# UNIT 5: LIBRARY NETWORK AND CONSORTIUM

## UNIT STRUCTURE


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## 5.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to

- Describe library cooperation;
- Discuss the means of library cooperation;
- Find different library networks and their activities;
- Define the functions of OCLC, INFLIBNET, DELNET;
- Explain the concept of library consortia.

## 5.2 INTRODUCTION

The sharing of library resources started with the concept of inter library loan, under which a library can get a document from another library

on loan for a certain period. It was followed by the term "Library Cooperation", but now in its revised and improved form it is called as "Resource Sharing". Today, it is called "Library Network" or "Library Consortia", which is one of the cooperative ways of sharing online resources. The inter library loan means sharing of the resources of one library by the other libraries on demand, when they are needed by its user i.e sharing one's assets with others.

Library Cooperation / Resource Sharing / Networking / Consortia all denote a mode of cooperation among a number of libraries whereby the library collection, function or services are shared by a number of libraries. According to Allen Kent the goals are to provide a positive net effect on the library user in terms of access to more material or services and or on the library budget in terms of providing level service at less cost, increased service at level cost or much more service at less cost than if undertaken individually.

## 5.3 LIBRARY COOPERATION

Library cooperation is a social phenomenon by which libraries are mutually engaged to increase the service capabilities of a single library and by which the librarians extend their option to serve clients. It includes sharing materials or function or services that constitute a library system. A material includes both documentary and non documentary forms. The function covers the activities concerning the acquisition, processing, storage, etc. services include techniques, activities and procedures employed to establish contact between the document and its consumer i.e. lending, reference, documentation, translation, etc. Library cooperation also can be looked upon as a broader term than resource sharing or networking or consortia.

**a) Types of Library Cooperation:** Based on the geographical area covered, library cooperation may be of

i) International Level: E.g. Universal Availability of Publication (UAP) programme introduced by IFLA, Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC)];

ii) National Level: E.g. National Social Science Documentation Center (NASSDOC);

iii) Regional Level and

iv) Local Level.

Based on the functional area covered Library Cooperation may be

i) Sharing of documentary resources (cooperative acquisition, cooperative processing, cooperative storage for the documents which are less used, cooperative delivery system ie inter library lending, development of network, developing consortia.

ii) Sharing of manpower resources (arrangement for the cooperative staff training and such).

iii) Sharing of other library facilities or equipment (for eg. sharing of the computer and reprographic equipment that cannot be afforded by small libraries due to their high cost), and sharing of finance.

Based on subject basis it may be general or subject based.

**b) Kinds of Library Cooperation:** Following are some of the kinds of library cooperation.

**i) Co-operative Acquisition :** The process of acquisition involves selecting, placing orders to vendors, passing of bills, payments, etc. All these activities can be minimized by cooperative acquisition. This will also result in saving the cost, earning of a larger discount, saving time and clerical labor.

The INSDOC, New Delhi, initiated Centralized Acquisition of Periodicals (CAP) through which it is acquiring foreign periodicals for about 30 CSIR laboratories.

**ii) Cooperative Processing:** If each library, within the network of resources sharing, processes a book through the computer then the job of cataloguing can be shared by all the libraries within the network in the form of-

- **Printed Catalogue Card Service:** In this process some libraries, usually of national status, undertake the responsibility of producing printed catalogue cards which are available on a payment basis for other libraries. The Library of Congress and

BNB are producing printed catalogue card service.

- **Prenatal Cataloguing / Cataloguing In Publication (CIP):** The term prenatal cataloguing was used by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. Prenatal technical work involves completion of technical work by the national central library of a country on each book before its release by the publisher.

  The Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) programme was initiated by Library of Congress (LOC), USA in 1971 with 27 participating publishers. The process of classification and cataloguing of a publication is done before the book is released. The cataloguing data provided by the LOC is printed on the reverse of the title page which helps the individual libraries in copying down the data on their catalogue card.

- **Centralized Classification and Cataloguing:** Centralized classification and cataloguing service of Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC), and Machine Readable Catalogue * MARC) project of the Library of Congress are remarkable in this direction. Online cataloguing, retrospective conversion using databases also lead to economy with quality.

iii) **Cooperative Storage:** Every library has limited space for storage of books. So the old and less used books are weeded out regularly to provide space for new acquisition. Moreover, the maintenance of the unused or little used books not only consumes valuable space of the library but also involves money and labour. So, by resources sharing a centralized cooperative storage of less used books can be achieved.

The material which is not in active use may be stored on a cooperative basis at a central dormitory. With the initiative of NASSDOC (ICSSR), New Delhi and Jawarharlal Nehru University, Delhi an Inter Library Resource Centre (ILRC) was established in New Delhi in 1975. Some 38 libraries of Delhi deposited their less used serial and government documents at the centre.

## 5.4 LIBRARY NETWORK

Library networking is an arrangement or a structure that links a group of libraries which have agreed to work together and / or share their resources in an organized basis to a certain degree. It can be defined as a "two or more libraries engaged in a common pattern of information exchange through communication for some functional purposes". It is meant to promote and facilitate sharing of resources available within a group of participating libraries.

**a) Definition:** The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) in its National Programme Document (1975) defines a network as: "two or more libraries and/or other organizations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange, through communications, for some functional purpose. A network usually consists of a formal arrangement whereby materials, information and services provided by a variety of libraries and other organizations are available to all potential users. Libraries may be in different jurisdictions but they agree to serve one another on the same basis as each serves its own constituents. Computer and telecommunications may be among the tools used for facilitating communication among them".

**b) Precondition for Networking:** The agreements between library authorities of different libraries, building or developing required infrastructure, maintenance of standardization in terms of classification schemes, cataloguing schemes, uses of some common library management software and so on are some of the preconditions before developing any kind of network. Some other preconditions are

**i) Automation of the Member Library:** For the success of network in the long run, each of the member libraries must have a policy to automate every function of the library – acquisition, cataloguing, classification, serials control, circulation, SDI, current awareness services etc. – in the shortest possible time. This helps the library to have a computer environment which is required to design, develop, maintain and to operate several databases, to reduce the cost of

library operations as well as network operations.

ii) **Hardware and Software:** The network should be able to recommend to participating libraries the type of hardware and software they need for their in-house functions and for networking purposes. Hardware should be selected considering the number of entries the participating libraries can generate within the next 3-5 years.

iii) **Trained Manpower:** If there is no adequate trained manpower in each of the member libraries, attempts should be made to train or/ and recruit new skilled library personnel.

iv **Standardization:** For the purpose of creating databases, it is essential to agree upon a standard. All libraries should follow a standard MARC format, AACR-II, a standard thesaurus like Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) etc. uniformly. Although efforts should be made to have one classification scheme for all participating libraries yet the use of different numbers should not become a hurdle as search requests are mostly about authors, titles, editors and subject descriptions.

Besides the above, it is preferable to have certain communication facilities such as Fax, Telex, Telephone, etc. as a part of the network system in each of the member libraries for the effective working of the network. E-mail and internet facilities should be available with the libraries and they should be able to access international databases, preferably individually or through the network host to begin with.

c) **Advantages of Networking:** The advantages of library networking are as follows:

i) **Cooperative Collection Development:** In the age of information explosion no individual library, however resourceful, can be self-sufficient in terms of documents. For a library, however rich it may be impossible to acquire and store all the documents within its four walls. Networking will help to develop collection in terms of books, periodicals, patents, standards, audio visual, CDs etc and share

those resources.

ii) **Meets Specialized User Demand:** User needs are varied and diversified. To meet the specialized need one has to approach such special collection or special service that are available in special libraries. Networking will help in the sharing of experience and expertise of the library personnel.

iii) **Breaks Financial Constraint:** The library budgets are decreasing. With the provision of library networking a library can arrange for cooperative staff training, can exchange the staff for performing some technical works. Sharing of the finance for cooperative acquisition and collection development, processing, etc can also be made.

iv) **Reduces Unnecessary Duplication of Work:** The networking will remove the efforts in duplication of classification, cataloguing, and such others.

v) **Barrier Breaker:** Library networking is needed to break the barriers of distance and time. Further, it will reduce the physical movement of materials.

vi) **Sharing of Hardware Resources:** Expensive computer equipment, microfilming equipment, digitizing devices for newspaper, reprographic systems, etc can be procured by a networking group for the benefit of all the libraries of the network. Networking is also needed to connect personal computer with the mainframe or super computer for problem solving.

vii) **Sharing of Software Resources:** The software that is too expensive to procure by individual libraries can be procured and shared by the network for solving larger programmes, information retrieval, and so on. The software can be installed in the central computer and all other computers can be used as client.

viii) **Development of Union Catalogue:** Network helps in developing union catalogue to refer the user to the documents in any of the other participating libraries and it can be consulted by the user in order to know which document is available in which library. For example, Union Catalogue of Social Science Serials was compiled

and published by the NASSDOC (ICSSR), New Delhi in 1980s.

ix) **Development of Database:** Library network helps in developing special database to meet some special need by the participatory libraries. Again, through networking the local information which is available over the network can be controlled locally that satisfies the accuracy. For example, National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serial in India (1988) was the result of the work of INSDOC in collaboration with several scientific libraries all over India.

x) **Document Delivery Service (DDS):** Networks enable librarians, faced with clients' information needs beyond their local resources, to identify and obtain materials and services for those clients. The interlibrary loan, Document Delivery Service (DDS) provides the user the required documents irrespective of its location.

xi) **Humanware:** Manpower training and refresher course facilities – stimulating, promoting and coordinating research and training programme for library staff- can be arranged by the network members.

d) **Development of Library Network in India:** At international level Joint Academic NETwork (JANET), Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC), etc are functioning properly. The examples of library networks in the western countries suggest that all networks based on a fee structure can be maintained without grant and are viable in the long run.

NICNET, established by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 1977 was started in the late 1987's. It is one of the largest VSAT Networks of its kind in the world. It was launched basically for getting and providing information from/to district levels to facilitate planning process. It links for regional nodes at Delhi, Pune, Bhubneswar and Hyderabad and has established 32 nodes at state and union territory levels and 439 nodes at district headquarters.

At national level INDONET is India's first data communication and computer network that was started in March 1986 by CMC Ltd. It was launched as a solution to the growing need for providing timely, well processed data to various institutions. In the First phase, they have mainly

network in Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. Later, Delhi and Hyderabad were also linked as additional stations. INDONET presently has an international gateway which provides access to the world wide pocket switched networks like USA's Global Networks Systems (GNS) and Internet.

Education and Research Network (ERNET) <http://www.eis.ernet.in/ > was launched by the Department of Education (DOE), Govt. of India in late 1986 with financial assistance from United Nationals Development Programme (UNDP) to provide academic and research institutions with electronic mail facilities. It is currently used by DSIR Labs, research centres and academic institutions.

Scientific and Industrial Research Network (SIRNET) was established by INSDOC in late 1989 to interconnect all the CSIR laboratories and other R&D institutions in India.

The success of the above networks and the initiatives taken by NISSAT, UGC, Planning Commission and other departments of Govt. of India have led to the establishment and development of library networks in India.

CALIBNET was established by NISSAT in 1986 in Calcutta. It was the first library network visualized. At present, it has become the centre for CD-ROM databases which are acquired from outside sources. DELNET was established in 1988 in Delhi by India International Centre with the initial financial support of NISSAT. It is the first operational library network in India. INFLIBNET was established by UGC in 1988 and its operations began in 1991. It is a network of university and college libraries. MALIBNET is the result of the need for interconnecting libraries and information centres in Chennai, which was visualized by INSDOC in 1991. INSDOC undertook a feasibility study which was completed in March 1992. MALIBNET was registered as a society in Chennai in Feb. 1993. Some other library networks in India are PUNENET (1992) in Pune, ADINET (1993) in Ahmedabad, BONET (1994) in Mumbai, MYLIBNET (1994) in Mysore (Chennai), and BALNET (1995) in Bangalore.

### 5.4.1 Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC)

OCLC is a library network of USA. In 1967, the presidents of the colleges and universities in the state of Ohio founded the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC) to develop a computerized system in which the libraries of Ohio academic institutions could share resources and reduce costs. It was established under the guidance of library automation pioneer Frederic Kilgour. In 1977, the Ohio members of OCLC adopted changes in the governance structure that enabled libraries outside Ohio to become members and participate in the election of the Board of Trustees; the Ohio College Library Center became OCLC, Inc. In 1981, the legal name of the corporation became Online Computer Library Center, Inc (OCLC) <http://www.oclc.org/>.

**a) Objectives:** The objectives of OCLC are

i) To establish, maintain and operate a computerized library network and to promote the evolution of library use, of libraries themselves and of librarianship;

ii) To provide processes and products for the benefit of library users and libraries;

iii) To Increase the availability of library resources to individual library patrons and to reduce the rate-of-rise of library per-unit costs, and

iv) To further the ease of access to and the use of the ever-expanding body of worldwide scientific, literary and educational knowledge and information.

**b) Membership:** Together OCLC member libraries make up the world's largest consortium. More than 53 thousand libraries in 96 countries and territories around the world use OCLC services to locate, acquire, catalogue, lend and preserve library materials.

**c) Functions and Activities:**

**i) Cataloguing and Metadata:** OCLC offers full-service online cataloguing, simple copy cataloguing, MARC record

collections, offline cataloguing, customized OCLC cataloguing from library's materials vendor, automated copy cataloguing for materials purchased and custom cataloguing serviced.

ii) **Dewey Decimal Classification System:** OCLC administers the Dewey Decimal Classification system, the most widely used library classification system in the world. It also provides WebDewey, the online version that is continually updated.

iii) **Open WorldCat:** WorldCat is the world's largest bibliographic database. The Open WorldCat programme makes it feasible to internet users who broadly search the Web at popular search portals to discover materials owned by OCLC libraries. Current Open WorldCat participants include Yahoo! Search (http://www.yahoo.com) and Google (http://www.google.com).

iv) **OCLC Research:** OCLC's 25-year-old Research arm furthers the science of librarianship by incubating new information access and exchange technologies, sponsoring the work of library scientists and serving on global standards bodies (including those of the Dublin Core and Open Archives initiatives).

v) **Digitization and Preservation:** OCLC's digitization, microfilm and archival services are designed to protect, share, and manage collections. The Intercat and Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLs) are such project of OCLC.

vi) **Standardization:** OCLC Terminologies Service provides single interface to access multiple thesauruses. Access often-used controlled vocabularies such as mesh, gmgpc, gsafd, lctgm, ngl and dct.

vii) **Publication:** OCLC regularly develops and publishes studies and other informational documents that all libraries can use for "future-forward" planning. Recent reports include:

"2004 Information Format Trends: Content, Not Containers", "The 2003 OCLC Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition", etc.

**viii) Mailing Lists and Forum:** "WebJunction" is a Web-based community dedicated to the emerging technology and training needs of librarians. It was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's U.S. Library Program, and coordinated by OCLC and other partners. WebJunction feature articles, handouts, courses and forum discussions address the real issues that librarians and library staff face everyday. OCLC also maintains groups and forums to foster and maintain communication with its members.

**ix) Others:** NetLibrary provides full-text digital books, journals, newspapers and other published works in hundreds of subject areas. NetLibrary, OCLC's eBook division, recently celebrated the surpassing of the 58,000-title milestone. The Electronic Collections Online provides easy Web access to thousands of full-text academic and professional journals.

The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) is a nonprofit, membership based, computer library service and research organization dedicated to the public purposes of furthering access to the world's information and reducing information costs. Its Headquarters is in Dublin, Ohio, USA.

### 5.4.2 INFormation and LIBrary NETwork (INFLIBNET)

In April 1988, the University Grant Commission (UGC) constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, to work out the details of a university information library networking system. The report of this working group was published in December 1988 containing a project proposal for the establishment and development of an information and library network. Finally, in April 1991, INFLIBNET was initiated by the UGC. It can be defined as a

computer communication network of libraries and information centres of universities, institutions of national importance, Research and Development Institutions, bibliographical information centres etc, thereby improving the capability in information handling and services.

**a) Objectives:** INFLIBNET Centre is an Autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) involved in creating infrastructure for the sharing of library and information resources and services among the academic and research institutions.

**b) Organization**

**i) National Centre:** One national centre at Ahemdabad.

**ii) Regional Centre:** 4 Regional centre located in four geographical region of the country. They are -

- North: Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- South: Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- East: Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
- West: University of Poona, Pune.

**iii) Sectoral Centre:** These are means for bibliographic and information services. About 40 Sectoral Information Centre (S.I.C.) will be set up in due course.

**iv) Document Resource Centre (DRC):** About 100 library / Information centres will be deigned as Document Resource centre. They will provide Document Delivery Service and they will be identified based on their collection strength.

Each regional centre will maintain the copies of union catalogue of other regions so that Union Catalogue enquires relating to the whole country holding can be solved at the regional centre itself. The terminal of the college / department library is to be connected to the University library, the terminal of the University library is to be connected to the Regional centre, sectoral centre and D.R. Centers.

**c) Resources:** The main resources of INFLIBNET are.

i) **University catalogue:** The catalogue of document, periodicals, thesis forms major part of INFLIBNET resources.

ii) **Research & Development Library Catalogue:** The collection of NISCAIR and NASSDOC.

iii) **National Library:** The computerized catalogue of the National Library of Kolkata.

iv) **Indigenous Databases:** The databases of discipline oriented information centre such as Machine tools, Food technology, Leather technology, Drugs, Aeronautics are considered as input to the INFLIBNET resources.

**d) Functions and Activities**

i) **SOUL Software:** INFLIBNET has developed library management software known as SOUL. It is associated with its training, installation and up-gradation. Under Prime Minister's special package to NE India, SOUL packages are given free of cost to those libraries which are under 2F or 12B of UGC. Delivery of SOUL package is done through the UGC Regional office. The SOUL 2.0 was launched in 2009.

ii) **Institutional Repository:** INFLIBNET Centre develops a digital repository using DSpace software. It hosts INFLIBNET's Press and Media related documents, INFLIBNET's Annual Reports, INFLIBNET's Convention Proceedings, INFLIBNET's Special Seminar, etc.

iii) **Electronic Submission of Theses and Dissertations (ETD):** It is a joint venture of UGC, INFLIBNET takes an active role in making it mandatory to submit the electronic copy of a thesis whenever the research scholars submit their thesis to the respective university or institutions for the PhD degree.

iv) **IndCat:** Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities: It is unified Online Library Catalogues of books, theses and journals available in major university libraries in India.

v) **CCF to MARC Conversion Utility:** INFLIBNET launched an open source utility primarily focused on libraries, where

one needs to convert CCF data to MARC21 format. Development of tool has been done with VB.Net 2005 with Framework 2.0. It can be found in <http://sourceforge.net/projects/ccftomarcconver/>

vi) **Standardization:** MARC – II has been accepted as bibliographic standard for data capturing.

vii) **Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training:** INFLIBNET is regularly conducting Convention on Automation of Libraries in Education and Research Institutions (CALIBER) and Promotion of Library Automation and Networking in North Eastern Region (PLANNER) every year. From 2009, the authority of INFLIBNET has decided to hold CALIBER and PLANNER every alternate year. Besides, it also conducts INFLIBNET Regional Training Programme on Library Automation (IRTPLA) and Attachment Training Programme for Practicing Librarians and Computer Professionals of North Eastern Region.

viii) **Mailing Lists and Forum:** As on November, 2009 INFLIBNET is maintaining four online mailing lists besides its "INFLIBNET Centre Blog" <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/blog/> that provides news and announcement related to the INFLIBNET.

INFLIBNET is a cooperative venture. So its resource strength depends on its participants. The development of SOUL is likely to give more revenue to INFLIBNET and provide justification for more and more libraries to join it. As a resource, it is hoped that INFLIBNET will grow faster as a service based library network in India. The INFLIBNET Library plays a vital role in the collection development and dissemination of scientific and technical information to meet the present and future needs of the Centre.

### 5.4.3 Developing Library Network (DELNET)

DELNET <http://www.delnet.nic.in/> stands for Developing Library Network (formerly Delhi Library Network). It is the first operational library network in India. It was started as a project of the India International Centre in January 1988 with the initial, financial and technical assistance by National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India. It was registered as a society in June 1992 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and is currently being promoted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Planning Commission, Govt. of India and India International Centre, New Delhi.

**a) Objectives**

a) To promote sharing of resources among the libraries by developing a network of libraries, by collecting, storing and disseminating information and by offering computerized services to the users.

b) To offer guidance to the member libraries on cataloguing database services, circulation, acquisition, serials control, online services, selection of hardware and software, etc.

c) To coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and for reducing unnecessary duplication wherever possible.

d) To establish a referral centre, to monitor and/or facilitate catalogue search and maintain a central online union catalogue of books, serials, and non-book materials of all the participating libraries.

e) To facilitate and promote delivery of documents manually and mechanically.

f) To develop specialist bibliographic database of books, serials and non-book materials.

g) To develop a database of projects, specialists and institutions.

h) To possess and maintain electronic and mechanical equipment for the fast communication of information and

delivery of electronic mail.

i) To coordinate with other regional, national and international networks for exchange of information and documents.

j) To undertake, facilitate and provide for the publication of newsletters/journals devoted to networking and sharing of resources.

**b) Membership:** Till 2001, DELNET had two hundred and forty three libraries as its members, including both institutional and associate-institutional members which are 235 in India and 8 outside India.

**c) Functions and Activities**

**i) Resource Sharing:** DELNET saved foreign exchange worth Rs. 10 million by rationalizing subscriptions to foreign periodicals during 1991, 1992 and 1993 through resource sharing. This was mainly achieved in the fields of physical science, medical science and agricultural sciences.

**ii) Online Databases:** DELNET has around twenty databases available online for their users which include Union Catalogue of Books (in member libraries), Union List of Current Periodicals, Union Catalogue of Periodicals, database of Indian Specialist (Who's who), multilingual Book Database, etc.

**iii) DDS:** DELNET members can place their inter-library loan requests through their ILL online facility, which is available on the union catalogue of books database. In 1991, a courier service was started on contract basis with a private agency for inter library lending among the participating libraries but it was not very effective. Later, DELNET introduced its own courier service with the financial help of NIC. The service is well used.

**iv) Development of Software:** Earlier DELNET provided CDS/ ISIS software for storage and retrival purpose, developed by UNESCO through NISSAT, but presently it is distributing its

own software DELSIS. It has also created software, viz. DELDOS and DEL-WINDOWS for creating MARC records.

v) **Standardization:** A standardization committee of DELNET has been meeting from time to time. DELNET uses CCF for interlibrary exchange of bibliographic data, accept AACR-II for cataloguing and LCSH is recommended for thesaurus.

vi) **Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training:** DELNET also organizes national workshops, seminars and meets on library networking from time to time. DELNET has been organizing National Annual convention on Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) regularly.

With the assistance of NISSAT and NIC it regularly conducts training programme on DELNET services, software, e-mail, subject heading of library of congress, AACR II, Internet, etc.

vii) **Publications:** DELNET has been publishing a newsletter since January 1994 in order to spread the message and to increase awareness about library networking in India. It also publishes NACLIN Proceedings, Director's Report, etc regularly.

viii) **Mailing Lists and Forum:** DELNET has created a Listserv service called DEL-LISTSERV to provide the current awareness service to the users and allow the member libraries to receive the latest daily information from the internet automatically in the form of electronic mail. It also maintains other Listserv service such as Net-happenings, Med-clips, IFLA, LIBJOBS, etc.

ix) **Others:** DELNET System for Information Services (DELSIS) is a powerful library networking software developed by DELNET. DELSEARCH, is again, a database access mechanism developed by DELNET.

DELNET is the first network which provides Email service in

this country that was started in 1991. It provides this service through National Information Centre (NIC). The future of DELNET is very promising. Its membership with India and outside India is going to take a quantum jump. The DELNET databases are growing in number and size and as a variety of information on South Asia these are becoming available through DELNET. It is expected that all institutions outside India specializing in South Asian studies will take DELNET membership.

## 5.5 LIBRARY CONSORTIA

The basic premise of consortia is that its members can collectively achieve more than what they can achieve as individual institutions.

**a) Definition:** According to American Heritage Dictionary a consortium is "a cooperative arrangement among groups or institution," or "an association or society". According to Oxford English Dictionary, "Consortium means temporary cooperation of a number of powers, companies etc. for a common purpose. It is an association of similar type of organization / institution who are engaged for producing and servicing the common things / for providing services for a specific purpose of its users."

Library consortium is a "community (a cooperative) of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to coordinate, cooperate or consolidate certain function" to achieve mutual objectives. It is an association of a group of libraries to achieve mutually the joint benefits. It provides a way for its members to conduct business in a comparative manner.

Library consortia is a network for buying and accessing e- information in a cooperative arrangement among a group of libraries in providing instant access to greater resources for the users of the individual libraries. One of the libraries or agencies of the consortia works as coordinator for identification of libraries for each publisher, negotiation,

legal matters etc. Library consortia may vary from being decentralized to highly centralize in nature. The degree of centralization of consortium is the primary factor affecting not only how member institutions interact with one another, but also maintain relationship with external party (publisher/vendor). More decentralized the consortium, the greater the degree of autonomy each member retains.

**b) Precondition for Consortia:** Technological developments, electronic publishing of scholarly journals, emergence of consortia, pricing models of publishers are some of the factors that create the condition for the development of the library consortia.

i) **Emergence of Electronic Document:** The whole world is moving towards electronic publishing and the cost of the electronic publishing is much less than that of the print version. The users also hope to have access to their learned journals article in electronic form.

ii) **Access to Electronic Resources is a Precondition for a Modern Library:** Library materials have grown exponentially in many forms and formats like e-books, e-journals, etc and all these are very essential for the survival of the library itself.

The limitation in finance, space and manpower also stresses upon the need for library consortia.

**c) Benefit of Consortia:** Library consortia increases the Cost Benefit Per Subscription. The other advantages are:

i) **Reduced Information Cost:** Many libraries currently subscribe only to those journals that they can afford. Though interested in other journals yet they cannot afford to provide access to them. Consortia approach helps them to provide the access.

ii) **Access to More Resources Than the Capabilities:** A number of publishers offer consortia. If the library's purchase power is big enough they provide access to their whole range of journals – that is, every member of the consortium gets electronic access not only to the journals currently subscribed to but also to all the journals published in the field.

i**i) Promoting the Rational Use of Funds:** By forming consortia the

purchasing power of the collaborating institutions can expand the resource availability and offer automated services.

**iii) Ensuring Continuous Subscription:** The continuous subscription to the periodicals subscribed is ensure in library consortia.

**iv) DDS:** Inter-libraries loan services will grow and it is interlinked with the search of the union catalogues which will build effective DDS. Delivery of documents will be fast, either electronically through Xeroxing, fax, courier or e-mail.

Consortia will give the library and also the user extended access- that is, better service for reduced costs. 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. Moreover, all problems associated with print media such as their wear and tear, location, shelving, binding, organizing, etc. would not be an issue for electronic resources.

**d) Development of Library Consortia in India:** Library consortia has become quite popular in India and many intuitions some of which are furnish below has made use of it.

i) Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) e-Journals Consortium <http://124.124.221.7>.

ii) The Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy & Astrophysics (FORSA) <http://www.iiap.res.in/library/forsa.html>.

iii) Health Sciences Library & Information Network (HELINET) <http:// www.rguhs.ac.in/hn/newhell.htm>.

iv) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Knowledge Park <http://www.icicknowledgepark.com/>.

v) The Indian Institute of Management (IIM)'s Library Consortia.

vi) Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium <http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/>.

vii) UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research <http:// www.tifr.res.in/ ~libws/>.

viii) UGC- INFONET <http://web.inflibnet.ac.in/info/ugcinfonet/ugcinfonet.jsp>.

ix) ISRO Library Consortium, ICMR Library Consortium, etc.

### 5.5.1 Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has set-up the "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium" on the recommendation made by the Expert Group appointed by the ministry under the chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan. The Ministry provides funds required for subscription to electronic resources for 38 institutions including IISc, IITs, NITs, IIMs and a few other centrally-funded Government institutions through the consortium headquarters set-up at the IIT Delhi.

a) **Organization:** Those institutes that have static IP address(es), are configured to access the resources of the consortium; otherwise the publisher allocates Login ID and password to that institute for accessing their resources. Some resources, like ACM Digital Library and MathSciNet can only be accessed through static IPs. Local hosting of resources has only been considered for a few resources.

b) **Membership:** The INDEST-AICTE Consortium is an open-ended proposition, which all AICTE-accredited / UGC-affiliated institutions can join. Membership to the INDEST-AICTE Consortium is open to any private / Government-funded engineering / technological / educational institution / University for one or more electronic resources. The new members are required to sign an agreement with the INDEST-AICTE Consortium as well as with the publishers of electronic resources that they wish to subscribe. The consortium charges an annual membership fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rs. One thousand only).

Total members of INDEST consortium is 520 including Core Members (38) that include IITs and IISc (8), NITs, ISM, SLIET and NERIST ( 20), IIIT and IIITM (2), IIMs and NITIE (7); AICTE - supported Members (64); and Self-supported Institutions (99).

**c) Functions and Activities:** The INDEST-AICTE consortium subscribes to a number of electronic resources including full-text and bibliographic databases for various categories of institutions. All electronic resources subscribed are available from the publisher's Web site.

**i) Access to Full text E-Resources:** The access is provided to many online journals such as e-book, including Elsevier's Science Direct <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>, Emerald Full-text <http://iris.emeraldinsight.com/>, Nature <http://www.nature.com/>, Springer Link <http://www.springerlink.com/>, etc.

**ii) Access to Bibliographic Database:** MathSciNet <http://www.ams.org/mathscinet>, SciFinder Scholar <http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR/index.html>, Web of Science <http://isiknowledge.com>, etc.

**iii) Access to Portal:** Provides access to J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia (JCCC) <http://jccc-indest.informindia.co.in/>.

**iv) Access to Open Access Resources:** It includes access to Open Access E-Journals, Open Access Directories, etc.

**v) Search and Browsing Facility:** The browse and search interface allows to search e-journals and Backfiles subscribed under the consortium for various categories of institutions. One can also download the list of journals along with their URLs (in xls format) that may be used for generating Web pages for a Library's Web site by the subscribing institute.

**vi) Training Programmes:** The training programmes are organised in a distributed mode wherein all IITs, IIMs and IISc

Bangalore may conduct training programme for the member institutions with financial support from INDEST-AICTE Consortium. Six such training programmes have already been conducted by IIM Lucknow, IIT Roorkee (Two), IIT Kharagpur, IIT Bombay and IISc Bangalore (Two).

vii) **Mailing Lists and Forum:** The Consortium has an active mailing list and a Web site hosted at the IIT Delhi.

The INDEST-AICTE Consortium is the most ambitious initiative taken so far in the country. The consortium offers the best possible price advantage ranging from 22% to 95% (Average > 80% +) through its pricing agreements with publishers as well as better terms of agreement for various electronic resources. Moreover, the consortium also provides technical help and arrange for in-house training for optimal usage of resources subscribed.

### 5.5.2 UGC-Infonet E-journal Consortium

UGC-Infonet is an ambitious programme of UGC to interlink all the Universities in the country with state-of-art technology. The access to e-journal consortia was started in October 1, 2003 when the users started getting access to these resources on trial basis for three months. The UGC-Infonet E-journal consortium was formally launched on the concluding day of UGC's Golden Jubilee celebrations by his Excellency the President of India, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam at Vigyan Bhawan on 28th December 2003. Access to various e-journals formally began on January 1, 2004. The programme was set up by the Chairman, UGC and it was the result of an understanding and co-operation between UGC, ERNET, the inter university centre, INFLIBNET, national and international publisher, etc. The programme is wholly funded by UGC and monitored by INFLIBNET centre, Ahmedabad. The Network is being switched to BSNL backbone w.e.f 1st April 2010 and renamed as UGC Infonet 2.0. ON the new scheme

10 Mbps(1:1) Leased line is being established in 180 plus universities preferably by using Fiber to provide Internet Services.

a) **Organization:** The whole programme has been implemented in different phases. The UGC is providing funds for the programme which will be cost free for the universities. INFLIBNET Centre, an IUC of UGC, will subscribe resources based on the recommendations of National Negotiating Committee set up by UGC in the 10th plan period. The universities have been funded for connectivity under UGC-Infonet and will have network connectivity. Individual universities will then have unique IP address through which access is given by the publisher for which subscription is made. However, the entire programme will be ministered, monitored and maintained by the INFLIBNET centre.

b) **Membership:** The universities covered under UGC are the primary beneficiaries. However, this scheme will be extended to colleges very soon. The scheme is likely to be open to other institutions such as ICAR and others after signing MOU with UGC/INFLIBNET.

So far 100 universities out of 171 Indian universities under the purview of UGC have been provided access to these journals and it is gradually entering to the affiliated colleges as well.

c) **Functions and Activities:** The consortium aims at covering all fields of learning of relevance to various universities such as Arts, Humanities and Social Science to Computer and Pure Science.

   i) **Access to Full text E-Resources:** Under the consortium, about 4000 full text scholarly electronic journals from 25 publishers across the globe can be accessed. The consortium provides current as well as archival access to core and peer-reviewed journals in different disciplines. eg. J-STOR (457) <http://www.jstor.org/>.

   ii) **Access to Bibliographic Database:** It provides access to Analytical Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, Catalysts &

Catalysed Reactions, Chemical Abstracts Service, MathSciNet Database, Royal Society of Chemistry, etc

iii) **Access to Portal:** The gateway portals provides access to more than 10000 journals in the area of Pure sciences, Social sciences and Humanities with contents and abstracts for major collections. These gateway portals also provide customized solutions to access the full text for the resources subscribed under UGC-Infonet to serve as "one stop shopping". Examples of the portal include Ingenta Gateway Portal <http://www.ingenta.com/>, and J-Gate Gateway Portal <http://www.j-gate.informindia.co.in/>.

iv) **Access to Open Access Resources:** It provide access to BBS Prints Interactive Archive <http://www.bbsonline.org/>, BioMed Central <http://www.biomedcentral.com/start.asp>, Citebase <http://citebase.eprints.org/cgi-bin/search>, Citeseer <http://citeseer.nj.nec.com/cs>, Cognitive Science <http://cogprints.ecs.soton.ac.uk/>, CogPrints <http://cogprints.org/>, Directory of Open Access Journals <http://www.doaj.org>, Eprints.org archives <http://software.eprints.org/>, Free Access Online Archives/ arXiv <http://arxiv.org/>, General List of Open access eprints <http://dmoz.org/Science/Publications/Archives/>, HighWire Press Free <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>, Networked Computer Science Technical Reference Library <http://www.ncstrl.org>, CERN Document Server (CDS) <http://weblib.cern.ch/>, Public Library of Science <http://www.plos.org/index.html>, PubMed Central (PMC) <http://pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>, The Economics network (RePEc) <http://repec.org/>, etc.

v) **Search and Browsing Facility:** The list of journals covered in the scheme is updated from time to time and is available on the INFLIBNET Centre's website <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in> under UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium category.

**vi) Document Delivery Service:** Though many journals are being considered for subscription under consortium, copies of articles from many other titles which are not subscribed under the consortium may be obtained from any participating library through Document Delivery Service by sending the request.

The e-subscription initiative under UGC-Infonet is expected to trigger remarkable increase in sharing of both print and electronic resources amongst the university libraries through one of the gateway portals being identified. The gateway portals provide customized solution not only to access the resources online but also access the resources of other libraries participating in the consortium. The consortium headquarter (INFLIBNET) is assigned to function as a resource centre with an aim to cater to the needs of its members for resources not 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. Moreover, all problems associated with print media such as their wear and tear, location, shelving, binding, organizing, etc. would not be an issue for electronic resources.

ICMR in the form of ICMR e-Consortia has been subscribing to the e-journals in a consortia mode to all ICMR institutes. The Council also provides partial financial assistance for organising Seminars/ Symposia/ Workshops.



**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q 1 : Write the full form of the following**

a) CALIBER .....

b) DELNET .....

c) INDEST .....
d) INFLIBNET .....
e) JANET . .....
f) MARC .....
g) OCLC .....
h) PLANNER .....



## 5.6 LET US SUM UP

According to Allen Kent "the success and survival of libraries will much depend on how much and to what extent the libraries cooperate with each other in future". Further, tremendous explosion of information, financial constraints, information in different forms etc., compelling the libraries to form network and consortia is an essential facet of modern library practices.

In library network the particular focus is forming online networks by using computers and linking members to the computer resources by means of telecommunication connections. When a group of libraries using computers decide to exchange information, a network is developed.

The library network deals with the development of software for library automation, automation of the member libraries, retro-conversion of records, cooperative acquisition, creating union catalogue, development of database of the holdings in member libraries, conducting training, workshops and seminar, providing DDS, Email, CD-ROM, internet access facilities. It also provides reference service, referral service, and provides technical support to member institutions in the selection of hardware, software, and technical problem faced by the member libraries. But till now except DELNET and INFLIBNET, most of the other library networks have yet to develop databases of library holdings in a significant way. Even these two networks have to go a long way to cover in their databases the entire holdings of all the participating libraries. Unless this is achieved, the networks

would not be able to achieve significant resource sharing as well as rationalization in library acquisitions.

The library cooperation / resource sharing / networking / consortia or by whatever name we term it aims to improve the existing organizational infrastructure of the participating libraries in terms of finance, manpower, equipment, document, and other library facilities. It improves the effectiveness and efficiencies of the participating libraries to serve the needs of the user, improves access to resources, widens information coverage and accelerates the sphere in the supply of information, and helps in utilizing the available resources to the optimum level.



## 5.7 FURTHER READINGS


1) Arora, Sumita (2002). *Introductory information technology: A* text book for Class IX. New Delhi: Dhanpat Rai and Co.
2) Chakrabarti, Bhubaneswar (1993). *Library and information society. Calcutta: World Press.*
3) Dhiman, Anil K. (2002). *Academic libraries. New Delhi: Ess Ess.*
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5) Mahapatra, Piyushkanti (1985). The computer in library services. Calcutta: World Press.
6) P.S.G. Kumar (2004). *A students manual of library and information science,* 2nd ed.. Delhi: B.R. Publishing corporation.
7) Rajaraman, V. (2000). *Fundamentals of computer. 3rd ed.. New Delhi: Prentice Hall.*
8) Tripathi, S.M., Lal, C and K Kumar (2002). *Descriptive questions in Library and Information Science. New Delhi: Ess Ess*.



## 5.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

**Ans to Q No 1:**

a) Convention on Automation of LIBraries in Education and Research institutions.

b) DEveloping Library NETwork.

c) Indian National Digital library in Engineering Sciences and Technology

d) INFormation and LIBrary NETwork

e) Joint Academic NETwork.

f) MAchine Readable Catalogue.

g) Online Computer Library Centre.

h) Promotion of Library Automation and Networking in North Eastern Region.\



## 5.9 PROBABLE QUESTIONS

**Ans to Q No 2:**

1) Write a short note on the development of library network in India.

2) Write notes on INFLIBNET and DELNET.

3) Write a note on INDEST Consortium, and UGC-Infonet E-journal Consortium.

**Ans to Q No 3 :**

1) What is meant by library cooperation? What are the different type of library cooperation?

2) Describe the activities of OCLC.

3) Define a library network and describe its advantages.

4) What do you mean by Library Consortia? Briefly describe the Indian library consortia.

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