

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES
21ST CENTUARY
IN THE CONTEXT OF LIBRARY
PROFESSIONALS

Smart Partnership In library
professional

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Introduction

- India has a large educational system comprising thousands of colleges and hundreds of Universities along with several institutes of higher education.
- The College and University libraries, being the nerve centre of the higher education and learning, play a vital role in support of all the activities, such as teaching, research and publication.
- Our higher education system is passing through lot of problems due to economic recession and cost-recovery concepts.
- The college and university libraries in India are faced with the challenges to meet the user requirements due to various reasons such as exponential growth of knowledge.
- The situation has paved the way for serious thinking on the capabilities to compensate for reduced budgets. In this time collaborative initiatives is necessary in all related fields in Library.

What is Resource Sharing ?

- Resource sharing in libraries is defined as a mode of operation whereby factions are shared in common by a number of libraries in its most positive effects.
- Resource sharing entails reciprocity, employing partnership in which each member has something useful to contribute to others and in which every member is willing and able to make available.

Why we need smart partnership ?

- The growth of the information and communication technology changed the entire library activities from traditional to digital and printed documents to e-resources.
- The application of information and communication technology in libraries has proved great opportunities for e-resources distributed them the way the user preferred.
- Modern libraries now adopting various electronic resources for its collection development in a better way and the users are accessing these resources in their fingertips as and when they required.

Importance of Library

- In present time libraries play a vital role in the dissemination of knowledge & information and are an important element of the foundation of knowledge economy.
- No library can afford to house all the documents that are published in the area of its specialization.
- As such functional resource sharing/networking among the libraries has become a necessity.
- Previously, libraries have been procuring print versions of the journals and literatures to meet their knowledge needs.
- With the advent of internet facilities and advancement of web technology, almost all reputed journals are available on-line and can be easily accessed by the users over the network.

Smart Partnership

- As smart partnership is an initiative that would benefit many users, libraries and other information agencies are keen to work with each other in a lot of different aspects from management, to promotion and towards provision of information.
- Libraries and information providers all over the world have been involved in smart partnership in one way or another for a very long time.
- Library co-operation may just be for inter library loan or it would be extended to full resource sharing or smart partnership that goes beyond resource sharing, where members are working and collaborating together to achieve common goals and objectives either between two or more libraries locally, regionally or world-wide.

Proposal for future development

- As smart partnership is not a one time project, there are a lot that could be done in the future.
- This future development plan could ensure on going collaborations among libraries.
- As there are a lot of opportunities to strengthen smart partnership, current collaboration should encompass other areas of knowledge as well as knowledge enhancement such as training and workshops.

Conclusion

- Academic libraries in India are facing challenges due to budget cut, reduced staff, devaluation of rupee, steep hike in cost of publication.
- Due to the factors mentioned above, academic libraries are finding it difficult to buy required number of books and periodicals, which has resulted into the adverse impact on the research and development programmers.
- In above all reasons smart partnership techniques among Libraries and information providers in existence amidst the challenges faced by them.