CHAPTER-III

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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CHAPTER – III

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Review of literature is a key starting point for any research process assisting the researcher to identify previous and present research projects, and provide valuable knowledge for the understanding of theoretical and methodological issues surrounding the research topic. Therefore, the investigator has conducted a detailed search for literature and browsed databases such as Library & Information Science Abstracts (LISA), Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA), Electronic Management Research Library Database (EMERALD), Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier, Science Direct, Wiley Inter Science, Vidyanidhi and Internet.

This study reviewed the literature on library networking, resource sharing and consortium. Further, it examines some of the leading ongoing consortium projects across the globe. The reviewed work which was related to the topic has been arranged according to the following topics:

- Resource Sharing and Library Consortium
- Development of Library Network and Consortium
- Consortium Models around the World
- Law College Library Resources and Services
3.2 RESOURCE SHARING AND LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Allen and Hirshon (1998) defined library consortia as “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. It is used perhaps too broadly, and encompasses everything from formal legal entities to information groups that come together solely to achieve better pricing for purchasing electronic information”.

Aldrich et al. (1998) describe that the concept of consortia is based on the principle of cooperative arrangement among the group of institutions. A library consortium provides a way for its participating member institutions to conduct business in a competitive manner. The basic premise of consortia is to enable the members to collectively achieve more than what they can achieve as individual institutions.

According to INDEST (2003) report, the library consortia, on the basis of sheer strength of numbers of institutions, offers healthy business growth opportunities to the electronic publishers and thus attracts the best possible price and terms of agreement in a win-win situation for both. The collective strength of consortia members facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost, best terms and conditions.

Manjunatha and Shivalingaih (2003) opined that in the age of digital evolution and escalating price of electronic information, resource sharing is critical for effective functioning of libraries. Increased availability of information in digital format and high costs of journal subscriptions force the libraries to work together. Technical advancements provide a platform for digital resource sharing and offer many opportunities for librarians to become more technical and professional way.
Mudhol and Vasanth (2005) argue that the sharing is applicable in the use of documents, work force, facilities, services, and building space or equipment. In such a cooperative venture, it becomes possible for a user in any of the participating libraries to make use of the resources of participating libraries. Thus, through resource sharing, libraries can enhance the total collections, consolidate the technological capabilities, improve their information dissemination tools, and extend the library and information services to a large community. Resource sharing is considered as a great advantage of consortia for libraries, as today, the ability for users to access the resources is greater than collection of building. The consortia enable libraries to gain the benefits of wider access to electronic resources at an affordable cost (Singh and Singh, 2004).

Jayaprakash (2005) narrates that the shared subscription or consortia-based subscription to electronic resources through consortia of libraries is a feasible strategy to increase the access to electronic resources across institutions at highly discounted rates of subscription. The consortia-based subscriptions can be successfully deployed to meet the pressure such as diminishing budget, increased users’ demand, and rising cost of journals. The libraries all over the world are forming consortia of all types and levels with an objective to take advantage of current global network to promote better, faster and more cost-effective ways of providing electronic information resources to the information seekers.

Patil and Savanur (2006) described library consortia and resource sharing in India with a futuristic approach to e-resource sharing. According to them, consortium approach through different pricing, management and licensing models enable the libraries to provide access to various electronic resources. Slowly, dynamic digital/electronic/virtual libraries are replacing the static and paper based libraries step by step with flexible and efficient mechanisms for producing, organizing, locating,
repackaging and accessing of information. They have attempted to present a view for
the establishment of consortium for resource sharing among member libraries at
national and international level by suggesting a model of library consortia for its
successful implementation in Indian contexts.

Tripathi and Jeevan (2006) tell that ‘few libraries can exercise individually
but all libraries can be benefited collectively’. The commonality of their activities and
the relaxation of geographical boundaries fostered by information technologies have
encouraged libraries to join consortia in order to remain relevant in the current library
context. Library consortia bring the libraries and information centers together for
activities and objectives which cannot be as effectively undertaken individually.
Another shift in the operation of consortia based is the participation and inclusion of
information providers and publishers into picture, which are lacking in earlier
resource sharing initiatives like inter-library loan, library-oriented document delivery
services, rationalization of subscriptions, collaborative acquisitions etc. Therefore, the
library consortium has lot of relevance in modern information age particularly due to
the paucity of funds, multiplicity of documents, and proliferation of literature.

Rao (2006) wrote about knowledge-sharing activities in India and he said that
Libraries are striving to provide necessary and relevant information to their users.
Limited resources have been one of the main barriers to satisfy the growing
informational needs of the users. Now, the Indian libraries are planning various
methods of resource sharing to meet information needs. Attitudes of library and
institutional managements have undergone a change, to become more open to the
benefit of resource sharing. A number of formal arrangements are being made for
resource sharing among the libraries and there are such activities such as National
Information System in Science and Technology (NISSAT), National Information
Centers (NIC), library consortia, document delivery services and inter-library cooperation.

Gail et al. (2007) highlighted the innovations in resource sharing in the US library community with an international perspective. Anne (2008) described the need for rethinking of resource sharing to offer both library users and non-library users’ options to obtain the materials they seek from libraries and commercial sources. The article discusses several programs that are emerging such as ‘GoGetter’ function, the rethinking resource sharing manifesto, user needs, and delivery issues.

Paulos (2008) tells that the most successful libraries in southern Africa, Botswana and South Africa, have been able to form strong alliances. Developing complex and strong links and partnerships facilitate the utilization of information resources. The viewpoints expressed by LIS professions on resource sharing, highlight that the escalating cost of journals and other resources, shrinking library budgets motivate the libraries to come together for sharing the use of documents, work-force, facilities, services, building space or equipment. This environment allows users of one library to use the resources of other participating libraries in the group. The policies and practices of individual libraries moderate the nature of resource sharing among member libraries.

Golnessa and Talawar (2009) speaks of “Library consortia” refering to cooperation, co-ordination and collaboration between, and among, libraries for the purpose of sharing information resources. Libraries in developing countries have been working on consortia at national, regional and international level. However, some barriers such as technological and communication infrastructure, inadequate finances, culture and context, attitudes toward consortia and multiple efforts are reported to be the limitations of consortia activities in developing countries.
Madhusudhan (2010) in his article revealed that the technology has changed the expectations of researchers, patience, and willingness to accept services that are available on demand. Consortium is a strategic alliance of libraries with a common interest, not under the same institutional control, but usually restricted to a geographical area, number of libraries, types of materials, or subject of interest, which is established to develop and implement resource sharing among members.

Chun (2010) explained that as the communication center, cloud computing focuses on users and affords powerful data storage server and web services. Based on the research achievements and practice abroad, the construction and service of libraries should be deeply studied about the information resource sharing, librarian ranks and information facilities. The concept of resource sharing has been used in the developed countries as a means to alleviate the resource inadequacies of individual libraries. In Africa, it has been seized upon as a way of sustaining information services according to Lugya (2011) in his paper “The hidden forces that positively shape library consortia”. This paper looked at issues surrounding the factors that have led to successful resource sharing among academic and research libraries in developed countries and how to practically apply such successful factors to improve collaboration. It is noted that, on the ground, there is a little in the way of resource sharing in Africa. In some ways, the situation has deteriorated as systems that used to work have collapsed. A Kenyan librarian defined in her paper that the concept of resource sharing has been used in the developed countries as a means to alleviate the resource inadequacies of individual libraries. In Africa, it has been seized upon as a way of sustaining information services. The author concluded, “there is no doubt that resource sharing programmes have a significant role to play in developing countries, given the problem due to the scarcity of resources” and “if libraries are to continue to
meet the demands of other users, increased cooperation and resource sharing are vital”. The survey of university libraries in Africa found that interlibrary lending was minimal, especially within Africa. Such work suggests that there is a lot that needs to be done in order to bring a change about the idea of resource sharing among universities and research institutions. Even though these universities have little to share, they may help future sharing of acquisitions in the most demanding subject areas.

3.3 LIBRARY NETWORKS

Networking of libraries is a collaborative effort of libraries to manage their resources and services collectively. It is not a new phenomenon in libraries as it exists since ages in one form or the other such as ILL. It facilitates effective sharing and utilization of library resources amongst members for mutual benefit. It operates on mutual cooperation and active participation of all the beneficiaries in the group.

Murthy (1996) gave an overview of the development of library networks in India. He has also mentioned the efforts made by the Planning Commission, Government of India, to promote resource sharing among libraries in the country. He has presented the scenario of library networking briefly. In his view, the main problems in the early operationalizing the library networks include retro-conversion of holding data, non-availability of suitable software for operating large databases and online searching in a wide-area-network mode at prices affordable by all the libraries, lack of adequate standardization and non-availability of adequate training facilities to cover all the library staff participating in the network programmes. He also has suggested some possible solutions to these problems.

Kar and Subrata (1999) said that there is a deluge of information on the one hand, the cost of collecting, processing, storing and disseminating information has
been spiraling up on the other hand. This calls for heavy budgets for libraries even to
maintain a reasonable level of acquisition of journals, books and reports. Hence,
resource sharing and cooperative functioning through networking have become
inevitable for libraries and information centers worldwide. It is even more necessary
to network the libraries in developing countries like India. Efficient resource sharing
can be achieved by using the recent advances in information technology for realizing
a network of libraries.

Davis (2007) states that the network is a cooperative library organization that
usually consists of a formal arrangement whereby materials, information, and services
provided by different types of libraries and other organizations are made available to
all members. Member libraries usually agree to serve one another on the same basis.
Computers and telecommunications may be among the tools used for facilitating
medium among them.

Okeagu and Blessings (2008) said that networking is a way to gain access to
a greater stage of expertise and other resource and avoid duplication of efforts by the
use of resources. This is done through the development of national and international
linkages with numerous agencies both governmental and non-governmental
organizations working in related field. Librarians do have to perform by meeting the
colleagues at conferences and a participation in colloquium etc.

Bachalapur et al. (2009) said that libraries in India have been affected by an
uncertain financial environment in which resource buying have been restricted,
causing them to look back at ways of extending their purchasing capabilities to
compensate for reduced budgets. Library consortium is one of the emerging tool kits
for the survival of libraries. Network is an essential partner in this exercise as it
facilitates access to vast information services. Networks have potential to improve
library to reduce the cost of information provision, thus creating new opportunities for
the libraries to play their role in information provision to its end users.

Vasanth and Mudhol (2009) highlighted the regional and national level
networking; libraries in India should corporately establish library consortia for
offering and sharing electronic resources. These networks can be expanded to enhance
the access to the information resources through collaborative partnerships in the form
of consortia. This study also discusses about the library networking and INDEST-
AICTE consortium.

Shivalingaiah (2011) made a survey on the role of library consortium,
resource sharing, and networking in UAE. Library network is a cooperation amongst
institutions for sharing their library resources that is in practice for decades. However,
the mode of cooperation has under gone a transformation with infusion of new
information technology. The proliferation of electronic resources in the networked
society has resulted in the development of shared subscription or consortium-based
subscription to electronic resources everywhere in the world. Looking at the library
networking, it is understandable that the networking of libraries is bringing them
together on a common platform for an effective sharing of resources for the benefit of
patrons.

3.3.1 Development of Library Network and Consortium

Though the exact date for the first use of the term ‘library consortium’ is not
clear, the concept of ‘consortium’ as ‘association’ or ‘partnership’ has long been a
tenet of librarianship, generally encompassed in terms of cooperation, co-ordination
and collaboration between, and amongst libraries for the purpose of sharing
information resources (Kopp, 1998). However libraries have not used it widely until
about the 1980s. The genesis and evolution of library consortia are not just for the sake of itself.

**Harloe and Budd (1994)** said that, “The historic quest for the great comprehensive collection has been superseded by the need to provide access to collective scholarly resources that no library can afford”. Moreover, the desire to provide users with information to meet their research interests despite a limited budget has always been the prime motivation to librarians. Actually, the idea is conceived and evolved from library cooperation that has been in long-standing existence in the form of producing shared/union catalogue, resource sharing by providing inter-library lending services. Therefore, the consortium is another form of cooperation for resource sharing and library networks.

The published literature indicates that Melvil Dewey wrote about ‘library cooperation’, in an issue of the Library Journal that appeared in 1886, and a year back E. Mac presented views on ‘co-operation versus competition’ in the same publication (Kopp – 1998, p.7). Furthermore, R. B. Down expressed his futuristic view of library co-operation in a paper “One for all – a historic sketch of library co-operation, 1930-1970” included in the 1939 symposium on “The Library of Tomorrow” organized by the ALA. Ameen (2008) says that the Alexandria library shared its collection with the Pergamum library in 200 B.C. Malviya and Kumar (2007) trace the history of consortia and cooperation beginning in the 19th century. Nfila & Darko-Ampem (2002) trace the history of library consortium from 1960 through 2000 and reported that an International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) was formed in 1997. Even the ‘consortium’ becomes a good word for libraries as it combines the past with the present and the future. Though the library consortia does not have any remarkable
history, the consortial arrangements basically started in the 1930s as mentioned above to cooperate in administering ‘interlibrary loans’ as well as ‘resource sharing’.  

**Pal and Das (2007)** mentioned in their article about the genesis and growth of library consortium. It is worth noting from their work that the office of education (US) initiated a nationwide study on the growth of library consortia, conducted by the System Development Corporation (SDC), aiming in view of providing guidance for libraries that are forming or planning to form the consortia. This study identified 125 library consortia (largely focused on academic libraries) founded during a period from 1931 to 1972. The same study reveals that a significant number (92%) of library consortia had been founded after 1960 (n=115), a few were established (n=5) between 1951-‘61 whereas only five (n=5) consortia had their beginnings before 1950. Ruth Patrick (1972) also noted a similar observation in her work “Introduction to Guidelines for Library Cooperation”. It would be interesting that, despite the continued growth in number of consortia (in the 1980s) and some other factors like development of ‘mega-consortia’ (read as bibliographic utilities) and integrated library systems (read as library automation) enhanced the involvement of libraries into consortial activities. Allen and Hirshon (1998, p. 36) indicated, “Perhaps the most important development for libraries during the current decade has been the move from organizational self-sufficiency to a collaborative survival mode as personified by the growth of library consortia. They emphasized that, information technology is now enabling a level of cooperation which is much broader and deeper than ever before”.  

**Pal (2007)** expressed that in the 1990s, new types of library consortia began to flourish that exploited the advances in the information technology. The global development of OCLC (http://www.oclc.org) in the USA is a prime example. It is worth to mention that, in the late 1970s, OCLC became one of the “megaconsortia”
deals in the US (and eventually beyond), along with the Research Libraries Group (RLG) and the then Washington Library Network (WLN). There are other signs of the recent growth of library consortia.

3.4 RESEARCH ON LIBRARY NETWORK AND LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Conducting research in any field of knowledge is very important and highly significant because it contributes greatly to the growth of intellectual capital of the country, which in turn results in the prosperity of the nation. The universities being the centers of research, they are the vital aspect for the scientific progress of a nation. Indian universities play a major role in generation and dissemination of knowledge by conducting research work and producing Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) dissertations/theses as a unique genre of information source. Analyzing such dissertations indicates the emergence of concepts and direction in which the research is progressing. It also indicates the thrust or grey areas of research which draw the attention from researchers. Satija (1999) traces the origin and growth of research programmes in LIS in India and highlights the initiative and efforts of Dr S. R. Ranganathan (1892–1972). The paper provides data output related to doctoral dissertations in LIS and includes a list of the thrust and grey areas of research. Mahapatra (2004) analyzes LIS doctoral researches in India during 1997-2003 and presents that consortium, resource sharing and library networking are the major subject areas in LIS research.

Bankapur (1997) in his doctoral dissertation proposes the integrated information system serves as a basic ingredient for the formulation of Network for the newspaper libraries in Karnataka. The organization of information within the framework, helps in the physical design, layout, density, topology and different information technology tools covering various parameters like identification of
similarity, non-similarity critical assessment, analysis and other relevant features to present information network.

**Chandrashekar and Ramashesh (2009)** also indicated the areas of research activity in LIS with ranking of universities and states which have contributed comparatively more to the field of LIS research in India. They observed that almost 8% (that is 63 out of 802) of the theses submitted have represented the resource sharing and networking until 2008. They expressed that this is the good direction and field of research where researchers are concentrating more on this area in the recent past.

**Shivalingaiah et al. (2009)** analyzed the bibliographical details of doctoral dissertations that were considered for the award of PhD by various universities in India in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) during 1980 to 2007. This paper shows that the output of doctoral researches in LIS field is increasing since 1980 and the growth is significant from the 1990s. It also found that the concept library networking has its root two decades back, the trend gradually increases over the period and a significant development has taken place during 2001-07. The study also noticed the frequent use of terms like ‘consortium’ and ‘resource sharing’ since 2000 to represent cooperative efforts in LIS research.

**Manjunath et al. (2010)** observed the speedy progress of research on library networking, resource sharing and consortium among the libraries since 2000. The authors said that this area is of recent origin and gaining attention of LIS researchers. They noticed that the concept of network emerged as a subject of research in 1978 in the form of library cooperation in India. Resource sharing of library resources among various libraries is being the subject of research since the 1980s. Library consortia,
benchmarking and institutional depository related studies have gained importance since 2000.

3.4.1 Need, Importance and Role of Library Consortium and Networks

The libraries and information centers being one of the major supporting agencies for information transfer and diffusion, need to adapt to meet the changing needs and growing expectations of the users (Jalloh, 2000). The initiatives and development in the areas of automation, networking, resource sharing, consortia, digital libraries, electronic document delivery, etc. have led to new practices in the operations and management practices of the Library and Information Systems world over.

Ibrahim (2004) examined the use and user perception of electronic resources in the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) and made an attempt to measure the use and perception of the United Arab Emirates University faculty members of electronic resources. He found out that the frequency of the use of electronic resources was low due to lack of time and need to focus on teaching; lack of awareness to electronic resources provided by library; ineffective communication channels and language barriers. Stratified random sample questionnaires were sent to the faculty. The questionnaires were self-administered. E-mail and phone calls were also made by which 25 percent sample was drawn department-wise.

Deshmukh (2006) argues that the library consortia, on the basis of sheer strength of number of institutions offers healthy business growth opportunities to the electronic publishers and thus attracts the best possible price and terms of agreement in a win-win situation for both. The collective strength of consortia members facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and best terms and conditions. Moreover, the technology has changed
expectations of researchers, their patience, and their willingness to accept services that are available on demand. Consortium a strategic alliance of libraries with a common interest, not under the same institutional control, but usually restricted to a geographical area, number of libraries, types of materials, or subject of interest, which is established to develop and implement resource sharing among member.

Patil (2006) in his paper expressed that increase in journal costs, depleting library budgets and drastic cut in the number of journals has led to 'Journal Crisis'. As a result, library professionals are facing a big challenge to cope with this situation. The urgent need of the hour is that library professionals should come together for resource sharing, and as a result of which consortium practice has emerged in the library arena. Various consortia models have emerged in India in variety of forms depending upon sources of funding and participant affiliations. The different models identified are Open Consortia; Closed Group Consortia; Institute Headquarters Funding; Centrally Funding; Shared Budgets and National Models. The benefits of collaboration, consortia, networks and peer support have been emphasized in information science literature for a long time. Most of the success stories reported by African University Librarians revolved around collaboration and networking within institutions by policy makers, within the country to form consortia and share the subscription of e-resources, build capacity and get professional support.

Musoke (2008) explained that the actual and potential of networking, cooperation and digitization is to modify the functions of acquiring, storing and disseminating information and knowledge, hence the need to be supported. Because of limited resources there is a need to build on the achievements, share experiences and best practices through collaboration and networks.
Sivaraj (2008) explained the establishment of a library network among all engineering college libraries in Tamil Nadu, India for maximum use of resources for the benefit of students, faculty, and research scholars, and to improve the quality of education. He expressed that, resource sharing networks are an important part of the library development plans. While United States and Canada are in a leading position, developing countries are eager to follow the suit. Library networks will bring rapid changes and a better future for library and information services. It is absolutely necessary to share resources and pursue a variety of information exchange opportunities with other institutions. Breakthrough in networking and improvements in the electronic transmission of data make resource sharing viable. Library professionals must be able to make effective contact with relevant people in order to share information, resources, and experience.

Savolainen (2009) compares and contrasts small world and information grounds as contexts of everyday information seeking and sharing. More specifically, the focus is on spatial and social factors constitutive of small world and information grounds. The construct of small world places more emphasis on spatial factors as constraints, while the construct of information grounds thematizes spatial factors as open arenas. As to social factors, the construct of small world focuses on normative constraints of information seeking and sharing. The construct of information grounds, in contrast, emphasizes the co-presence of other people as an opportunity to unanticipated seeking and sharing of information.

Manjunath and Sheshadri (2010) observed that the factors like high priced subscriptions and online databases, similar libraries in the region, more colleges under the same management and user demands might have contributed for increased researches on consortium and networking in LIS field.
Manjunath and Shivalingaiah (2010) argued that the importance or need for a consortium in view of the following situations like the vendor’s pricing pattern varies from one library to other; the discount structure varies from vendor to vendor and libraries; users of one library cannot use other library in particular during student’s summer projects and project site visits by faculty members. Faculty publications are not known to their counterparts in other member institutions; absence of union catalog for searching of resources, non-standardized platform for data migration, lack of expertise for automation, lack of training and exchange of manpower for mutual benefit and staff development.

Rao (2010) describes tells the trend of networked service (NS) is evolving in a more global way. Majority of academic institutions use NS in order to access and use library resources stored in both local and remote locations. From the findings it is observed that all NIT libraries have basic network infrastructure facilities to access communication network services such as telephone, internet, e-mail, etc., in which the majority of them are more constant about online journal databases, online catalogues and CDROM/audio/video course materials accessibility. The other zone (North, North-East and Central) libraries are at immature stage in providing NSs. Possibilities to have high and low performance among the zones in providing NSs are educational and management culture, acquisition of resources, funds and efficient work force, etc. In spite of the above findings, the author concluded that many libraries are in the developing stage in provision of NSs except a few libraries. Of course, the policy construction could be possible at various levels in order to create access to NSs among NIT libraries.
Nwegbu (2011) felt that there is a need to motivate librarians for resource sharing to ensure optimum utilization of available financial, physical, electronical and manpower resources. Therefore, the study sets out to identify measures for promoting resource sharing for effective access and utilization of information among university libraries in Anambra and Enugu States. It adopted a survey design purposively chosen federal and state universities from the two states. Problems associated with resource sharing and ways of dealing with them were identified. Recommendations were made based on the identified results from the study. Consolidation of information stored in different institutions provide better services to the information seekers. It is now imperative that libraries and archives and museums (LAMs) cooperate and collaborate with each other. In the absence of coordination and collaboration among these cultural institutions, their contents are divided into small puddles of information and on scattered websites, diluting the compelling nature of their offerings. They have, however, created an orderly world within their respective domains. If libraries, archives and museums are to achieve a more unified online presence, they should become less fragmented and more interconnected.

Malhan (2012) describes that the access to content through consortia approach is becoming prevalent in libraries. The author discusses the status of consortia in India and portrays the challenges of e-resource access and describes how the changing landscape of libraries, information products offered by publishers and emergence of e-learning environment do influence. The author concluded that there is a need to focus on consortia models that are more effective for just in place of delivery of content for greater user convenience. In order to enhance their usage, the consortia resources must be in alignment with institutional thrust areas of work and users’ information requirements for work performance. Shared subscription or
consortia-based subscription to electronic resources through consortia of libraries is a feasible strategy to increase the access to electronic resources across institutions at highly discounted rates of subscription. The consortia based subscription deploys the pressures such as diminishing budget, increased users demand, and rising cost of journals. The libraries all over the world are forming consortia of all types with an objective to take advantage of current global network to promote better, faster and more cost-effective ways of providing electronic information resources to the information seekers (INDEST, 2012).

3.5 CONSORTIUM MODELS AROUND THE WORLD

Hirshon (1995) opined that during the last decades, different organizational cooperative models have seen developed. In studying consortia models, Hirshon groups the library consortia in four main categories, depending on the level of organizational decentralization /centralization. These models are based on different values and objectives, and also on the realities of its membership the four main categories are as follows.

- Loosely knit federations,
- Multi-type / multi-state network,
- Tightly-knit consortium and
- Centrally-funded statewide consortium.

Kaul (2000) in her paper aimed at examining the use of information resource sharing networking in the area of environmental studies in developing countries. Here, she discusses the concept and rationale of information and resource sharing in the modern society, identifies the linkages between ICT, information resource sharing and the networking models. Also, she explores the differences in the developing and developed countries in information resource sharing and networking. She dealt with
the networking in environmental studies in India and examines the building up of Information sharing system which is vertically and horizontally integrated across institutions working in the area of Environmental Economics under the World Bank Capacity Building Project. Finally she contended that this is an important component in the area of Environmental Economics.

**Banieghbal (2001)** investigated the situation of 34 libraries affiliated with Tehran University in terms of their organizational structure, information and human resources, and facilities and services. He examines the feasibility of establishing an information network, and discusses the grounds for cooperation among libraries and its impact on resource sharing in order to offer information services more effectively and quickly. Established an information network among libraries has finally affiliated with Tehran University which could considerably improve the status of information and technical services.

**Giordano (2002)** has analyzed library consortium models in Europe. He has found three basic models: national centralized, decentralized models and regional models. National centralized models are typical for the Nordic consortia. France is an example of a national decentralized model. In Belgium the French and Flemish universities have both formed their own consortium. These might be called regional consortia. In many countries, more than one model is in use. For example, in the UK there are discipline-based, regional, and national consortia.

**Sinha et al. (2003)** highlighted the automation and networking of many universities, national institutions and other institutions of higher learning which has been initiated by the national agencies dealing with information and library networks like NICNET, INFLEBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET and other metropolitan and city
networks which has been initiated and couple of them have already started functioning and providing various on-line services through these networks.

**Idrus (2003)** tells that the Penang Library Network (PLN) is a network of private and public higher education libraries formed with the aim of bringing Penang’s citizens to the forefront of uniform access to a knowledge warehouse through the use of information and communication technologies.

**Rumei (2004)** studied about one of the most important components of a nation’s basic facilities, the networking of the library which plays a vital role in terms of sharing of access to information. Although the traditional methods of literature indexing and accessing will continue to exist and develop, library networking will become a new model and the direction for the development of the library. Through the discussion of the current situation of information sharing in the Chinese library, the author analyzed the factors that affect information sharing and proposed to establish a cooperative networking center for regional libraries in one region by linking together dispersed information and assembling an open, shared repository of information resources, which will promote literature resources sharing throughout society.

**Samson et al. (2004)** have critically evaluated the usage of network resources in their paper titled “Networked Resources, Assessment and Collection Development.” The Project was undertaken for study at the University of Montana-Missoula. Usage was measured with the help of vendor’s reports, in-house use of web logs, surveys and word of mouth, during the spring semester. The findings show that data collected has impact on the collection development policy. Based on the data over $40,000 of duplicate print subscriptions were migrated to electronic subscriptions.
Kumbar (2004) opine that the Indian Astrophysics Consortium for Resource Sharing in Astronomy (FORSA) is a typical example of a homogeneous group of members wherein the libraries have a common area of interest and establishing the consortium is slightly easier than in a heterogeneous type of members. The FORSA consortium consists of five members who joined together for negotiating licensing for astronomy journals and identified a subscription agent as a supplier of journals. Subscriptions for both print and electronic format are paid through the suppliers. The agreement was originally meant for only astronomy journals, published by a particular publisher. However, consortium members now share the license fee to enable e-access to the journal nature.

Fordyce (2004) wrote an article on “New Zealand University Library Acquisitions consortium for the supply of print monograph resources” where the author discussed different consortium related issues. The committee of New Zealand University Librarians Acquisitions Consortium (CONZULAC) was developed to gain maximum value from expenditure on print monograph resources, to achieve operating efficiencies and to improve levels of service. This paper looks at the issues that arose during its development.

Verzosa, (2004) reported that many consortia in the Philippines are still informal and voluntary in nature, borne from institutional linkages of academic libraries within a particular geographical location, and established to engage mainly in inter-lending activities and bibliographic access. Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Engineering and Science Education Programme (ESEP) Consortium, is the only government sponsored consortium. It has focused on a programme of activities to upgrade science and technology infrastructure in the country via education, in particular engineering and science education, as prescribed
in its Memorandum of Agreement drawn up by DOST, and it derived its funding from World Bank.

**Chandrashekar (2005)** underlined the information and library network (INFLIBNET) established towards modernization of libraries and information centers to develop the communication facilities to improve the capability in information transfer and access, provide support to scholarship, learning, research and academic pursuits through the co-operation and involvement of the concerned agencies; linking libraries and information centers in universities, colleges, institutions of national importance and research and development institutions etc.

**Khan (2005)** reported the resource sharing and networking activities among universities in Pakistan in 2005. The Pakistan Education and Research Network connect all the public and private universities in the nation through a high-speed network. It allows real time transfer of audio and video, multimedia-enabled lectures and remote research partnership.

**Poutanen et al. (2006)** described and discussed consortia models in Europe. Emphasis is given to those consortia that support content provision and access to electronic information resources in society. Four country cases are introduced as examples of the heterogeneous solutions chosen by the consortia. The main results and impact of the consortia are discussed. International cooperation has played an important role in the development of consortia in Europe. Regional and global collaboration initiatives are also discussed.

**Tom (2007)** revealed that OhioLINK contributes to its users' educational activities through access to and use of the documents and information resources. It provides a set of priorities and initiatives for consideration. Roxanne (2007) described the developments in Australian libraries and the national interlibrary loan and
document delivery systems, in particular the outcomes of the local inter-lending and document delivery. Australian libraries have had a highly cooperative approach to resource sharing for many years. ILL (Inter Library Loan) has become increasingly automated since the introduction of the online union catalogue in 1981 and the national inter-lending system in 1989. In 2004 interoperability was introduced, with the developments in directories completing the national connected system in 2006. Analysis is undertaken of the factors leading to a national approach, use of the automated solution by libraries and trends in use by end users. Rapid and easy access to interlibrary lending has increased significantly through automation of local and national systems. While the overall number of loans and copies has not increased, the speed of delivery and efficiency of ILL has increased significantly. By understanding the environment that led to a coordinated approach to automation by libraries in a variety of sectors, and evaluating the outcomes of the technological developments, this paper gives a basis for considering opportunities for future cooperative arrangements.

Sirous (2008) presented the success factors of resource sharing (RS) and cooperation in Iranian Academic Libraries (IAL) from the point-of-view of librarians who have direct experience of such activities. He investigated and compared the librarians’ experiences of, and opinions on, the importance of the success factors in the current and desirable situations in the IALs. Based on a comprehensive review of the relevant literature, 58 success factors of RS were identified from the previous studies. The importance of the factors in the current and desired situations of the RS programs were explored and ranked, based on the experiences and opinions of a sample of ‘key informants’ who had direct experience of RS activities in the context of IALs. The findings revealed that almost all of the success factors mentioned in the
previous studies are considered important by the respondents. However, only eight factors received high rankings in the current and desired situations of the RS programs in the IALs.

Zhenghuai (2008) described that the Tsinghua University increases its interlibrary sharing of resources by means of construction of networked libraries. Nowrouzi (2000) examined the status of the libraries, including the staff, collection development, organization of materials, equipment, budgets, and special issues of each library and proposes the establishment of an information network among the surveyed libraries for optimizing their state-of-the-art and their active relationship.

Maitrayee (2009) summarized in his article about the brief profile of selected engineering libraries in Maharashtra, a state of India and discussed the salient features related to strategic cooperation and consortia, with particular focus on the current situation. She examined the structural, financial and technical factors that have forced the academic libraries to think about the formation of statewide consortia. The author surveyed forty-nine libraries to get an idea about the status and explored the possibilities of forming regional consortia with a mission to enhance access to information and knowledge for the benefit of engineering community. The focus is on librarians’ perceptions/opinion on the formation of state level consortia, ICT infrastructure, users’ needs, collection development policies and the services provided by engineering libraries to the community.

Omekwu (2009) described in his paper about the emerging challenges and opportunities for Nigerian libraries in a global information environment. The purpose of this paper is to explore the challenges and opportunities for librarians operating in a global information environment. The exploratory research design is adopted and secondary data are also used. The method is to first examine the concept of
globalization, the status of information and communication technology (ICT) in African countries and current issues in library practices with specific focus on digital technology, and internet use pattern across Africa. The next approach is to examine the challenges and opportunities for libraries and librarians in a global information environment. The author concluded that the critical challenge for information professionals from developing countries is to connect technological systems to globalize their information resources and services. The opportunities of doing so are boundless, borderless and beneficial in accessing the global information pool. Nigeria libraries are critically situated at the crossroads of digital revolution that creates new vistas for information service provision. The speed and distance they move from the crossroads to the emerging digital threshold will define their quality as well as quantity of information services provision by all species of libraries. The Association of African Universities (AAU) emphasizes that the way ahead for the development of research and postgraduate capacity in African universities is through selective concentration of resources within the university system, and the achievement of collaborative links among African universities, and between African universities and research institutions.

Zhang (2009) described the construction of resource library-based network teaching platform of English extensive reading course which is the actual manifestation of the rapid development of network communication technology and multimedia technology. It is the network teaching which is composed by curriculum teaching platform, the management system and auxiliary teaching resource library. There are three education models in applying the resource library-based network teaching platform for practice of English extensive reading course: mass instruction model, group collaborative model, and autonomous learning model.
Chunrong (2010) analyzed the current situation and the social and economic benefits from the consortia acquisition of electronic resources by the China Academic Library and Information System (CALIS), South China Regional Centre, China. The author presented the price and usage made within the CALIS South China region of databases from a range of suppliers including EBSCO, LexisNexis and Springer. The electronic resource acquisitions by the CALIS South China Regional Centre have yielded remarkable social and economic benefits. As a result, the range of electronic collections have been expanded and enriched. The benefits have accrued, money has been saved and it has proved to be of benefit to users; however, there is room for improvement. During the last three years, the total usage of the South China Consortia has increased but the usage of the member libraries in the consortia is unbalanced. There are big gaps among the member libraries. The single download/search cost of the e-resources has been gradually decreasing but the cost of the e-resources purchased by the South China region consortia is higher than that of the national consortia; hence, there is a need for further reductions.

Folorunso and Folorunso (2010) explored the concepts, issues and facilities offered by the library consortium and showed how the library consortium makes resources available among member libraries. The study also identified the possibilities and problems of building library consortium in developing Africa. Recommendations based models for the future of library consortia in Africa are offered.

Kingsley (2010) examined the challenges facing Nigerian University Libraries with respect to information and communication technology application and utilization for resource sharing, as well as library operations to which information and communication technology can be applied and utilized for resource sharing. It
concludes by solutions for viable information and communication technologies-based cooperation among university libraries in Nigeria.

**Sangeeta (2010)** highlighted that DELNET fulfills a vital role in facilitating resource sharing in India and is expanding its role rapidly. The purpose of this paper is to describe the work of DELNET, the successful resource sharing and information provider in India. The development of DELNET is described and also discussed about the services it offers and plans for the future. This paper is an up-to-date study of resource sharing in India from the perspective of a successful agency.

**Taha (2010)** described about Library and Information Web Access (LIWA) which is the first systematic interlibrary cooperative activity among three universities under the umbrella of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. LIWA was born in 2007 after the shift of the partner libraries to Web-based information services. Interlibrary book lending is the current achievement of Library and Information Web Access with the aim to expand resource sharing and incorporate more e-services soon. In this paper, the author aims at gaining some insights into potential and successful factors for further development of the library consortium in a networked environment. Some key issues, such as metadata standards, acquisitions, licensing, access security, and governance are also discussed.

**Sen (2011)** discusses about the INDEST and opines that INDEST does not cater to the needs of medical professionals, agricultural scientists and many others in its present structure. The consortium does provide the possibility of raising library access from about 100 e-journals to nearly 4000 from among the selected list of publishers that provide largely for engineering disciplines. There have been several concerns raised about INDEST from within its own members; for example, the management institutes. There are, of course, several access restrictions that have been
negotiated with publishers for each category of INDEST members. However, INDEST appears confident and does not foresee such a situation, while skeptics abound on the periphery.

Sheshadri et al. (2011) in their paper attempted to understand the perception of Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals towards the consortia of Libraries in United Arab Emirates (UAE). The study was conducted with an overall objective of understanding the perceptions of LIS professionals towards the formation of consortium in UAE. It is observed that about 80% of the LIS professionals did feel that there is a strong need for establishing a consortium of libraries in UAE. About 86% of the respondents agreed that the functions of consortium cross the boundaries of library resource sharing. The majority of respondents (95.8%) opined that the consortium helps in subscribing online databases and print journals at a discounted rate. A majority of them (91.5%) felt that it would facilitate pooling journals among libraries in the region. A majority of the respondents (93.0%) expressed that the consortium helps in combined collection development and 91% of them felt that the authorities would support such movement for an effective collaboration. The paper attempted to identify the factors those influence the functioning of consortia with some interesting results. INDEST offers the best possible price advantage at an average of 80 per cent plus through its pricing agreements with e-resource providers. Furthermore, the consortium provides technical assistance and in-house training for optimal usage of resources subscribed. Likewise, it endeavors to identify other e-resources relevant to the institutions and enables access under best possible subscription prices and license terms. With continuous monitoring of international developments in this domain and liaison with agencies like ICOLC, INDEST tries to
bring best possible consortium based e-information services to its members (Koneru, 2004).

Prasad (2011) expressed that the digital age has brought about new ways of information storage and information and communication technology has brought the stored information closer to its seekers. This has changed the user behavior in accessing information. In his paper, he attempts to introduce a model of building a consortium involving libraries, archives and museums in India so that users can find information at a click of their mouse or mobile phone.

Nagaraja et al. (2011) described the vital role of library consortia in sharing information resources among participating libraries. In India, engineering college libraries do subscribe to many electronic resources through the Indian Digital Library of Engineering Science and Technology (INDEST) consortium. The authors have identified the collection development of electronic resources through INDEST to predict the most required and useful model for engineering colleges. The list of colleges that subscribe to electronic resources through INDEST was studied online and analyzed. It is evident that most colleges only subscribed IEL online through INDEST. Some colleges have subscribed to different resources from more than one publisher. The bundles of resources subscribed through INDEST have not fully supported to all the courses offered by the institutions. It is revealed that the bibliographical databases for searching the literature in technological sciences were not subscribed by any colleges participating in INDEST.

Rekha (2011) reported the development of the Indian National Union Catalogue for Scientific Serials (NUCSSI). This paper aims to describe the development of the Indian National Union Catalogue for Scientific Serials (NUCSSI). It was found that NUCSSI database is enhanced with the online access and enables
easy and improved access to locate a particular journal and its availability. The stages in the development of the national union catalogue and software used for database design and development with different computer systems are discussed. The integration of the database with an e-mail service for routing of library/user request information is also described. It was found that NUCSSI is an ideal access tool and is indispensable in supporting document supply. Regular updating of the database is enhanced with the online access granted to the participating libraries via the internet. Desktop connectivity to the NUCSSI database through the internet has made it easy to find and obtain a journal/article of interest. User-friendly interface and powerful search enable easy and improved access to locate a particular journal and its availability in various libraries free of cost. It provides a decentralized document supply system for India. This article is of significance to librarians, information specialists in India and the international serials community. Successful regional network is the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA). In addition to its international connections, AHILA has two internal concerns—sharing scarce resources through interlibrary cooperation and developing systems for improved bibliographic control of the health literature produced in Africa (Kinegyere, 2008). Such strategies at the national level would not only strengthen regional networks, but also work as satellite communication networks for international organizations to overcome the problems of lack of physical infrastructure and as a basis for enhancing access to information among university libraries with fewer resources.

Ifijeh (2012) in his paper made a case for sustainable consortium building among university libraries in Nigeria. He examines critical issues involved in consortium building, identifies inherent problems and charts the way forward in
dealing with identified problems. He further suggests that if carefully planned and executed, consortium building could help Nigerian university libraries improve and sustain the services to users.

3.6 LAW COLLEGE LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

John (1998) in his paper “Planning and Constructing Law School Buildings: Ten Basic Guidelines”, explains the general concepts that are necessary in the building process. John recommends, among other things, placing an emphasis on incorporating functional concerns with architectural goals, developing a focus on constituent needs through surveys or otherwise, re-evaluating as the building project progresses by conducting walk-throughs to see if problems or other unforeseen issues have developed. Although the guidelines in this article are characterized as basic, John provides a wealth of insights on the issues discussed as well as extensive footnotes and a sample survey that was used to determine the needs of students in law library. Although the article is based on the events that took place as John went through a building process at the Drake University Law Library, it also examines errors made in other renovation projects. Because of its wide scope, it is well worth reading.

Vondruska (2001) describes that “Over the last three years, there have been changes in management, organization, staffing, and services at the Pritzker Legal Research Center (PLRC) of Northwestern University School of Law. The methods for acquiring and cataloging information resources have been redesigned. These changes coincided with new management, a change in the name of the technical service department, a migration to a new library management system, and a new name for the law library. The bibliographic services organization and workflow before and after the migration are described. The cataloging and bibliographic service activities will
continue to be reevaluated. The goal of the bibliographic service department is to align with the 21st century mission of the PLRC to be an integral component in supporting the scholarly, teaching and learning needs of faculty and students as the law school became the law school for a changing world”.

Soumen and Sen (2008) Studied about Information Sources in Academic Law Libraries in India. They are of the opinion that “basic role played by libraries of Indian academic law institutes and available basic information sources for resource building. Printed resources have been found to be specialized whereas online information resources are dynamic as they cover wide range of legal information. A webpage based study of the libraries of top twenty Indian academic legal institutes’ shows that more than half of the Indian premier academic legal institutes do not provide any information regarding their online information resources and thus this may be assumed that they hardly have any online information resource. Eight of the India’s top twenty academic legal institutes have well described libraries on the web with a variety of online resources which may be considered as shift change of libraries from printed information resource building to digital information dependency”.

Michelle (2009) studied about “Why Print and Electronic Resources Are Essential to the Academic Law Library” and described that “Libraries have supported multiple formats for decades, from paper and microforms to audiovisual tapes and CDs. However, the newest medium, digital transmission has presented a wider scope of challenges and caused library patrons to question the established and recognized multi format library. Within the many questions posed, two distinct ones echo repeatedly. The first doubts the need to sustain print in an increasingly digital world, and the second warns of the dangers of relying on a still-developing technology. This
article examines both of these positions and concludes that abandoning either format would translate into a failure of service to patrons, both present and future”.

Howard (2009) studied about the “Law Library Digital Reference Services and Interdisciplinary Students”. According to him the system “evaluates the provision of digital reference services by academic law libraries to interdisciplinary students, who are not affiliated with the law school, but are researching within a legal area. By using an unobtrusive methodology, which involved presenting carefully developed reference questions to synchronous and asynchronous digital legal reference services, the research aimed to discover how receptive these services are to the information needs of non-lawyer patrons. Particular regard was paid to the types of resources that the law librarians direct interdisciplinary patrons toward, and whether these are mainstream university-wide resources, open access resources, or specialist legal databases such as Westlaw and LexisNexis. The research assessed the completeness of reference transactions and applied these findings to the specific needs of interdisciplinary students”.

Kundert (2010) studied about legal books from the (Dutch) civil law tradition in an 18th-century Rhaetian aristocratic library-up to 1800 in the federate republic of Upper Retia (nowadays the Swiss Canton of Grisons) where German law prevailed. There were no courts of law to impose Roman civil law in a region of Latin origins. Nevertheless the elite owned a remarkable stock of jurisprudence in some libraries. So did Peter de Salis-Soglio at Coire. His library has disappeared, but a catalogue of about 1765 preserves the titles; many of them were collected in the Netherlands where Salis had been an envoy. The classics of Roman-Dutch law are there together with a great number of books relating to international law.
Tripathi and Tripathi (2010) studied about Information (Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, India) and about privacy in libraries: the perspective from India. This paper is the first of its kind to study how the libraries in India are dealing with the issue of privacy and highlight the need for the information professionals to protect their professional ethics.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the ethical perspective of librarianship. The focus of the discussion is to identify whether it is ethics or law which should supercede in changing the legal and social environment, with special reference to India. And the methodology is the state of a right to privacy in India as elaborated. The discussion is focused around library ethics and user privacy, which is a much less talked about matter in Indian librarianship than in the developed world.

During the study it is found that professional ethics should be given equal consideration while framing law and policies for non-profit organizations like libraries. The issue of privacy has been given very little credence in terms of library rules and regulations in India. There is a need to create awareness among the masses on the issue of privacy and it should be considered as an important component while formulating guidelines for library policies.

The practical implication is that the role of library association is considered to be vital in creating awareness among the libraries and information centers. Library associations in India are urged to make similar efforts like American Library Association. Impact of information technology on privacy is explored as one of the emerging research areas.
Agarwal and Dadrawala (2010) studied about the Legal Context for Philanthropy and Law in India. They were of opinion that “Traditionally, the concept of law in India has been inextricably linked with dharma, which can loosely be translated as precepts guiding moral duty. These precepts evolved over thousands of years through public consensus and acceptance. Professor Robert Lingat has contrasted this aspect of traditional Indian law with modern civil law, on the basis of internal acceptance for one and external enforcement for the other. The law was not framed by the king through fiat. Rather, his role was to ensure that serious departures, from the dharma were punished. Conflicting opinions of different stages, and the evolving nature of the law, allowed it to adjust as society changed.

Historically, India’s nonprofit sector has been vast but has required little regulation. Most charity work was done directly by individuals and was encouraged by varn dharma, or the moral duties of different classes of society.

Almost all the laws existing on the statute books at the time of independence from the British it set about framing new laws for the nation. Over the next fifty years, nearly 2,500 statutes were passed at the central level, with another 30,000 or so being passed by various states taken together. India was now firmly in the grip of civil law. Fortunately, except for one piece of legislation (the Foreign Contribution [Regulation] Act), none of these were related to the nonprofit sector”.

Yurdagu (2010) studied about “Does Urquhart’s Law hold for consortia use of electronic journals?” The article tests the validity of Urquhart’s Law (“the inter-library loan demand for a periodical is as a rule a measure of its total use”). It compares the use of print journals at the Turkish Academic Network and Information Center (ULAKBIM) with the consortia use of the same journals in their electronic form by the individual libraries making up the Consortium of Turkish University
Libraries (ANKOS). It also compares the on-site use of electronic journals at ULAKBIM with their consortia use at ANKOS. About 700 thousand document deliveries, in-house and on-site use data and close to 28 million consortia use data representing seven years’ worth of downloads of full-text journal articles were used. Findings validate Urquhart’s Law in that a positive correlation was observed between the use of print journals at ULAKBIM and the consortia use of their electronic copies at ANKOS. The on-site and consortia use of electronic journals was also highly correlated. Both print and electronic journals that were used most often at ULAKBIM tend to get used heavily by the member libraries of ANKOS consortium, too. Findings can be used in developing consortia collection management policies and negotiate better consortia license agreements.

**Fulton (2011)** described that “With an abundance of library resources being served on the web, researchers are finding that disabled people oftentimes do not have the same level of access to materials as their nondisabled peers. This paper discusses web accessibility in the context of United States’ federal laws most referenced in web accessibility lawsuits. Additionally, it reveals which states have statutes that mirror federal web accessibility guidelines and to what extent. Interestingly, fewer than half of the states have adopted statutes addressing web accessibility, and fewer than half of these reference Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 1.0. Regardless of sparse legislation surrounding web accessibility, librarians should consult the appropriate web accessibility resources to ensure that their specialized content reaches all”.

**Vibeke (2011)** in “Challenges and Accomplishments in U.S. Prison Libraries” describes the evolution of prison library services in the United States and the changes in the roles and purposes of prison libraries over the last two centuries. The
development of standards and guidelines for prison libraries under the leadership of the American Library Association and American Correctional Association is discussed. The characteristics of the offender population are described as well as how prison libraries have responded to the specific needs of this special user group. The challenges of the unique prison environment are highlighted, especially as they relate to the delivery of library services. Examples of successful library services and programs are included, with descriptions of technology projects, resources for prison library staff, collection development policies, law library services, literacy programs, and resources to assist inmates with the transition back to society.

3.7 CONCLUSION

This review of literature revealed that there exist many studies on resource sharing, library consortium, development of library networks and consortium, consortium models around the world and law college resources and services. This review with chronological order shows that as time passes, the resource sharing through networking has been accepted greatly among the users and has established itself as viable media in many fields. In addition, this review demonstrates that there are different research methodologies and models which are used for profiling networking of libraries for resource sharing among them and provide resources to the users community. Further, little research has been done on networking of libraries for resource sharing in law colleges in India. It was clear that, there is a lack of comprehensive study in this field. Besides, the study coverage of the previous studies in India was very limited and none of them studied all the variables together as in the present study. To this extent, it is justified that the present study is the first of its kind that has investigated Networking of Law Libraries with special Reference to Law Colleges affiliated to Karnataka State Law University, Hubli, Karnataka.
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