme. The Consortium proved to be a recipe to university libraries which have been discontinuing subscription of scholarly journals because of "Serials Crisis". The term "serials crisis" refers to exponential and continuing increase in subscription cost of scholarly journals. The crisis is a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, increase in number of journals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries

The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 8500+ core and peer-reviewed journals and 5 bibliographic databases from 42 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. The programme has been implemented in phased manner. In the first phase that began in 2004, access to e-resources was provided to 50 universities who had Internet connectivity under the UGC-Infonet Connectivity programme of the UGC. In the second phase, 50 more universities were added to the programme in the year 2005. So far 193 Universities including 14 National Law schools and central universities that come under the purview of UGC, have been provided differential access to subscribed e-resources. These e-resources covers almost all subject disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical Sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc. The programme is wholly funded by the UGC and executed by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Gandhinagar.

The benefit of subscription to e-resources would also be extended to the colleges, to begin with the College for Potential with Excellence (CPE) and autonomous colleges. The Consortium has also launched its "Associate Membership Programme" wherein private universities and other research organizations are welcomed to join the Consortium for selected e-resources.

3. Aims and Objectives

The main objective of the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text and bibliographic databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The major aims and objectives of the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium are as follows:

- To provide access to a high-quality and scholarly electronic resources to a large number of academic institutions including universities and colleges at substantially lower rates of subscription and at most favourable terms and conditions.

- To promote rapid and efficient access to scholarly content to the users and to create and promote use of ICT in teaching and learning in universities in India.
- To extend the benefit of Consortium to its associate members including private universities and colleges.
- To impart training to the users, librarians, research scholars and faculty members of the institutions in use of electronic resources with an aim to optimize their usage.
- To promote use of e-resources with gradual decrease in print subscription.
- To promote interaction and inter-library cooperation amongst the participating universities.
- To evaluate the usage of the subscribed resources and to identify new resources that are required to be subscribed under the programme.
- To bring qualitative change in teaching, learning and research with an aim to meet the ever growing challenges of globalization of higher education.
- To increase the research productivity of the institutions both in terms of quality and quantity of publications.

4. Benefits

The consortia-based subscription to e-resources is a viable solution for increasing the access to electronic resources across institutions at a lower rate of subscription. Major benefits of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium are as follows:

- i). The Consortium acts as a single-window service for a large number of universities with their diverse research and academic interest.
- ii). The Consortium, with its collective strength of participating institutions, attracts highly discounted rates of subscription with most favourable terms of agreement for a wider range of e-resources. Most of the e-publishers have responded positively to the call of the Consortium. The rates offered to the consortium are lower by 60% to 99% depending upon the category of institutions.
- iii). Users have immediate access to material previously not subscribed to, at no incremental cost for accessing back files.
- iv). It improves the existing library services and reduce the subscription cost.
- v). The research productivity of beneficiary institutions is expected to improve with increased access to international databases and full-text resources.
- vi). The Consortium is expected to trigger remarkable increase in sharing of both print and electronic resources amongst participating library through J-GATE Custom Contents for Consortia (JCCC).
- vii). The Consortium has been opened-up for all other universities / educational institutions through its “Associate Membership Programme”. Private universities 3 and other institutions can join the Consortium and get the benefit of not only highly discounted rates of subscription but also the favourable terms and conditions.

- viii). Members of the Consortium have the benefit of cap on the annual increase in the rates of subscription. While the usual increase in price of e-resources vary from 15 to 20%, the consortium enjoys the cap on increase in price ranging from 5% to 8%.
- ix). The Consortium is offered better terms of agreement for use, archival access and preservation of subscribed electronic resources, which would not have been possible for any single institutions.
- x). Since the subscribed resources is accessible online in electronic format, the beneficiary institutions have less pressure on space requirement for storing and managing print-based library resources. Moreover, all problems associated with print media such as their wear and tear, location, shelving, binding, organizing, etc. are not an issue for electronic resources.

5. E- Resources

The Consortium subscribes to electronic resources covering all major subject discipline being taught in universities. It includes wide variety of materials e.g. e-journals, bibliographic databases, reviews published by scholarly societies, university presses, institutional and commercial publishers. The Consortium subscribes to 29 full-text e-resources and 5 bibliographic databases from 24 publishers and aggregators. The member institutions are provided differential access to these resources based on their needs and activity profile as per the recommendation of the National Steering Committee.

The resources subscribed by the Consortium can broadly be divided into the following Two categories:

i) Full-text E- Resources

Full-text electronic resources contain complete articles along with their bibliographic details. The consortium subscribes to full-text e-resources from scholarly societies, university presses, commercial publishers and aggregators including American Chemical Society, American Institute of Physics, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Cell Press, Springer Link, Jstor, Project Muse, etc. All full-text resources subscribed by the Consortium contain electronic journals.

ii) Bibliographic Databases

Bibliographic databases contain references to articles published in journals, conference proceedings or chapters in books. Most bibliographic databases contain abstracts of the articles along with links to their full-text. A list of full-text resources and bibliographic databases subscribed under the Consortium.

5.1. Resources Selection

The print collection base available in university libraries and their requirements was surveyed with an aim to identify and determine e-resources to be subscribed under the UGC-INFLONET Digital Library Consortium. In order to understand the collection base in universities, meetings of librarians were held in different parts of the country and their views and feedbacks were obtained. Based on the feedbacks received from librarians, e-resources of various publishers were identified and evaluated before negotiating licensing arrangements. Keeping in view the diversity of academic programmes offered by various universities, every attempt was made to subscribe to e-resources that are multidisciplinary in nature with wide scope and coverage.

E-resources were evaluated:

- Qualitative and Quantitative contents.
- Coverage.
- Their availability on different platforms and their comparative advantages /disadvantages.
- Rates applicable for these resources to individual institutions as well as to other consortia.

The E-resources proposed for consortia-based subscription were selected based on the following major criteria.

- i). Resources from scholarly societies, university presses and not-for-profit projects were preferred over commercial publishers.
- ii). Well-established multi-disciplinary resources with broad coverage were preferred over highly specialized sources targeted for specialists.
- iii). E-resources already on subscription in the beneficiary universities were preferred over those which are not being used in any of them.
- iv). Resources that are 'electronic-only' were preferred over those that are print-based.
- v). Resources that are very important but highly cost-intensive were preferred over those which are less important or less-used but low cost.
- vi). Resources where electronic versions are made available free on subscription to their print versions were avoided as far as possible; and
- vii). Selections were made on usage / suitability of e-resources to universities.

5.2. E-resources Subscription

Once the E-resources proposed for subscription are identified, proposals are invited from the publishers of e-resources / their authorized representatives. E- publishers / their representatives are invited for formal negotiations on their products and services. In the formative years of the Consortium, the National Steering Committee negotiated the lowest rates of subscription and favourable terms of agreement.

Negotiation for subscription to e-resources will now be done by a Negotiation Committee that will be constituted by the Governing Body of the INFLIBNET Centre as per the purchase rules of the Centre.

While the National Steering Committee takes policy decision regarding inclusion of member institutions, e-resources, etc., the Negotiation Committee is responsible for negotiating rates of subscription to e-resources with different publishers for all universities. Once resources and members universities are finalized, the INFLIBNET Centre places order for subscription to e-resources to the publishers as per the purchase rules of the Centre. The INFLIBNET is also responsible for signing License agreement on behalf of the number of universities covered under the programme. INFLIBNET supports the administrative management of Consortium from its headquarter at Ahmedabad. Director, INFLIBNET Centre is Chief Coordinator of the Consortium.

5.3. Terms and Conditions of Subscription and Major Items of Negotiation

The “Terms and Conditions of Subscription to E-resources” and “Major Points of Negotiations” that are considered while negotiating rates of subscription with the publishers.

5.4. E-resources: Methodology

Methodology adopted for selection of existing e-resource is described above. Member universities may send their suggestions for adding new resources to the Director, INFLIBNET Centre or to the Chairman, National Steering Committee. Proposals for new resources are discussed in the meetings of the National Steering Committee of the Consortium. If resource proposed for subscription qualifies the criteria of selection mention above, the resource is selected for further processing. Trial access for the resource is arranged from the publisher and its usage during the trial period is assessed. On successful completion of trial, negotiations are carried out with their publishers for providing differential access to selected e-resource. The subscription prices negotiated by the Negotiation Committee are placed before the National Steering Committee in their meetings for approval. Once the rates of subscription are approved, by the National Steering Committee, additional allocation is sought from the UGC. New resources are added once additional allocation is received from the UGC.

5.5. Allocation of Resources to the Universities

The National Steering Committee allocates resources to the universities based on following criteria:

- ❖ Availability of ICT infrastructure in universities
- ❖ Number of students enrolled at UG, PG and doctoral level
- ❖ Number and nature of academic programmes offered at PG and doctoral level

- ❖ Number of Departments, Centre, Schools, Faculty, Research Scholars and PG Students
- ❖ Type of university: Central, State, Deemed to be universities
- ❖ Research output / publication in peer reviewed journals

Universities were inducted into the programme in three phases. In the first phase that began in 2004, access to all e-resources from 18 publishers (subscribed in 2004) was provided to 50 universities who had Internet connectivity under the UGC-Infonet Connectivity program of the UGC. In the second phase, 50 more universities were added to the programme as soon as these universities got connectivity under the UGC-Infonet Connectivity program of the UGC. 50 universities covered in Phase II have access to 14 e-resources. In the third phase, 93 more universities and Inter-University Centres were added to the programme in the year 2014. The Phase III universities have access to only few resources based on their requirements. So far 193 out of 249 universities that come under the purview of the UGC, have been provided differential access to e-resources subscribed by the Consortium. All Inter-university Centres and the UGC Headquarters also have complementary access to selected e-resources. The following parameters were used for allocating resources to different universities.

5.6. Eligibility

All universities covered under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 are eligible to get access to e-resources through the Consortium. Initially, 50 universities with potential for excellence in research were covered under the scheme. Subsequently, the service was extended to 50 additional universities. The facility has been extended to 193 universities till May 2014.

5.7. License Agreements

All electronic resources available through the Consortium are governed by license agreements. The terms and conditions for using these resources are spelled out in license agreements that are signed with each publisher by the Consortium on behalf of its member universities. The licenses for electronic resources impose two types of restrictions on its usage, namely i) who can use these resources; and ii) how the resources can be used. The first restriction defines authorized users for e-resources, which generally includes students, faculty, staff and onsite visitors of a subscribing institution. The second restriction deals with how these resources can be used. It is the responsibility of individual users to ensure that e-resources are used for personal, educational and research purposes only. Most of the agreements entered into by the Consortium and publishers specify items that users are prohibited to do. Some of them are as follows:

- Systematic or programmatic downloading, retention, and printing are prohibited. For example, a user cannot download entire issue of a journal or print out several copies of the same article.
- Electronic distribution of content is also restricted although the specific restrictions vary from publisher to publisher. It may be permissible to forward an article to another

colleague in the same institution by e-mail; however, transmitting an article to someone outside of the institution, or to a large group of recipients, a mailing list, or an electronic bulletin board, is not allowed.

- Faculty in a university can print out a copy of an article from an electronic journal and include it in their course pack. However, multiple copies should not be made for circulation. Copyright laws protect published material in any format so that it cannot be copied except in accordance with fair use. Providing access to material for educational purposes falls within the realm of fair use.
- Subscribed e-resource should be used for educational and research purposes and not for commercial purposes.
- Providing electronic links to the licensed resources on the course web pages is permitted but it is not permissible to post a PDF of an article on a website. However, a researcher can post a pre-print of an article written by him.
- As with any kind of scholarly communication, a researcher can use phrases or quotes from other articles and cite the source of information. However, a researcher is prohibited from using large chunk of information.

5.8. Violation of License Agreements

Publishers track the use of their electronic resources in terms of number of downloads made by subscribing institution. Misuse, if any, is notified to the subscribing institution with details of kinds of violations and institution is expected to take action. The publisher also suspends the access to e-resource pending suitable action by subscribing institution. The access is stopped not only for journals where license agreement was violated but for all journals by the same publisher. Moreover, the access is suspended not only for the individual violator but for the entire institution.

6. E-Resources Accessing

All electronic resources that are being subscribed through the Consortium are made accessible from the publisher's Website. The INLIBNET Centre maintains a web site especially for the Consortium for the benefit of its member universities. The Web site provides details of e-resources, its URL, member universities and resources subscribed for each one of them. The access to electronic resources is IP-enabled for the member universities. As such a user does not require "Login ID and Password" to access resources available to his / her university, instead, the resources are accessible to them anywhere on their Campus network. Most universities provide links to such resources through their website.

The Consortium also maintains a website (<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/econ/>) with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and their Answers. Users are encouraged to use the Consortium websites for correct URLs. While, the IP addresses provide by the ERNET India (current Internet Service Provider) to the universities under the UGC-INFONET Programme are already registered with the publishers for access to e-resources, universities may obtain

additional bandwidth from any other Internet Service Provider (ISP). However, IP addresses associated with the additional bandwidth should be communicated to the Consortium as well as to the publishers for getting access to e-resource on additional IPs. The INLIBNET Centre maintains a web site especially for the Consortium for the benefit of its member institutions. The Web site provides details of e-resources, member institutions and resources subscribed by each one of them. The Consortium acts as a bridge between members, publishers and funding agencies.

Conditions of Use and Licensing Restrictions for Electronic Resources

The Consortium subscribes to thousands of electronic journals and bibliographic databases for use by authorized users in member institutions. The terms and conditions for using these resources are spelled out in electronic resource license agreements with each publisher. It is the responsibility of individual users to ensure that the use of electronic resources does not breach the terms and conditions specified in the license agreements. Licenses vary from publisher to publisher; however, the general principles are as follows:

Permitted	Not Permitted
i). Viewing, downloading, copying, printing and saving a copy of search results	i). Use of robots or intelligent agents to do systematic, bulk or automatic downloading is not permitted
ii). Viewing, downloading, copying, printing and saving individual articles	ii). Systematic downloading or printing of entire journal issues or volumes, or large portions of other e-resources is not permitted
iii). Using e-resources for scholarly, educational or scientific research, teaching, private study and clinical purposes	iii). Using e-resources for commercial gain is not permitted (i.e. reselling, redistributing or republishing licensed content)
iv). Sending a copy of an article to another authorized user (i.e. current faculty, students or staff)	iv). Transmitting, disseminating or otherwise making online content available to unauthorized users (i.e. sending to mailing lists or electronic bulletin boards) is not permitted
v). Posting the URL to the publisher's version of the article on a class website	v). Posting the publisher's version or PDF of an article to an open class website is not permitted

7. Universities Member

The membership of the Consortium, as on now, is restricted to universities that are covered under 12 B of the UGC Act. However, it is proposed to extend access to e-resources to colleges as well as to Associate Members.

7.1. Core Members: Universities

All universities covered under 12 B of UGC Act are eligible to avail this service. These universities are considered as core members of the Consortium. All expenses on subscription to e-resources for these universities are borne by the UGC. There is a great deal of variation amongst these universities in terms of number of students enrolled and their levels (UG, PG, Doctoral), number and nature of academic programmes offered, research orientation, teaching orientation and availability of ICT infrastructure. Considering the diversity of resources required and ICT infrastructure available in these universities, 193 universities currently covered under the programme are grouped.

E-Resources in UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

SI.No	Electronic Resources	URL	No. of Jrnls.	No. of Univ.
Full-text Resources				
1.	ACS	http://www.pubs.acs.org	55	117
2.	AIP	http://journals.aip.org	19	125
3	American Institute of Physics Archive	http://journals.aip.org/digital_archive.html	8	30
4.	APS	http://publish.aps.org/browse.html	13	124
5.	Annual Reviews	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org	33	135
6	CUP-STM	http://journals.cambridge.org	224	140
7	Economic and Political Weekly	http://www.epw.in	1	189
8	Emerald – Lib. Sci.	http://www.emeraldinsight.com	30	83
9	HeinOnline	http://home.heinonline.org/		20
10	Institute of Physics	http://www.iop.org/EJ	46	136
11	Jstor	http://www.jstor.org	2585	315
12	Manupatra	http://www.manupatra.com/		20
13	Nature	http://www.nature.com	1	83
14	Nature Archive (1987-1996)	http://www.nature.com		25
15	OUP	http://www.oxfordjournals.org	170	30
16	Oxford University Press	http://www.oxfordjournals.org	206	147
17	Portland Press	http://www.portlandpress.com/	10	64
18	Project Euclid	http://projecteuclid.org	39	61
19	Project Muse	http://Muse.jhu.edu/journals	493	107
20	RSC	http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals	29	119
21	RSC Archive	http://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals	70	20
22	ScienceDirect (10 Subject Collection)	http://www.sciencedirect.com	1036	77

23	ScienceDirect Archive (Basic Sc Collection)	http://www.sciencedirect.com	260	20
24	SIAM	http://epubs.siam.org/	14	54
25	SIAM Locus (Archive)	http://locus.siam.org/	17	30
26	Springer Link	http://link.springer.com	1,438	203
27	Taylor & Francis	http://www.tandfonline.com	1079	163
28	Westlaw India	http://www.westlawindia.com/		22
29	Wiley Blackwell Publishing	http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-815577.html	908	135
Bibliographic Databases				
1	ISID	http://isid.org.in/		194
2.	JCCC	http://jccc-ugcinfonet.in		194
3.	MathSciNet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet		73
4.	SciFinderScholar	http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR/index.html		39

List of E-Resources Subscribed for 2014

8. INFLIBNET Role

The INFLIBNET Centre acts as a nodal agency for implementation, monitoring and execution of the entire programme through the committees mentioned above. It coordinates all activities concerned with negotiation, renewal of subscription of e-resources and subsequent trouble shooting on behalf of the Consortium. The Centre also promotes cooperation amongst member universities and facilitates better terms of references for use and preservation of subscribed electronic resources.

INFLIBNET is responsible for:

- Coordinating meetings of its Committees.
- Constitution of Negotiation Committee through its Governing Board.
- Negotiating rates of subscription and its terms and conditions.
- Ensures IP-based access of subscribed e-resources to beneficiary universities.
- Attend to the problems faced by universities and liaise with publishers to resolve such Problems.
- Develop tutorials and promotion materials, impart training and technical support to member universities.
- Propagate the Consortium amongst other institutions so as to extend its benefits to other institutions by enrolling Associate Members.
- Evaluate subscribed e-resources and monitor its usage regularly.
- Signs license agreement for access to various electronic resources on behalf of Members.
- Maintain and update website of the Consortium.

- Organize awareness programme to promote e-resources.
- Improve cooperation and communication amongst member universities;
- Measure impact of access to e-resources on research output in beneficiary Universities.
- Present periodic report to the UGC on extent of usage of e-resources, economics of the consortium and its impact on research output.

9.UGC Role

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is fully funded by the University Grants Commission. The UGC is responsible for constituting the National Steering Committee of the Consortium. The UGC is also responsible for making policies, monitoring the progress, coordinating with other Consortium in the country and to ensure gradual decrease in subscription of print resources in the beneficiary institutions. The UGC also monitors usage of e-resources and its impact on research output in beneficiary universities.

CONCLUSION:

The UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text and bibliographic databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The consortium headquarter is assigned to function as a resource center with an aim to cater to the needs of its members for resources accessible to them in electronic media or are available in print media. With subscribed resources accessible online in electronic format, the member libraries would have less pressure on space requirement for storing and managing print based Library resources. Library Consortium is the best way of a common infrastructure and it has become very important in the last two decades with the emergence of e-publishing. Libraries have realized or have to realize that working together can accomplish far more than they can do individually. The age of library consortia is at the doorsteps to prove cooperation locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

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