

ROLE OF ELECTRONICS JOURNALS IN CONSORTIUM AGE: A MODERN OVERVIEW

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Abstract

E-Journals have emerged as vital component of information resources of a Library and play an imperative role in the distribution of prime information. Information is a continuous and ever growing process. Information explosion and application of information communication technology (ICT) for proper handling, retrieval and dissemination of information force the appearance of E-Journals.

This paper describes the issue related to e-journals and its nature, merits, demerits, and information of healthy library consortia.

Key Words

Information resources, information communication technology (ICT), E-Journals, components, information explosions.

Introduction

Journals constitute an important part of a library collection being the most important vehicle for global scholarly communication. E-journals have emerged as vital components of information resources of a library and play an interactive role in the distribution of prime information. E-journals as “any journal that is available online”, including both electronic – only journals and journals that are available both electronically and print “e-journals hence is a trend used to describe a periodical publication that is published in digital form to be displayed on a computer screen. E – Journals are global information highways. So these are being added to library collections at exponential rates. E – Journals have provided excellent opportunities to access scholarly information which were previously beyond the reach of libraries due to geographical constraints.

E- Journals include full text search, multimedia facilities and hypertext links. E-journals also include multimedia and graphics to attach to readers. The growth of e- journals began with full text data base offered by DIALOG and STN in 1980. In 1990 “post modern culture” a reviewed journal with ASC II text made available by www/e.mail first electronics full text e – journal “online journal of current clinical traits” published in 1992-1995.

Definition of e- journal

E-journal is a form of journals existing in an electronic format that available electronically as well as print copy, accessible through on line network and in CD rom forms.

According to butler describes that e-journals is the substitution of electronically generated material usually displayed as cathode ray tube for material published as print on paper.

Advantage of e-journals

- Multiple readers can access e-journals simultaneously
- E-journals do not get damaged or exhausted by unlimited use
- E-journals can be updated or edited even after publishing
- E-journals can access 24x7 across geographical barriers
- Information transfer can be done with speed and precision
- Provide access to article in multiple formats and languages
- Help to develop a virtual library

Disadvantages of e-journals

- Searching or consultation of e- journals is machine dependent
- These often required complex licensing agreement
- These required special arrangement for maintenance and preservation
- These lack uniformity and consistency of format

Resource sharing

Resource sharing is nothing but sharing of a library resources by certain participating libraries among themselves on the basis of the principles of cooperation this is applicable in the matter use of documents, manpower, facilities and services in such cooperation it becomes possible for a user to make use of the resources of not only his own library but also those other participating libraries. Thus the library can improve the total collection of reading material consolidate their technological capabilities improve their information dissemination tools and extended their library and information services to larger user community through resource sharing.

Consortium Concept

Consortium is a co-operative arrangement among institutions or associations to expand resources and offer services.

Consortium as a group of organization whose purpose is to collectively facilitate and support the services to each organization individually with adding available resources.

The consortium provides current as well as archival access to core and peer reviewed journal in all disciplines.

Need to form a consortium

1. Information growth

Exponential information growth of information and resources that are being produced in many forms and format has made it difficulty to a library to acquire all these materials .it also forces to formation of consortium.

2. Needs to reader

Reader are increasing in the library day by day and access to information varied from reader to reader , researchers , academicians , students required not only books they need advanced literature in the area of interest therefore it is impossible for a single library to meet all these requirements.

This is a reason to form consortia.

3. Important role of librarian

Advancement of information and communication technology has changed the role of librarians as a conservator to disseminator of knowledge.

It has augmented the significance of library consortia.

Types of Consortium

National

The aim of national consortia is to access particular information for all higher educational institutions, research centers with in country.

1. CSIR

consortium for accessing e-journals.

(www.niscair.res.in/activitiesandservice/majorprojects/major.htm)

2. FORSA

A consortium for resource sharing in astronomy and astrophysics

(www.iiap.ernet.in/library/forsa.html)

3. INDEST

Indian national digital library in science and technology.

Consortium it included all IIT'S ,NIIT'S , IISC for accessing e-journals .

(<http://www.library.iitb.ac.in/indest/>)

4. UGC-INFONET

Consortium is also known as INFLIBNET consortia for accessing e-journals among all universities.

(<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/info/ugcinfonet.isp>)

5. IIM Consortia

It includes all IIM institutions.

International

An international level consortium is originally set up by the government bodies to fund acquisition of electronic publications. Some of the important consortia are as under

- Health institute <http://www.alia.org.au>
- The health information research unit <http://hiru-memaster.ca>
- The national electronics library for health (NELH) <http://www.sbu.ac.uk/lite/NELH>
- International coalition of library consortia (ICOLC). www.library.yale.edu/consortia

Publisher or distributor consortium

In this consortium publisher approach library directly and provide advantage deal for the group purchasing of e-journals ,database ,science direct ,clinical key, j-gate are considered in this category.

Advantages

- **Group of large members**
Consortia have a group of institutions as its members
- **Access simultaneously**
Information accessible 24x7 across to many users at a time
- **Wider accessibility**
It provides access to worldwide literature to the users.
- **Cost effectiveness**
Member institutions of a consortia share the expenditure of access to electronic journals it reduced the expenditure of individual library.

Disadvantages

- Longer to decision
- Very high membership fee
- Lack of available list of subscription periodicals by the participating libraries
- IP address limitations to access on internet and www of the system.

Role of library professionals

Advanced information and communication technology access information increasing user requirements and availability of materials has changed the role of librarian and information professionals and required resource sharing to fulfil the need of the reader.

In our country LIC'S are still far away due to lack of awareness of consortium benefits, lack of trained manpower, budget constraints and lack of infrastructure technology are the major issue responsible for not forming of a consortium.

Example: health consortium.

Now the library and information provider accepted the modern librarianship with resource shearing to provide information dissemination to the user provide their needs.

Conclusion

The printed reading materials cannot be ignored but new library and information system relaying on ICT become more acceptable.

LIC'S are a gateway to disseminate information resources globally internet and www have been able to receive the constraints of space and time. LIS professionals will have to develop their improvement on regular basis to obtain the mission of the profession.

National site license (NSL) concept for consortia as started in U.K. can be adopted in India.

A single license which is operative across the content of many publishers negotiated on behalf of institutions, organization that will cost effective.

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