Consortium Approach to Resource Sharing in an E-Environment

Yalagouda M. Patil

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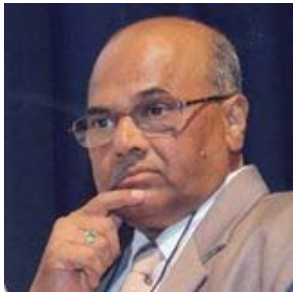
About the Author



Dr. Y.M. Patil obtained B.Sc., B.Lib.Sc. both from Karnataka University, Dharwad; A.I.Sc (CSIR), New Delhi and Ph.D. (LIS) – RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. He served with TIFR's Radio Astronomy Centre, Ooty; NBSS&LUP (ICAR), Nagpur and Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, from where he retired in 2010. He has over 38 years' experience in the domain of 'Special Librarianship'. He was able to develop libraries of these institutes on modern lines with many of best practices and IT applications.

He was a coordinator for FORSA Consortium with a dozen astronomy related institutes in the country as members and formed consortia with various publishers. He was as a lead member of DST constituted committee and responsible for DST Labs joining CSIR E-Journals Consortium and continued as Coordination Committee Member of National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC) and could involve in negotiation with many publishers for e-resources.

He was a Ph.D./M.Phil. Guide/examiner for a couple of universities and published over 35 papers in various journals and seminars. He has visited UK for an advanced training (1989) and Thailand as a member of 'Springer Library Advisory Board' for Board's meeting held at Bangkok (2006).

He was honored for his contributions in Astronomy Librarianship and coordinating activities of FORSA during LISA VI International Conference (2010) held at IUCAA, Pune. He was awarded with 'Granthalaya Seva Puraskar' recognizing his notable contributions in Library Science for the year 2012 on the occasion of Librarians' Day by the Department of Public Libraries, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

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This book is dedicated to

My grandmother
Late Smt. Parvathemma Doddagoudar (Patil)
and
My beloved parents
Freedom Fighter Late Shri M.B. Patil
(Doddagoudar)
and
Late Smt. Sangavva Patil

Foreword

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to write a foreword to the book entitled "**Consortium Approach to Resource Sharing in an E-Environment**", by Dr. Y.M. Patil. The consortium concept has not only attracted the attention of librarians and library science professionals, academicians, academic administrators and policy makers who are debating on the merits of a national consortium and national licenses for country-wide access to important e-resources. Several Govt.-funded institutions, under various ministries and departments, are coming together to form consortia and share resources on a larger scale due to proliferation of e-resources, escalating costs, economic constraints and ever diminishing library budgets.

The concept of library consortia came into existence to facilitate cooperation, share information and provide access to ever growing scientific and technical information. With introduction of Internet and WWW, there was a paradigm shift from print to electronic version and there emerged scholarly electronic publishing and e-journals. The explosive growth and proliferation of e-resources is bringing about extreme pressure on libraries to cope and manage with changing environment. Libraries were not in position to purchase print /electronic versions due to fund constraints. The prices of journals were soaring up higher than the inflation rates and consortia was the only solution to mitigate the access barriers to information. With advent of ICT and developments of online access to e-products, libraries were further strengthened their cooperative ventures by developing consortia at various levels.

To begin with, there were no set guidelines, procedures and policies while developing consortium. It is in this context that the book has been written in order to fulfill consortia information requirements. The present book has comprehensive coverage of wide range of topics on consortium as reflected through fifteen chapters dealing with resource sharing, electronic publishing, library consortium, consortium types and models, pricing and licensing models, big deals, consortia negotiations, consortia infrastructure requirements, archival aspects, consortia merger and migration and Indian consortia activities and experiences. The author has made honest effort to expose the readers to various aspects of consortia spectrum.

The author was responsible in forming FORSA Consortium (2002) and also involved in taking DST Labs and joining with CSIR E-Journals Consortium and forming CSIR-DST E-Journals Consortium (2009) which was rechristened as National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC). The experiences gained in the process have immensely qualified the author to embark on writing this book.

The volume could be a most useful addition to literature and a good source material for consortium activities. The targeted audiences could be consortia administrators, coordinators, decision makers, consortia participants, researchers, students and teaching faculty in Library and Information Science. It is also useful to universities, colleges, research institutes and R & D organizations who have gone into forming consortia and are active participants and stake holders in consortia formed at various levels. The book should find a place in every library where consortium is a concern of every one.

I congratulate the author for his stupendous efforts in bringing out this timely publication.

Gandhinagar

Dr. Jagdish Arora
Director,
Information and Library Network Centre
(INFLIBNET),
(An Inter University Centre of UGC)

Preface

The theme of this book is on 'Consortia Approach to Resource Sharing' which stretches far back in time along with current developments. I have tried to show how library cooperation was evolved over a period of time with resource sharing with print media in focus and later developments in digital format keeping in view recent advances in information and communication technologies. I realize that my selection of the topic may be somewhat arbitrary and even biased towards those in which I have been personally involved in forming two consortia, viz. FORSA and NKRC consortia. In effect I have tried to project the consortium aspects in greater detail and ending up with developments of Indian consortia activities and experiences gained by the professionals who were involved in forming various consortia in the country. The following is the schema of the book where briefing is given as far as coverage on the entire spectrum of consortia activities in general and Indian experience in particular. There are fifteen chapters, which deal with:

Chapter 1 – Introduction which gives bird's-eye-view of subject matter coverage;

Chapter 2 – Resource sharing - this gives brief account of library cooperation, coordination and collaboration; current scenario and latest developments;

Chapter 3 – Scholarly Electronic Publishing, which brought in electronic subscription of journals, access and

delivery mechanisms, and the subscription could be purchase or lease basis; consortia approach to e-journals deals with e-products which are taken by users for the reason that of ease of usability, affordability and accessibility and saves considerable time and money;

Chapter 4 – Library Consortia highlights the whole range of consortia activities, which is a move from organizational self sufficiency to a collaborative survival mode. There was a paradigm shift from resource sharing to consortia approach as far as cooperative efforts were concerned;

Chapter – 5 Consortia Types and Models highlights consortia types at organization level, types of libraries participating and parent organizations. They belong to subject areas they cover, purpose of coming together, etc;

Chapter 6 – Consortia Pricing Models deals with different pricing models available and how they are evolving over the period of time. Pricing could be considered in relation to larger venues of library budgets, change in scholarly communication market, impact of technological changes and patron expectations;

Chapter – 7 Consortia Licensing for E-Journals gives detailed account of consortia licensing where contracts are implemented with licensing terms and conditions normally set by publishers towards subscription of e-journals;

Chapter – 8 National Consortium Site Licensing provides information on national consortium and need for National Site Licensing, involving collaboration at national level as it has potential to solve many problems in the complex nature of licensing;

Chapter 9– Consortia and 'Big Deals' provides information on publishers selling bundled package with significant discounts with power to control terms and conditions preventing libraries dropping lesser used titles and not allowing to share resources among themselves;

Chapter 10 – Library Consortia and Negotiations deals with basics of negotiations in the consortia environment keeping in view a wide range of values, cultures, backgrounds

of publishers, styles of operation, experiences, skills and opinions not only for prices but also for host of other items as far as licensing is concerned. Skillful negotiation brings about win-win-situation to all stakeholders;

Chapter 11 – Library Consortia and Technology Infrastructure outlines infrastructure requirements at consortia level including access to Internet, e-mail service, IP ranges, networking, archiving, etc. Also, consortia should have provision for COUNTER/SUSHI, SERU and other standards and protocols;

Chapter – 12 Consortia and Digital Preservation System, which briefs on archiving needs on a long term basis although publishers' perpetual access suffer from trust factors, as a result of which some international agencies have emerged, viz. ADS (NASA), CLOCKSS, JSTOR, PORTICO and Mirror Sites;

Chapter 13 – Consortia Merger and Migration – briefs merger and migration in order to make better use of available information and enhance consortia interests on a much larger scales;

Chapter 14 - Emergence of Consortia in India which covers resources sharing through consortia approach and forming over 15 consortia in the country catering collective information needs of academic, research and technical institutes;

Chapter – 15 Indian Consortia experience provides information on experience gained by forming consortia in India, which created confidence and also strength to run consortia on a sustainable basis and also some uncertainties at professional, government funding and at publishers' level.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge with thanks various authors whose papers I have referred and cited while writing this book. It was indeed a great privilege for me to work with Raman Research Institute, Bangalore where the seeds of consortium for FORSA were sown (2002) and also record my debt of gratitude to DST, Govt. of India, who had given me a chance to work and facilitate for joining DST Labs with National Knowledge Resource Consortium (2008). I thank all

those who were involved in FORSA and NKRC Consortia and also to participants in the consortia. Working with both consortia had given me an in depth working knowledge and acted as a spring board which enabled me to embark upon to write this book. I record my appreciation to my colleagues at Raman Research Institute, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research and National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR), Libraries and friends for their unstinted support while realizing this book.

I thank my wife Mrs. Shobha Patil for all her encouragement and excellent support. I also thank my son Mr. Nishant Patil and daughter-in-law Ms. Uma Maheshwari and daughter Ms. Sweta and Son-in-law Dr. Deepak D. Mariguddi for their cooperation, encouragement and moral support while writing this book.

Bengaluru **Dr. Y.M. Patil**

CONTENTS

Foreword		*vii*
Preface		*ix*
Chapter 1	**Introduction**	**1**
Chapter 2	**Resource Sharing**	**8**
	2.1 Introduction	8
	2.2 Historical aspects	9
	2.3 Definition of Resource Sharing	10
	2.4 Concept of Resource Sharing	11
	2.5 Models of Resource Sharing	11
	2.6 Library Cooperation – a key to success	12
	2.7 Current Scenario	14
	2.8 New Challenges	15
	2.9 Goals/Objectives of Resource Sharing	18
	2.10 Factors affecting Resource Sharing	18
	2.11 Need for Resource Sharing	18
	2.12 Benefits of Resource Sharing	19
	2.13 Requirements for Resource Sharing	19
	2.14 Issues in Resource Sharing	19
	2.15 Planning for Resource Sharing	20
	2.16 Indian Initiatives in Resource Sharing	20

Chapter 3	**Scholarly Electronic Publishing and E-Journals**	**22**
	3.1 Introduction	22
	3.2 Current scenario	24
	3.3 Publishing	25
	3.4 Scholarly journal	26
	3.5 Objectives of Scholarly Journals	26
	3.6 Features of E-Journals	27
	3.7 Evolution of E-Journals	28
	3.8 Conflicting interests	28
	3.9 Journals Crisis	30
	3.10 The Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography (SEPB)	33
	3.11 Consortia Approach to E-Journals	34
	3.11.1 E-Journals and Consortia	34
	3.11.2 E-Journals System	35
	3.11.3 E-Journals Major Players	35
	3.11.4 Types of E-Journals	35
	3.11.5 Advantages of E-Journals	35
	3.11.6 E-Journals Models	36
	3.11.7 E-Journals Consolidators	36
Chapter 4	**Library Consortium**	**37**
	4.1 Introduction	37
	4.2 History of Consortium	38
	4.2.1 Consortia efforts in USA	40
	4.2.2 Consortia efforts in U.K.	41
	4.2.3 Consortia efforts in China	42
	4.2.4 Consortia efforts in India	42
	4.3 Consortia concepts, aims and objectives	43
	4.3.1 Concepts	43
	4.3.2 Definition	44
	4.3.3 Objectives of the consortium	46

4.4 Needs and benefits of library consortia 47
4.4.1 Needs of consortia 47
4.4.1.1 Users' expectations 47
4.4.1.2 Cost factors 47
4.4.1.3 Technical expertise 48
4.5 Benefits of the consortium 48
4.6 Purpose of consortia 50
4.7 Consortia goals 50
4.8 Consortia mission/vision 51
4.9 Basic functions of the consortium 52
4.10 Why consortium? 53
4.10.1 Consortia challenges 53
4.10.2 Changing role of the librarian 54
4.10.3 Uncertainty in costs 54
4.10.4 Uncertainty in pricing 54
4.10.5 Lack of trust 55
4.10.6 Consortia obligations 55
4.11 Consortia Bylaws/Policies 56
4.12 Consortia marketing 57
4.13 Why selling through consortia? 58
4.13.1 Advantages to publishers working with consortia 58
4.13.2 Disadvantages working with consortia 59
4.14 Consortia/publishers/vendors relationship 60
4.14.1 Role of intermediaries with publishers and consortia 63
4.15 What libraries can do towards consortium? 65
4.16 Forming library consortium 66
4.16.1 Reasons for forming consortium 68
4.16.2 Guidelines for design/management of consortia 68

4.16.3 Approach to consortium 70
4.16.4 Consortia documentation 71
4.16.5 Constraints in consortia formation 71
4.16.5.1 Lack of understanding 71
4.16.5.2 Funding constraints 71
4.16.5.3 Consortia as a legal entity 72
4.16.5.4 Problems with transfer of funds 72
4.16.5.5 Geographical distances 72
4.16.5.6 Availability of infrastructure 72
4.16.5.7 Potential pitfalls 72
4.16.5.8 The human factors 73
4.17 Consortia and their discontents 73
4.18 Library consortia promotes standards 73
4.19 Factors to be considered for joining consortia 74
4.20 What makes a consortium successful? 75
4.20.1 Organization and governance 75
4.20.2 Policy and decision making 76
4.20.3 Negotiations 76
4.20.4 Financial structure and product costs 77
4.20.5 Measuring success of consortia 77
4.20.6 Criteria for successful consortium 77
4.21 Consortia selection and procurement of resources 78
4.21.1 Selection of resources 78
4.21.2 Publishers ranking of journals selection 81
4.22 Requests for Proposal (RFP) 81
4.23 Future of Consortia 84
Chapter 5 Consortia Types and Models 88
5.1 Introduction 88
5.2 Organization models 89
5.2.1 Participants oriented models 89

5.2.2 Purpose oriented models 89
5.2.3 Client oriented models 90
5.3 Consortia types 90
5.3.1 Loosely knit federations 90
5.3.2 Multitype/multistate networks 90
5.3.3 Tightly-knit consortium 90
5.3.4 Centrally funded statewide consortium 91
5.3.5 National Centralized model 91
5.3.6 National decentralized model 91
5.3.7 Regional model 92
5.3.8 Allen & Hirshon Model 92
5.3.9 O'Connor Model 92
5.3.10 Helmer Model 92
5.3.11 Haavisto model 93
5.4 Models of Consortia 93
5.4.1 Open ended model 94
5.4.2 Closed group model 95
5.4.3 Centrally funded model 95
5.4.4 Shared budget model 96
5.4.5 Headquarters executed model 96
5.4.6 National Consortium Model 96
Chapter 6 Consortia Pricing Models 98
6.1 Introduction 98
6.2 Consortia purchasing 100
6.3 What is pricing policy? 101
6.4 Pricing and new business models 102
6.5 Consortia pricing – concerns of Publishers/ Scholars/Libraries 104
6.5.1 Publishers concerns 104
6.5.2 Scholars concerns 105
6.5.3 Libraries concerns 105

6.6 Existing variables in pricing models 106
6.7 Pricing Models 107
6.7.1 Publisher hosted model 107
6.7.2 Aggregators models 108
6.7.3 Publishers group as aggregators 109
6.7.4 Publishers selling packages 109
6.8 Publishers models and Access rights 109
6.8.1 Print + E Model 110
6.8.2 E-only models 111
6.8.3 E + Print model 112
6.8.4 Full Time Equivalent Model 112
6.8.5 Concurrent users models 112
6.9 Alternative Models 113
6.9.1 Tiered pricing models 113
6.9.2 Pay-per-viewing pricing 114
Chapter 7 Consortia Licensing for E-Journals 116
7.1 Introduction 116
7.2 What is a license? 117
7.3 Copyright vs. licensing 117
7.4 Why licensing necessary? 118
7.5 Types of consortia licensing deals 119
7.6 Basic principles of consortia licensing 121
7.6.1 Terms to be defined by the licensing agreements 121
7.7 Model License (MLs) 124
7.7.1 Key issue of MLs 125
7.7.2 Model License – historical developments 126
7.7.3 Current scenario of MLs 127
7.7.4 Benefits of MLs 128
7.7.5 Contentious issues 128
7.7.6 Tools for the community 129

7.7.7 New Business Models must be reflected in MLS 129
7.7.8 Essential Elements of MLs 130
7.8 Licensing Guidelines 133
7.9 Fair Use 134
7.9.1 What makes a use 'fair'? 135
7.10 Licensing and Clauses for Open Access 137

Chapter 8 National Consortium Site Licensing 139
8.1 Introduction 139
8.2 Definition 140
8.3 National Consortia 140
8.4 Institutional perspectives 142
8.5 Current scenario 143
8.5.1 National Site Licensing Initiatives 143
8.5.2 Canadian National Site Licensing Project 144
8.5.3 The United States – the non-NSL 146
8.6 National Site Licensing 147
8.6.1 The Netherlands 148
8.6.2 New Zealand 148
8.6.3 Turkey 149
8.6.4 Republic of Korea 150
8.6.5 India initiatives 150
8.7 Why National Consortia? 151
8.7.1 How Indian conditions are suitable for NSL? 151
8.8 Proposal for a National Consortium in India 153
8.9 Major Consortia formed in India 155

Chapter 9 The Consortia and 'Big Deals' 159
9.1 Introduction 159
9.2 The 'Big Deal' 160
9.2.1 What is the 'big deal'? 162
9.2.2 Why 'Big Deal'? 163

9.2.3 Added Value 163
9.2.4 How long will the 'big deal' around? 164
9.2.5 Issue behind the 'big deal' 164
9.3 Consortia purchases: the 'big deal' 165
9.3.1 Types of consortia license deal 166
9.4 Impact of 'big deals' 167
9.4.1 Advantages 167
9.4.2 Impact on usages 167
9.4.3 Disadvantages 167
9.5 Consortia market now evolving 168
9.6 Orderly retreat from 'big deals' 169
9.7 Can the library still build an adequate collection? 170
Chapter 10 Library Consortia Negotiations 173
10.1 Introduction 173
10.2 What is negotiation? 176
10.3 Why negotiation required? 176
10.4 Preparation for negotiation 177
10.4.1 Organizational needs 177
10.4.2 A new subscription 177
10.4.3 Termination clauses 178
10.4.4 Is the price fair? 178
10.4.5 Product vs. price 178
10.4.6 Tender requirements 178
10.4.7 Funding 179
10.4.8 Brain storming session 180
10.5 The contract for consortium 180
10.5.1 The aims of the contract 180
10.5.2 The contract is a key in the process 181
10.5.3 Key terms section/elements of the contract 181
10.6 Negotiations 181
10.6.1 The communication skills 182

10.6.2 Consortium negotiations 182
10.6.3 Publishers and their products 182
10.6.4 The relationship between publisher and purchaser 182
10.6.5 Assertiveness 182
10.6.6 Negotiating the price 183
10.6.7 The language of negotiation 183
10.6.8 Dealing with emotions 183
10.6.9 E-Mail communications 184
10.6.10 Determining whether it is the best deal 184
10.6.11 Meetings 184
10.6.12 Internal negotiations 185
10.7 Staff Development 185
10.8 Statistics 185
10.8.1 Usage statistics 185
10.8.2 Disseminating the results of consortium negotiation 186
10.8.3 Recording the outcome of the negotiation 186
10.8.4 Negotiation timeline 187
10.9 Aid for negotiations 187
10.9.1 Before beginning negotiation 187
10.9.2 Be prepared with mindset 188
10.9.3 Plan ahead for negotiation 188
10.9.4 During the process of negotiation 188
10.9.5 Keep on track 189
10.9.6 Buying and managing information 189
10.10 Know participants needs 189
10.11 Negotiation factors 190
10.12 Consortia approach to negotiation 190
10.12.1 Objectives of negotiations 191
10.12.2 Tips for negotiation 191
10.12.3 Factors affecting successful negotiations 192

	10.13 Constraints in the process of negotiations	193
	10.14 Measuring value	194
	10.14.1 Measuring success	194
Chapter 11	**Library Consortia and Technology Infrastructure**	**196**
	11.1 Introduction	196
	11.2 Standards and Protocols for library consortia	198
	11.3 E – Metrics for measuring electronic resources	199
	11.3.1 COUNTER	199
	11.3.2 SUSHI	202
	11.3.3 PIRUS2	203
	11.4 SERU	204
	11.4.1 Alternative licensing initiative	205
	11.5 ICOLC	207
Chapter 12	**Consortia and Digital Preservation Systems**	**210**
	12.1 Introduction	210
	12.2 Consortia and digital preservation of e-resources	211
	12.2.1 PORTICO	213
	12.2 2 CLOCKSS	216
	12.2.3 JSTOR	218
	12.2.4 ADS (NASA)	220
	12.2.5 Mirror sites	223
Chapter 13	**Consortia Mergers and Migration**	**225**
	13.1 Introduction	225
	13.2 An overview	226
	13.3 Why the urge to merge?	226
	13.4 Best practice	227
	13.5 Approaches and implementation	227
	13.6 Membership agreements	227
	13.7 Benefits of consortia merging	229

13.8 A case study 230
13.9 Impact of merger/migration 231
13.9.1 Advantages 231
13.9.2 Disadvantages 232
13.9.3 After merger- problems encountered 232
13.9.4 Negotiation by merged consortium 233
13.9.5 Access and usage 233
13.9.6 Future renewals 234
Chapter 14 Emergence of Consortia in India 235
14.1 Introduction 235
14.2 Indian consortia details 237
14.2.1 UGC–INFONET Digital Library Consortium 238
14.2.2 INDEST – AICTE Consortium 243
14.2.3 National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC) 247
14.2.4 Consortium for e-Resource in Agriculture (CeRA) 251
14.2.5 Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy (FORSA) 253
14.2.6 TIFR Libraries Consortium 256
14.2.7 DAE Consortium 259
14.2.8 ISI Library Consortium 260
14.2.9 MCIT Library Consortium 262
14.2.10 Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED) Consortium 264
14.2.11 JCCC@ICMR and ICMR Consortia 266
14.2.12 Health Science Library & Information Network (HELINET) 268
14.2.13 DRDO E-Journals Consortium 272
14.2.14 DBTE Library Consortium 274
14.2.15 IIMs Consortium 276
14.2.16 The National Library & Information Infrastructure (N-LIST) 278

	14.2.17 SNDT Women's University LISA Consortium	281
Chapter 15	**Indian consortia experiences**	**283**
	15.1 Introduction	283
	15.2 Indian consortia strategic issues	284
	15.3 What we learnt from the experience	286
Annexure I	**Important Resources on Consortia**	**289**
Annexure II	**E – Journals Consortium – Request for Proposal (RFP)**	**291**
	References	308
	Author Index	325
	Subject Index	328