

**RESOURCE SHARING IN ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN
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"This paper deals with resources sharing of academic libraries especially in Engineering colleges in Telangana. Especially concentrated on library resources, library consortiums & library engineering & technology libraries in Telangana. What are Problems faced by the library professionals & users while accessing the resources are also mentioned".

Key Words: Resource Sharing, Library Networks & NLIST

IMPORTANCE OF ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Libraries provide support to engineering colleges for achieving the goals and vision of respective engineering colleges by ensuring quality library and information support services to the students, research scholars, and faculty members. Librarians are professionally committed to updating the collections continuously to reinforce and enrich the knowledge base for assisting the stakeholders of engineering colleges to achieve excellence in academics, research and development, consultancy, continuing engineering education, and interaction with the external environment. Over time, the needs of the users of engineering have drastically changed.

Libraries are the soul of any research or academic institution. They form the most vital form of education, especially in the field of engineering education. Due to rapid developments taking place in various fields of science and technology, it becomes imperative for libraries to remain updated so that information becomes accessible to its pursuers.

Libraries of engineering colleges support their parent institutions to achieve their goals, and vision by ensuring quality library and information support services to the students, research scholars, and faculty members. Librarians are constantly engaged to update and strengthen collections continuously to reinforce and enrich the knowledge base in the process of assisting the stakeholders to achieve excellence in academics, consultancy, and research and development activities.

The rate at which information technology is growing today is evident from the fact that it had invaded almost every part of our life and libraries are no exception. The technological advances and changes in the form of resources from print to electronic medium have led to the rapid proliferation of several information resources in the form of e-books, e-reference works, e-journals, and online databases.

The availability of numerous institutional repositories, the National Knowledge Resource Consortium - the national platform to allocate Science and Technology (S&T) online resources to all laboratories of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology (INDEST) - the consortium supported by Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide electronic resources for centrally funded government institutions including IITs, IISc, NITs, IIITs, ISM, IIMs,

NITTTTRs, and a few other central government institutions, have drastically changed how the information is accessed and disseminated.

This situation places a great deal of stress on information professionals. On the one hand, they have to brush up on knowledge of technology and tools and, on the other, learn new management skills working in cohesion with groups of institutions and their policies.

Resource Sharing

Resource sharing is concerned with the sharing of library resources by certain participating libraries among themselves on the basis of the principle of cooperation. The term 'resource' represents three entities in a library viz; 'man, material and money'. By means of RS the library resources and functions are shared in common by a group of libraries. RS facilitates the provision of access to more resources and services and the optimum utilization of budgets. Library resource sharing, library cooperation, library network and library consortium are the various terms used interchangeably to represent the same activity.

Forms of RS The different conventional forms of RS being practiced world wide are:

- Inter-Library Loan
- Cooperative Acquisition
- Cooperative Processing
- Cooperative Storage
- Union Catalogs
- Union Lists
- Document Delivery Service
- Exchange of Personnel and Training

The advent of electronic resources radically changed the modes of RS. Shared acquisition of electronic content and electronic document delivery have now become the most common form of RS in the world.

Library Consortium

The term consortium refers to a group of organizations which come together to fulfill a common objective. This requires cooperation and sharing of resources. Library consortium is an association of a group of libraries for delivering better facilities and services by means of cooperation. Library consortia are usually constituted by a group of libraries, preferably with some homogeneous characteristics like same subject field, institutional affiliation, affiliation to funding authorities, etc. The primary objective of such an effort is providing expanded access to information resources and services to their user communities with due adherence to copyright compliances. Other major objectives of library consortium are as follows: To support RS by means of cooperative acquisition of

- print and electronic resources
- Enhance Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery Service (DDS).
- Rational utilization of funds
- Reduce the subscription costs and maximize
- utilization of resources Enhance the technical skills of library professionals

Consortia Models:

Various models of consortia are being adopted by libraries as discussed below.

- Open Consortia

- Closed Group Consortia
- Centrally Funded Consortia
- Shared Budget Consortia
- National Consortia
- Regional Consortia

The successful operation of any RS activity or consortia largely depends upon the policies, plan of action and willingness to share the resources

Objectives

Objectives of the Study Based on the research questions enumerated under section the objectives of the study are formulated as

- 1) To analyse the status of the print resources, services and Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure of the libraries the engineering college libraries affiliated to JNTU, Hyderabad
- 2) To identify the extent of availability of e-resources in the engineering college libraries affiliated to JNTU, Hyderabad
- 3) To identify digital library initiatives and study the functions, services and problems of established digital libraries.
- 4) To ascertain the staff strength in the libraries and their ICT skills.
- 5) To identify and study the existing system of cooperation among these libraries.
- 6) To examine the problems felt by the librarians towards effective cooperation.

Hypotheses

1. There is a significant gap between the colleges with respect to their library facilities.
2. There is no uniform pattern for staff strength and salary among these libraries.
3. There is no effective means of co-operation among these libraries.
4. Usage and user satisfaction regarding e-resources are dependent on their category and status of institution.
5. Majority of the users are dissatisfied with their library resources.

Literature Review

1. Handa and Singh (2010) conducted an evaluative survey to assess the management, resources and services of engineering colleges affiliated to the Punjab Technical University. Questionnaires were distributed to all the 82 colleges affiliated to the university. It was found that 71.09% of libraries had a book selection policy. The paper presented a thorough discussion of the resources, organization and services of the libraries under study. The authors opined that there was a scarcity of adequate professional staff. With respect to the IT infrastructure, the study pointed out that there was a wide gap among the colleges. Some libraries had made substantial growth in this direction while some others were planning or in the early stage of implementation. The study suggested to improve the collection development policy and the extent of IT application in the libraries.

2. Kumar and Kumar (2010) examined the perception and use of e-resources and the internet by the engineering, medical and management academics in Bangalore City, India. Data were collected from 300 students and faculty members in selected engineering, medical

and management colleges of Bangalore City by means of questionnaire method. The results showed that 70% of the respondents were aware of electronic resources with the engineering academics being more aware as compared to other disciplines.

3. Kaur (2009) The impact of electronic resources in engineering and technological institutions in India was examined. A questionnaire survey was conducted among the faculty members, research scholars, undergraduate & postgraduate students in 4 institutions including two IITs, one university and one college. It was found that majority of the users from IITs were aware of electronic resources and services whereas most of the users from the other 2 institutes were unaware.

4. Satpathy and Rout (2010) E-databases and e-journals were the most used e-resources by the faculty members of C.V.Raman College of Engineering (CVRCE), Bhubaneswar as reported. The authors analysed the faculty members' awareness and use of e-resources by means of a structured questionnaire survey. Upon a response rate of 80%, it was found that faculty members were aware of e-resources and knowledgeable about copyright/IPR issues. E-databases and e-journals were followed by e-books and ETDs with respect to their popularity. The main purposes for using these resources were identified as study and teaching followed by research works. The study pointed out some dissatisfaction among the respondents regarding the available resources. Non availability of the needed e-resource was the main reason behind this followed by lack of sufficient infrastructure. Majority of the respondents opined that e-resources were useful to a great extent.

5. Williams and Woolwine (2011) conducted a questionnaire survey among the American academic libraries participating in the ILL system of OCLC to study the ILL activity and practices, licensing agreements and the effect of digitally held full-text articles on ILL rates. A second focus was an examination of how the size of print journals and monograph collections affected ILL activity. The study gathered ILL statistics for the period from 1997–2008 and found out that there was a general increase in ILL activity since the 1990s. The study reported a strong correlation between print journal and monograph collection size versus ILL activity. A major finding was that the presence of licensed databases with full-text content did not seem to have adversely affected interlibrary loan activity.

Maximize the resources of the libraries

The primary objective of resource sharing is to maximize the resource base, i.e., collection, staff, infrastructure, as well as services of the participating libraries. They would be benefited by the resources of other libraries adding to their own resources.

Provide far and wide access to information

We are living in the information age where information is a commodity needed by one and all. We are highly dependent on information. It is a resource as important as energy. Information is required for decision making at different levels. In view of this scenario, one should not be deprived of information needed. Libraries have different document collection. They are strong in some areas and weaker in others.

They lack resources to excel in all areas. If libraries share amongst each other, they can overcome this limitation of poor document collection by having wider access to resources of various libraries.

Make rational acquisition and saving of financial resources

Resource sharing results in a rational acquisition of documents. A library should only acquire those documents that are core to the area of its organization. It can satisfy minor or auxiliary needs from other libraries with which it shares. Similarly it can satisfy the minor needs of other libraries. There should be no or minimum possible duplication of documents among the libraries in the same vicinity. It would result in a rationalized acquisition of documents. Make optimal use of resources Libraries share their resources to save and use them optimally.

Cooperative acquisition enables them to save on money spent on documents. Cooperative cataloguing and classification enables them to save on staff salaries, efforts, and time spent on technical processing. Create uniform practices in routines A central agency can be entrusted the task of cataloguing and classification, which can be followed by others as well. This will result in standardization. Uniform practices are helpful to users as well as to staff. It is a result of sharing and a requirement too.

LIBRARY NETWORKS IN INDIA Efficient resource sharing can be achieved by using recent advances in Information Technology, i.e., networking of libraries and information centres through Local Area Networks, Metropolitan Area Networks, Wide Area Network and so on. The beginning of library networks in India can be traced back to the mid eighties with the conceptualization of Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET). It is an example of a Metropolitan Area Network (MAN). The others in library network in category are Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN). As the names suggest, they are created to serve institutions in a metropolitan city, within the campus of the institute and on a national and global scale respectively. The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) had a major role in setting up MANs in India. These started with the setting up of Calcutta.

Libraries Network, CALIBNET (1988) followed by Developing Libraries Network, DELNET (1992) (earlier known as Delhi Libraries Network), Ahmedabad Libraries Network, ADINET (1993), Madras Libraries Network, MALIBNET (1993), Bombay Libraries Network, BONET (1994), Mysore Libraries Network, MYLIBNET (1994) and Bangalore Libraries Network, BALNET (1995). CALIBNET has participating libraries in Kolkata that includes university, college, research and government libraries. It aims to provide access to the collection of libraries in the city as well as to global information required by its users. BONET started in 1994 with the support of NISSAT in the building of National Centre of Software Technology (NCST), now C-DAC (Centre for the Development of Advance Computing). It planned to provide centralized access to databases of participating libraries and other specialized databases. It conducted training programmes for the professionals working in the participating libraries. The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), a project of the Inter University Centre (IUC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) has played a significant role in sharing of library and information resources and services among academic and research institutions. Of the different MANs, DELNET has been actively providing services to its members and has been initiating new services. Others have not been so active in achieving the objectives set up by them. Let us know discuss some more details of INFLIBNET and DELNET two networks in India.

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