

National Law University Library Consortium: A Step towards Equal Opportunity

Dr. Y. Vajpayee

University Librarian, Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, (CG) India

yogibajpai73@gmail.com,

dr.yogesh.bajpai@kalingauniversity.ac.in

Abstract: *Well-equipped library is an essential component of the any National Law University structure. Libraries are embedded in this eco-system and must adjust to changing requirements and expectations of the users. The present status of the legal academic Library consortium as an organizational form demonstrates its importance, potential significance as a manifestation of the entrepreneurial university in a consumerist society. Consortium based access of e legal resources would be one of the most economical ways for accessing e journals by all National Law University Libraries.*

Keywords: Legal Library Consortia, Library Consortia, National Law University

1. Introduction

Library Consortium is a collective group of different libraries to achieve mutually the common objective. Library Consortium is also referred as “cooperatives”, “networks”, “collectives”, “alliances”, “partnerships” as well as “federation”. “Library consortium is group of libraries formed by common formal agreement, usually for the purpose of improving services through e-resource sharing among its members. Bansode (2012) found a consortium to be a co-operative arrangement among groups or institutions or an association or society. Consortia are usually formed to enhance the purchasing capacity of the member institutions, to expand the e-resource availability and to offer automated library services.

2. Review of Literature

Douglas, A (2006)³⁸ discusses a crucial aspect of library consortia. How the cost of consortia is divided between different types of libraries which differ in size of users and geographically separated. When consortia are not based on a integrate funding source, they face the problem of deciding how to assign the costs of the consortium to which they subscribe among their member libraries. This research essay examines many ways for the distribution of costs within consortia.

Dong and Zou (2009) studied and analysed the growth of library consortia in People's Republic Of China from 1980 to the 2008. They also give examples and details of various types of library consortia presently working in People's Republic of China including public, special, academic and various multi-type library consortia both at regional and national level.

The issues of libraries, and is of strong belief that we can only survive by forming consortia. When vendor asked him question that why consortia exists? Author gave him simple answer that “because libraries want them to exist. Wisner, J. (2012)” the present scenario of corporation, resource sharing, remote access, networking, consortia which are

actually important at this movement, Vasanth and Mudhol (2007).

Bielefield & Cheeseman (1999) suggested that it is essential for library or library consortia to develop a future plan of negotiation strategy and specific license terms and conditions that are admissible, satisfactory, or obligatory for them before entering into the negotiation with a publisher/supplier.

3. Objectives

- 1) To find out cost-cutting of e-journal subscription because most of the Legal Databases which are subscribed by all National Law Libraries, provided same information like Privy Council, Supreme Court all High Courts, all Tribunals and Arbitrations decision etc. By this Legal Library Consortium, we can reduce the cost of subscription.
- 2) To find out sharing research data and materials, it may be very helpful for researchers.
- 3) To find out the way how students, faculty and researchers can share E-books, which are available in all 21 National Law Schools.
- 4) To find out sharing Doctoral Thesis, Dissertation and Project Reports with each other.
- 5) To find out Library technical work would be easy because Classification numbers and Cataloguing we can share with each other.
- 6) To find out Indexing and Abstracting services we can share with each other.
- 7) To find out with the help of this Legal Consortium we may try to create a good co-operation between all National Law Universities/Schools in India.

4. What is Library Consortium

The available literature shows that the consortium concept in library field is not new and it refers to different aspect of library, like library co-operation, library co-ordination and collaboration between libraries for the purpose of sharing e-resources. However, libraries had not used it until 1980s. (Nfila & Darko-Ampem, 2002). In library consortium,

members share different types of e- resources according to their users requirement i.e. e-content (e-books, e-journals, and other e-media), catalogue, OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), and other library services. An collaboration between independent libraries or library systems established by formal agreement usually for the purpose of e-resource sharing, consortium membership should be restricted to a specific geographic region, types of library (public, academic and special), or subject specialization.(ALI. Amjad.2006)”

4.1 List of Indian Academic Consortia

- Forum for resource Sharing in Astronomy (FORSA)-1982
- TIFR Libraries Consortium-1999
- ISI Library Consortia Deals-1999
- STI Network for resource sharing amongst S & T Libraries-1999
- DAE Consortium-2001
- IIM Libraries Consortia-2001
- JCCC & VIC-2002
- CSIR E-Journal Consortium-2002
- INDEST -AICTE Consortium-2003
- RGUHS-Health Science Library and Information Network (HELINET)-2003
- UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium-2004
- MCIT Library Consortium-2005
- BJ Medical Consortium-2006
- Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA)-2007
- Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED)-2008
- CSIR E-Journal Consortium now The National Knowledge Resources Consortium (NKRC)-2009
- DRDO Consortium-2009
- DelCON Consortium-2009
- National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-List)
- E Shodh Sindhu -2016
 - ICICI Knowledge Park

4.2 Need for Legal Library Consortia in India

Access to Legal resources is now considered more important than collection building. The Legal consortium would be facilitated the all National Law Universities/schools libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and the best term of licenses. A Legal consortium with the collective strength of resources of various institutions would be available to it is in a better position to address and resolve the problem of managing, organizing and archiving the electronic resources. Each and every National Law University annually expend around 7-10 lakh for Online Legal Database (SCC online, LexisNexis, Manupatra, Taxmann, WestLaw India, JSTOR, Kluwer Arbitration etc.)

The adaptation to e-environment both by libraries and users in India is picking up. The library consortia developments are still in the initial stage. The existing consortia, more or less have adopted publishers/vendors driven pricing models. There are many other burning issues related to consortia like

consortia governance, management, administration, technology, collection development, licensing, access, archiving, copyright, information literacy for librarians and users. While there have been some efforts to follow certain standards and guidelines by existing consortia initiatives in India, there is no consistency among the existing initiatives. In view of this there is need for designated government or professional body or forum in line with ICOLC to discuss the issues concerned for the development of consortia in India.

5. National Law University/School Concept

In late 80s, at that time, a career in law was by no means a coveted one, and the Legal Education System in India itself was facing a crisis of trustworthiness. Prof. N R Madhav Menon coined a new idea of “National Law School” for changing the scenario of legal education/research in India. Professor N R Madhav Menontrans formed both;

- 1) Setting a new standard in professional legal education, and
- 2) Becoming a success story which paved the way for all the National Law Universities.

At that time various proposals to renovate legal education were considered and approved by the "Legal Education Committee" of the Bar Council, in an effort to upgrade legal education throughout India. The committee major plans were the decision to establish unique institutions to impart legal education in an integrated and diversified manner. The aim was to revitalize the legal profession by making law as an appalling profession and making it competitive to attract genius, which was hitherto absorbed in other professional areas such as management institutions (IIM) Technical Institutions (IITs) etc.

5.1 National Law University/ School

National Law Universities are single-discipline universities that offer integrated honours as well as law degrees (Diploma in different Laws, B.A. LL.B, LL.M., Legal Research) to aspirants. First National Law University started in 1986 and was called National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore. NLSIU was established under National Law School of India Act, 1986. Following the footsteps of NLSIU Bangalore, most of the other State Legislative Assemblies also passed legislations to establish national law schools. All the National Law Schools (NLS) thus established may differ from NLSIU in terms of modalities but their motto, organisational structure as well as model of imparting education is more or less the same. In 2019, the newest National Law School (NLS) was added to the total number of national law schools in the country, there are at least 21 such institutions in the country today.

5.2 List of National Law schools in India

- National Law School of India University, Bangalore
- National Law Institute University, Bhopal
- NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad
- The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata

- National Law University, Jodhpur, Jodhpur
- Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur
- Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar
- Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow
- Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala
- Chanakya National Law University, Patna
- National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi
- National Law University, Delhi
- National Law University Odisha, Cuttack
- National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi
- National Law School and Judicial Academy, Assam, Guwahati
- Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam
- Tamil Nadu National Law School, Trichy
- Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai
- Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur
- Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad
- Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat, Haryana

5.3 Success Story of Legal Library consortium in abroad

Legal Consortium in United States of America

The Consortium for Innovative Legal Education (CILE) is an ideal and cooperative model for legal education consisting of four independent ABA and AALS-accredited American law schools:

- New England School of Law in Boston
- South Texas College of Law in Houston
- California Western School of Law
- William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul

The Consortium is a creative educational service organization of combined resources and cooperative effort designed to improve and boost the educational aim of each school separately and all of them collectively. This exclusive association provides expanded chance for Legal educational programs on a national and international basis.

<https://www.cwsl.edu/academics/academic-initiatives/consortium-for-innovative-legal-education>

Mid-America Law Library Consortium

MALLCO is a Law library consortium of 27 laws professional libraries from ten states of United States of America: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The main aim of the Mid-America Law Library Consortium (MALLCO) is to guide, motivate and encourages for cooperative endeavours among member law school libraries in order to proceed the research and educational opportunities of all member libraries, the Law schools they

serve, and the broader legal community. (<https://icolc.net/consortia/>)

NELLCO

NELLCO Law Library Consortium, Inc. is a consortium of law libraries, founded in New England, United States of America in 1983. Their membership includes:

- 1) Academic;
- 2) State, court and county; and
- 3) Private non-profit law libraries in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

NELLCO is an example of international consortium of law libraries. By working together through this unique consortium, their member libraries are able to fulfil readers demands much more than they could independently.

NELLCO has proven its value to members in four vital realms— collaboration, communication, innovation, and education. NELLCO member libraries collaborate to make the most of their fixed resources; communicate effectively using the most up-to-date technologies; innovate by undertaking cutting edge projects and programs; and educate our members by helping them to discover and disseminate new ideas. <https://www.nellco.org>

The Legal History Consortium is jointly financed by the Law School and the Graduate History Department at the University of Pennsylvania, United State of America. It was formed to promote integrated legal research, scholarship and education in law and history, with a concentration on the American legal history. Faculty members also affiliated with this Consortium who are specialize in American history and law and are devote to training graduate students in the best tradition of interdisciplinary work. The Consortium sponsors a speaker series, a joint degree program in law and history, and conferences. <https://www.law.upenn.edu/institutes/legalhistory/>.

5.4 Types of Consortium

Open Consortia: - INDEST it is run by ministry of HRD, GOC

Closed Group Consortia: - CSIR, IIMs, DAE Consortia.

Centrally Funded Model: - UGC INFONET, CSIR, ICMR consortia

Shared Budget Model: - IIM, FORSA.

Subject based Consortia: - HELINET (Health Sciences Library & Information Networks)

Publishers Initiatives: - SCIENCE DIRECT, EMERALD

National Consortium:- N-LIST in India (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content)

International Consortia: -TIMC (The Indian Mathematics Consortium)

5.5 Suitable Consortium for National Law Universities

We have seen all types of Consortiums as per their usefulness and specialization. Here in our area Legal Library we should preferred a combination “Shared Library Consortium” and “closed Library consortium”. All 24 National Law Universities will be equally pay for equal

access of legal database/ e-resources. Legal Library Consortium will be annually elect or nominate their chairman and secretary. Chairman and Secretary should annually collect subscription and other member's requisition for future e-collection like what type of information, data, journal, reports consortiums members want to subscribe. Unanimously or majority decision would be preferred for collective purchase. Databases and e-journals acquisitions and subscriptions, member libraries can identify resources of interest and the Alliance works with the vendor, negotiating discounts, coordinating trials, licensing and invoicing.

6. Future Implication

At present 24 National Law Universities/Schools are providing quality legal education in India. All universities' mission is same, like Advancement of learning, teaching, research, diffusion of knowledge in the field of law; increase legal awareness in the Indian community and further the cause of social justice by providing legal aid to the underprivileged sections of the society; To advance the professional education in convergence with knowledge of other related disciplines so as to provide adequate orientation and training including facilities of continuing education to law teachers, judicial officers, advocates and other persons in the civil society engaged or interested in legal field involved in the administration of justice. Kemdarne (2012) reviewed that the common form of library cooperation began with the sharing of union catalogue, storage facilities, collection development and human resources at local, regional and national level so as to provide an efficient service for their and users. (15%)

Hence financial resources are not very huge for any National Law University Library. They have to manage in annual library budget which is not enough for all library requirements. In this situation the proposed concept would be very fruitful for all National Law University Libraries. Within their limited library budget, they can access all types of legal database, e-books, e-journals, legal research, course materials, Indian court cases decision, foreign court cases and their decisions, means all types of facility which is require for students, faculty or researcher.

7. Conclusion

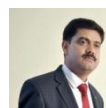
Consortium covers much larger ground than the simple Inter Library Loan (ILL) agreement. It is one of the emerging phenomena for libraries to provide information to their users with an edge over the normal routes of accessibility.

Consortium is important source for libraries and really helping the specific research activities by providing relevant information with fast retrieval services for clients as well as save the time under limited budget. There is a need to work sincerely so that the Library Budget/funds can be saved which are otherwise spent unnecessary when the journals and electronic databases are subscribed by an individual library where the scope of negotiation with vendor for price and benefits is very low in consortia

References

- [1] ALI, Amjad (2006). ANE's encyclopaedic dictionary of library and information science.vol.1, p.209. New Delhi: Ane Books India.
- [2] Baathuli Nfila, R. & Darko-Ampem, K. (2002). Developments in Academic Library Consortia from the 1960s through to 2000: A Review of the Literature. *Library Management*.23 (4/5), 209.
- [3] Bansode, S.Y.(2007).Library Consortia in India: Issues and Prospects. *TRIM*, 3(02), 138-152.
- [4] Bielefield, A., & Cheeseman, L. (1999). *Interpreting and Negotiating Licensing Agreements: A Guidebook for the Library, Research, and Teaching Professions*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers.
- [5] Douglas, A., (2006) Allocation of Costs for Electronic Products in Academic Library Consortia. *College & Research Libraries*, 3, 123-135.
- [6] Elaine Xiaofen Dong & Tim Jiping Zou (2009). Library Consortia in China. *LIBRES Library and Information Science research Electronic Journal*, 19(1), 1-10.
- [7] Kemdarne, S.B., (2012). *Library Automation and Networking in Dental college*. (Unpublished doctoral thesis). Tilak Maharashtra Vidhyapeeth, Pune, Maharashtra.
- [8] Vasanth, N. & Mudhol, M.V.(2007)Advanced approach in using E-resources of the INDESTAICTE Consortium. *SRELS Journal of Information Mangement*, 44(04), 367-374.
- [9] Wisner, J. (2012).Playing Well with Others: New Opportunities for Library Consortia. *Theological librarianship: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association*, 4 (1), 43-47.
- [10] <https://icolc.net/consortia/16a>
- [11] <https://www.nellco.org>

Author Profile



Dr. Y Vajpayee is working as University Librarian in Kalinga University Raipur. Dr. Bajpai obtained his Doctorate in Library and Information Science on "Public Library as an Instrument in Eradication of Adult Illiteracy: A Case Study of Eritrea (North East Africa). He has as experience of seventeen years in active Library service as well as 12 years as an Academician. He is editor of two International journals and has published many research papers in different National and International Journals. He worked almost ten years in African countries as Librarian and Assistant Professor. He is member of different National and International Library organisations. He is expertise in Library Consortium, Information Literacy, Information Storage and Retrieval through Cloud Space and innovative research in library and information science.