CHAPTER 8

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There is a potential for consortia to continue developing into an essential tool for the library. The economics of current publishing and library funding of journals, both in print and electronic. Encourage this potential by making material and services available that no single institution could manage by itself. Further research and study into new consortia models will have to be done. Because there are many different types of consortia, and there will be the need to develop new pricing models, revenue sources, and licensing practices for electronic journals. The consortia are an old tool, yet it may still have far-reaching implications for libraries and publishers; how the two parties forge their relationship will directly impact their existence and how they will operate together in the future.

Providing access to e-resources to faculty and researchers is not a purpose in itself. It is only a mean to trigger a stronger research and academic culture in the institutions recipient of this benefit. The consortium efforts should, therefore, lead to increase in productivity of scientific and research output both in quality and quantity. Ensuring optimal use of electronic resources in one of the biggest concerns for consortium that receives central findings from the government. Libraries and information professionals are required to play a proactive role in promoting usage of resources amongst faculty and researchers.

Findings:

From the study it was found that –
1. In most of the colleges the number of CD-ROM databases is below 50 while in 2 institutes the number is more than 1000. It shows the few databases (50) in most of the institute have not helpful in providing better service.
2. In majority of the colleges (14), Less than 5000 E-journals have been subscribed (Through consortium), while six institutes are subscribing
more than 5000 E-journals. The number of subscribed journals found satisfactory.

3. Position of microfilms found unsatisfactory. The number of microfilm is 1-3 while 16 institutes have no microfilms.

4. The collection of books is not so encouraging as 8 institutes have less than 30000 books and 9 institutes have less than 40000 books which is not sufficient in view of the strength of the institutes. There are only 4 institutes having more than 50000 books.

5. Indian Print journals are not given more weightage because of increasing trend towards e-journals. 10 institutes subscribed less than 60 journals which is discouraging.

   So far foreign print journals are concerned they are in very less numbers 5 institutes subscribed less than 10 foreign journals and 13 institutes subscribed less than 20 journals.

6. AV Aids have given more importance (T. 2.6).

7. In faculty wise journals, 64% journals are subscribed on technology.

8. The strength of the faculty is discouraging as 14 institutes have less than 40 faculty members which is insufficient in comparison of students 15 strength.

9. The budget of books 2 Lakh to 3 Lakhs in 13 colleges while 3 Lakhs to 4 Lakhs in 5 colleges. There is only 1 college having budget more than 5 lakhs.

   The number of journals (consortium package), the number of journals is 5000 – 9000 in 10 colleges and above 9000 to 15000 in 6 colleges.

10. While going through Human Resources, it was found that number of skilled staff is 31.37% while semi professional is 39.86 and others (unskilled) are 28.76. It shows that skilled staff is 31.37% and unskilled staff is 68.62% which is not appreciable.

11. It has been found that 10 institutes have installed less than 100 (47.62%) computer systems, 7 institutes below 200 (33.33%) and 4 institutes below 300 (19.05%) systems. It shows that system are insufficient against the strength of the students. On the other hand 16 institutes have only are printer which is attached with librarian and generally not available to students.
In view of the above it is recommended that –

1. More databases should be purchased or made available.

2. Generally every institute has agreement for consortium and for about 5000 journals which is sufficient. But in some institutes this consortium is limited allowed and a certain period. There are few barriers of proper internet, electricity problems, and lack of guidance, which should be redressed.

3. Books collection should be increased as to make sufficient books available to users.

4. No doubt the use of print journals should be discouraged to adopt access to e-journals. But in India it will take time and so more print journals should be subscribed.

5. AV Aids should be given more importance.

6. E-resources like CD-ROM, E-mail should be encouraged to use by the students.

7. There is a lack of skilled staff. The vacant posts of professionals should be filled up and more posts should be created so that user may receive necessary guidance.

8. The number of computer systems should be increased as to meet the demand of the users.

A Future for Commercial Publishers?

In these revolutionary times, some commercial publishers are nervous. The Web has changed users’ expectations, and it is increasingly difficult for them to accept a situation in which the results of publicly funded faculty research, reviewed and edited by other faculty volunteer, are sold back to universities at an enormous cost, or else are not available at some universities because the cost is too high.

In the print environment, publishers are essential and can set the subscription terms for a journal based on its status and reputation. Users may still demand the “brand-name” journals, but that could change, depending on the success of the alternatives. Publishers are well positioned to carry on with what they do well continuing to play a key role in authentication and quality control of scholarly and research publication, but new technologies and the probability of new competition are changing the market-place.