LIBRARY CONSORTIA: ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE AND ITS IMPLICATION IN LIBRARY

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Abstract:- *The present papers discuss and throw light on concept of library consortia advantage and disadvantage and its implication in library. This paper will attempt to understand what are library consortia? Library consortia are the exchange of resources between participating libraries. Today the libraries promote the global use of digital information through internet and provide the information to our user. It is also discuss today this is an age of information explosion so no one library can provide fulfill information to users the emergence of the internet particularly the world wide web as a new medium of information storage .the information explosion are most challenging tasks for library profession and information centre This paper briefly discusses the concept, need, advantage, function, disadvantage of library consortia and also important of library consortia.*

Keywords:- *Library Consortia, Library Services, Library profession, Digital Information*

Introduction:-

Library consortia are the exchange of resources between participating libraries. It would not be an exaggeration to describe the current era as an era of information explosion. No library can meet all the needs of its users due to various limitations. In today's technological age, libraries and information centers have started to acquire and maintain new form of information resources such as electronic journals, electronic books, online database, and electronic documents. It is not possible for a library or information center to contain the stock of information for resources or to obtain all the information that its casters may require, not even a single library of information center can satisfy the knowledge drive of all readers of your companies. To solve this problem, cooperation between libraries started a long time ago, such as interlibrary loan, document delivery, library networks.

Currently the most widely accepted resource sharing system is called library consortia. The idea of consortia is not new. There have been cases in which several libraries joined voluntarily for the mutual benefit of their respective users like cooperatives it was the first stage of cooperation between libraries. The consortiums is a Latin word, which means 'society' association or company liand derives from censor partner in turn from co together and sores fate which means media owner or partner. A consortium of libraries it is a collective activity of a group of libraries with the common objective of sharing resources.

Definitions of Library Consortia:- Hirsh on (1999) explained that "Library Consortia is a generic term to indicate any group of libraries that are working together towards a common goal whether to expand cooperation on traditional library services such as collection development or electronic information services.

Need of Consortia:-

Access to resources is now considered more important that the collection building. The consortium makes it easier for libraries to gain the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and the best licensing conditions. A consortium, with the collective strength of the resources for the different institutions at its disposal is in a better position to solve the problems of managements, organization and storage of electronic. Some of the main problems facing the need for a consortium are

- Budget overloaded
- Information explosion
- Impossibility of self-sufficiency
- Availability of publisher
- Diversity of user needs
- Quick access
- Improve the quality standard of research
- Librarianship professionalism

Advantages of Consortia:-

- Encourage collaboration in various library activities
- Develop communication different libraries
- Avoid duplicating the main collection especially for the main magazines
- Scope of electronic files
- Easy access to internet resource sharing by developing a common resource database
- Reduce the cost of information and save time
- Better sharing of resources
- More professional service to users and helps develop competitive professionalism among LIS professionals

Disadvantages of library consortia:-

Electronic products are saved through digitization in various ways. Digital information is very fragile and can therefore be lost due to technical problems and frequent updates.

- Budget allocation and financial problems
- Sometime users don't even accept evinces like print magazines. In some articles or magazine the highlighted hyperlinks do not provide access to related information and that user cannot retrieve necessary information

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- There is also a lack of storage facilities for previous editions of electronic journals for unreliable telecommunication network
- Sufficient knowledge of ICT based technology is required for participating libraries to manage the library consortium nut mist library professionals and user are unfamiliar with advanced technology. That is way a training, awareness program is very necessary
- There is also a publisher's copyright issue. Sometimes publishers have provided the unwanted or irrelevant magazines in their packages to create a puzzle
- The absence of printed copies of the magazines is one of the main drawback in the consortium

Characteristics of library consortia:-

- Library consortia offer users the availability of information and resources 24 hours a day. 7 days a week
- Solved maintenance issue
- The library consortia promote the electronic publication of information in various ways
- Library consortia assists in direct purchase from the publisher which helps reduce purchase cost. It also promote the rational use of funds
- Improve library services such as current awareness service, selective dissemination of information, Indexing and abstraction services
- Cost sharing for technical and training support and cost reduction through group purchases
- Useful library consortia for the development of the technical skills of the stall.
- Library consortia prove to be very useful and supportive in providing a volume of information
- Avoid space problems since when using library consortiums it is not necessary to buy or acquire all the resources of the library
- Library consortia help in the development of ICT environments that give the possibility of obtaining.

Conclusion:-

In the technological age library and information centers have begun to acquire and maintain new form of information resources such as electronic journal, electronic books, it is the best way to subscribe information resources through consortia so that more and more libraries get the lowest maximum prices. The consortium with its collective strength of participating institution attracted deeply discounted subscription fees with more favorable agreement terms. Consortia are tools that will help exploit the features of electronic journals as well as save money. The consortia directly or indirectly benefited several institutions.

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