CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Today we are living in the age of information. Information is a dynamic and unending resource that affects all disciplines and all walks of life. Information also supports education, research, and development. The main functions of an academic library are to acquire information from various sources and to arrange process and disseminate them to satisfy the needs of students, academicians, and researchers in the right form and at the right time.

Resource Sharing becomes more important and inevitable for developing countries like India, where the information centers/libraries are short of funds and resources. Libraries encounter face problem for storing purposes and hence there is a direct need for library networks and resource sharing. Resource sharing from its elementary concept of interlibrary lending, now includes cooperative acquisition, collection development, shared cataloguing, centralized processing, exchange of content page of journals, sharing of bibliographical data, centralized periodicals collection, exchange of electronic documents and articles, obtaining photocopies of articles, etc. In India, in the past two decades, information technology has made significant progress. The current state of information handling is indeed sufficient to support and encourage the sharing resources among libraries. Especially, the present decade has witnessed renewed interest in library cooperation for mutual benefits, at the national and international levels.
1.1 ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Academic library is the heart of any Educational Institutions. It plays a vital role in modern society and it is the centre of learning in higher education. Academic libraries of today are equipped well and these constantly change in tune with the times and technology.

Academic libraries in India had a glorious past. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan made a great contribution to the field of Library and Information Science. The policy of higher education has given due importance to the libraries in the higher academic setup.

In the changing situation, University Grants Commission of India has already initiated its efforts. The establishment of Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) has created a new environment in Indian Academic Libraries. Most universities, deemed universities, and important institutional libraries received the grants from UGC for computerization of the libraries.

There is a rapid change in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This change stresses the need for the development of libraries. Efforts are afoot at all levels to promote the information technology and its application in the field of library and information systems. Applications of information technology in libraries of the developed countries are rapid and dynamic. But its application in developing countries is relatively slow due to a number of interrelated socio-economic factors.
Information Technology (IT) involves acquiring, storing, processing, and distributing information by electronic means including radio, television, telephone, and computers\textsuperscript{4}. Information is available in a range of formats including texts, images, and sounds. Libraries are looking towards information technology as a tool to solve a number of problems encountered in providing library services to users. Information technology is now perceived as an enabler that can facilitate in the transformation process.

The spectrum of IT includes devices and strategies running from computer to communications from video games to virtual photography. Information technology may be called as the mother of technologies\textsuperscript{5}. It has created or made possible the availability of some quantities of information. Information technology provides a number of value added information services and facilitates electronic information transfer. It is well recognized that it can help to reduce cost and time, improve user services and increase efficiency of staff in the libraries. Information technology has assumed more significant role in the libraries worldwide. The IT infrastructure has an advantage that it encourages the majority of non-enthusiast users to make use of the library. Information technology has eliminated many routine tasks and has increased speed in the acquisition of relevant material in the libraries.

1.2 INFORMATION TRANSFER AND RESOURCE SHARING THROUGH NETWORKING

With the diversity of information resources, the traditional role of librarians in transfer of information through Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery Service (DDS) has become increasingly complex. To acquire information, electronically transfer information from a central repository into the library or information centre that needs the information, or even directly to the client who has
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requested the information become major operation of the library or an information centre. A virtual library would operate in this fashion, with a very small local collection but wide access to global information. The advantages and disadvantages of this electronic collection development are the topic of much discussion within the profession, as indeed is the possibility of developing universal access to any form of digitized information.

1.3 RESOURCE SHARING

Today, in an environment of information and publication explosion, it has become practically impossible for any library to remain self reliant. In a situation of growing demands of the readers and depleting levels of financial resources, no library is able to obtain all the materials on demand.

Resource sharing is a method of overcoming these and other limitations of the individual libraries in respect of their resources by way of cooperation and coordination among the participating libraries.

1.3.1 DEFINITION OF TERMS

The term ‘Resource’ applies to any thing, person or action to which one turns for aid in time of need. The word ‘Sharing’ denotes apportioning, allotting or contributing, something that is owned, to benefit others. ‘Resource Sharing’ in its most positive aspects, entails reciprocity, implying a partnership in which, each member has something useful to contribute to others and which, each is willing and able to make available when needed. ‘Library Resources’ however, have been defined in several ways.
According to John Fetterman, “… any and all of the materials, functions, and services which constitute a modern library system… It is … amalgamation of people (manpower), processes, ideas, materials, and money which form the substance of a library and can be described as its resources”.

The American Library Association (ALA) Seminar on Network and Multi-type Library Co-operation defines the term resource sharing as “The co-operative structures, which cross jurisdictional, institutional, and often political boundaries to join in a common enterprise, several types of libraries – academic, special, and public”.

1.3.2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF RESOURCE SHARING

Underlying principle of resource sharing is maximum service at a minimum cost. Main objectives of resource sharing are to create a conductive environment in which libraries can offer better services to meet user needs within available limited resources. The area of resource sharing is quite wide, which broadly include all of the materials, functions, and services. Materials and functions include reading materials of all types/formats, acquisition, cataloguing, storage and preservation. Services include all the techniques employed in libraries to establish link between the reader and reading material. ILL and book exchanges also fall into this. Following are a few objectives of resources sharing.

1.3.2.1. INCREASED AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF RESOURCES

Clientele of the participating libraries will have an access to resources available in all the libraries. Resources can be moved from one library to another
manually or through modern means. This provides an easy access to and easy/free
flow of information.

1.3.2.2. TO DIMINISH COST

Resource sharing helps in building specialized collection and all participating
libraries need not duplicate the procurement of similar materials. This facilitates
availability of larger collection and even the basic material required by the users can
be obtained without causing much delay.

1.3.2.3. RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

Resource sharing advocates making reading material of one library available
to the clients of other libraries. Thus, the resource sharing exposes the reading
materials to a wider group of users. Similarly, the services of a library can be
exploited by the users of other libraries.

Co-operative activities like acquisition, exchange, storage, binding, training,
reference and documentation services, interlibrary loans, etc., can also be the part of
resource sharing.

On the basis of experience and involvement in resource sharing activities in the
area of management, it can be visualized that the management institutes can have the
following objectives for their resource sharing initiatives:

• To provide better services
• To provide more coverage of collections and facilities
• To avoid duplication
• To share experiences
• To face financial crunch
• To promote interaction
• To provide wider access to users
• To provide high quality library and information support services

1.4 AREAS OF RESOURCE SHARING

Keeping in view the need of stakeholders of the management institutes as well as the potential information needs of the users of library and information support services provided by management institutes, it is essentially required to identify the various areas for resource sharing activities so that the management of management institutes as well as users are able to enjoy the fruits of resource sharing equitably.11

The following areas for resource sharing are identified and these may certainly be beneficial to the management institutes’ environment:

• Collection Building
• Inter Library Loan
• Reference Services
• Membership
• Contents Page Service
• Centralized Processing
• Human Resources
• Expertise and Facilities
• Database creation
• Union Catalogue
• Training
• Software
1.5 NEED FOR RESOURCE SHARING

Scientific and research based information has a significant contribution for rapid promotion of research, education and development of various other sectors of the economy. It saves a lot of human effort, financial input as well as application of physical and logistic resources otherwise needed to re-invent the wheel every time. It provides vital technical support to keep going on all the scientific endeavours. Sharing of research information through decentralized internet data input has a significance of its own. It is both economical and time saving not only for users but also for the information professionals and document lists. For the cause of economy, information data is prepared, entered, processed, stored and retrieved at a very high speed. Therefore, its utility is many times higher than the conventional means of information sharing.

1.5.1 KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION

Research institutions, universities, industrial and commercial organizations and others academic institutions are responsible for knowledge generation. Inter-disciplinary, extra-disciplinary research and emergence of new disciplines have become more important and relevant. Professional activities in R & D also have increased considerably. Procuring all published literature by a library is too difficult, but on the other hand the users have been demanding access to all such available literature.

1.5.2 INCREASE IN LIBRARY USERS

Population explosion, influx of people from rural to urban, education, high priority on research and development have shown liberal use of libraries by all. Increase in user population demands growth in libraries and services, but there is a
limit to such growth, as libraries cannot grow beyond a certain point. Due to the increase in users’ demand for diversified information, the libraries are prompted to investigate ways and means for wider range of service and collections. Resource sharing offers practical solutions to these problems.

1.5.3 LIBRARY SERVICE

Users in the libraries have become more and more information conscious than ever before, demanding effective quality library services. The CAS, SDI, information repackaging and consolidation would not be possible unless libraries share resources. Also the disciplinary interdependence calls for diverse collections of a variety of disciplines, which is not within the capacities and competence of a single library.

1.5.4 ACQUISITION PROBLEMS

Increase in publishing output necessitates large intake in libraries to update their collection. This needs a large space to house the collection. Obsolescence of knowledge also calls for weeding of collection. Co-operative acquisition, storage, and services can eliminate the problems of space, balanced collection building, efficient services, etc.

1.5.5 ECONOMIC RESOURCES

General Price Index everywhere indicates the rising trend. Prices of books and journals have zoomed over the years. This has tremendously affected the purchasing capacity of libraries. In spite of governmental and institutional finance, libraries are not in a position to buy all that is required for their user community. Regular budgetary cuts and introduction of new services and maintenance of staff also have affected the procurement of libraries.
1.5.6 WEB BASED RESOURCE SHARING

Computer and telecommunication technology are playing a vital role in the design and operation of resource sharing systems network. A library network means as a group of libraries are inter-related through different areas. Now, resource sharing among libraries has been accepted as a necessity. These are required for working of large systems on national and international levels also.

Web based resource sharing includes the sharing of resources hosted on the net. It is very important for bibliographic control of the explosion of literature and knowledge\(^3\). It also avoids duplication in purchase of costly documents. Library web resource sharing is a helpful way to develop the flow of information among the special information centers / libraries and other types of libraries.

The main objectives of web based resource sharing are to:

1. Improve the sharing of resources among the member libraries
2. Centralize the information processing system
3. Reduce the communication gap among the libraries
4. Improve ILL productivity with fewer blind requests, automated creation and tracking of requests, and faster turnaround
5. Control ILL costs (For one low transaction charge, we can route each request to many libraries)
6. Co-operative collection development
7. Increase use of collections with instant local access
8. A way for all group members to contribute, maintain and access information in the group’s database
1.6 LIBRARY NETWORKING

Knowledge and information is the fountain heads of all round human development. Hence, it is necessary to share and communicate this information. Resource sharing has become a central focus of interest to the librarians and information professionals. The terms such as, network, consortium and co-operatives have been used to label the organizational arrangements for achieving a variety of resource sharing objectives. The developments in information technology and its widespread availability in support of networking are the most significant factors in the growth of resource sharing activities.

According to Seetharama\textsuperscript{14}, it is time, that information professionals realize that provision of access to information as more important than collection building. Therefore, a necessity has risen to strike a balance between local ownership and network access which should be reflected in the collection development policy statement.

1.6.1 NETWORKING – DEFINITION

The term “Networking” or network is used in different contexts. Information network has become very popular and is used frequently by information specialists.

Raynard C. Swank defined library networks as a “Concept that includes the development of co-operative systems of libraries on geographical, subject, or other lines, each with some kind of centre that not only co-ordinates the internal activities of the system but also serves as the system’s outlet to and inlet from, the centres of other systems”.

A network is defined by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), USA as “two or more libraries and/or other organizations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange, through communications, for some functional purpose”.

Alphonse F. Trezza\textsuperscript{15} defines network as “a formal organization among libraries for co-operation and sharing of resources, in which the group as a whole is organized into subgroups with the exception that most of the needs of a library will be satisfied within the subgroups of which it is a member”.

In short, a network has been used to mean a formal organization of group of libraries and information centers following some common pattern or design for information exchange and communication with a view to improve efficiency.

1.6.2 TYPES OF NETWORKS

There are two types of networks. 1. Computer network, 2. Communication network. Computer network is concerned with the sharing of the computer load, software, and hardware and computer time. Communication network is mainly concerned with data transmission. These networks can carry large amounts of data over long distances. While planning a network, the costs of installation and access should be considered\textsuperscript{16}.

The Local Area Network (LAN) refers to linking work stations within a single building, whereas a Wide Area Network (WAN) links work stations together which may or may not be in close proximity. New and value-added services such as voice
mail, electronic mail, video text, telephone services, etc. contribute more for the optimum utilization of the network.

Internet is a very good example of a network which facilitates selection and procurement of information materials, document delivery and access electronic journals and specialized materials.

1.6.3 IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKS

Allen Kent\textsuperscript{17} has expressed that the success and survival of library and Information Centres will depend on how much and what extent libraries cooperate with each other in future.

The increasing costs of information source materials, increasing cost of processing documents and their information contents, decreasing budgets and wide use of micro and mini computers have contributed to the development of networks.

Chaudhry\textsuperscript{18} has highlighted the importance and usefulness of networks and networking as “Network information resources, as extensions of library collections and as bibliographic and communications utilities with their unprecedented connectivity, speed of transmission and worldwide breadth have created excellent opportunities for libraries. Networks provide navigational tools and associated services which can be used by libraries to access remote resources for browsing, searching and even downloading. They are redefining the concept of collection and collection development and transforming the selection, preservation, communication and liaison functions in libraries, creating a powerful new contest for the theory and practice of collection management and requiring librarians to develop new skills,
accept new responsibilities and change their ways of performing various library operations”.

The principal motives behind networking are maximizing the utilization of existing information resources by sharing and providing speedy access to information resources located at different places through communication channels\(^{19}\).

Networks serve the larger interest of a number of organizations and citizens by providing access to resources on a co-operative basis.

**1.7 NETWORK ALTERNATIVES**

**NETWORK TOPOLOGY**

In communications the geometric arrangement of nodes and links in a network is called ‘network topology’. These nodes when linked form patterns that are classified as star topology, Loop, Tree, Distributed, Bus, Hierarchical, Hybrid topology, etc.

**1.7.1 STAR TOPOLOGY**

Star topology is the most common one. Here nodes are connected to central host. It controls all activities/services. The administration is easy as it is totally centralized. But the effectiveness depends on the efficiency of the central node, i.e. when the central controller is inoperative; the system is down for all users. It also restricts the growth of other nodes. The services will also be delayed.


1.7.2 RING TOPOLOGY

In topology the nodes are connected in a circular form. This ring topology generally suits a network in a building or a small campus with well-defined but limited operations. In this, there is no single controller to fail. Each unit serves as a controller. And when one malfunctions, the system may be down for all, unless preventions have been taken to allow by passing of faulty nodes.

1.7.3 LOOP TOPOLOGY

Loop topology shares the star’s dependence on the controller. It requires less wiring than star. In this even if one computer fails, all the others will work. It is an improvement over ring topology.

1.7.4 TREE TOPOLOGY

In a tree like topology, the nodes are connected hierarchically. Here mini computers are used as intermediary nodes and microcomputers as end nodes. It leads to reduction in communication costs as several terminals can be connected to a single communication line.

1.7.5 DISTRIBUTED TOPOLOGY

In the distributed topology, nodes are directly connected to each other. It may or may not have intermediary nodes depending on its use and development. In this, the administrative work is shared by all nodes. It provides direct response to queries. Both ring and distributed structures are basically ring structures, the former is a sequential ring and the latter, a distributed ring.
1.7.6 BUS TOPOLOGY

In this, the nodes are attached directly. Each station can direct and place signals on the bus according to the access method. This topology is used in local area networks.

1.7.7 HIERARCHICAL TOPOLOGY

In this, the nodes are arranged in levels and access in hierarchical. The response is obtained only after screening at each level and hence delays in service.

1.7.8 HYBRID TOPOLOGY (STAR, RING, AND DISTRIBUTED)

Hybrid is the most commonly established LAN type. It combines elements of star, ring, and distributed patterns in as many combinations as situations call for.

The selection of network topology depends on several factors like funds, trained personnel, hardware, software, and communication facilities.

1.8 TRENDS IN LIBRARY NETWORKS IN INDIA

The growth of Indian library networks may be traced to the efforts made during the last four decades. The 1958 Scientific Policy Resolution adopted at the instance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru emphasized the fostering of scientific temper in people. In pursuance of this agenda, several committees and commissions were appointed to look into specific issues and come up with necessary recommendations, for eg., the Sinha Committee’s Report (1959), Ranganathan’s Report to UGC (1965), Peter Lazar Report and V.A.Kamat’s Report (1972)\textsuperscript{13}.
In 1980s, organized efforts were made to collect and disseminate information. The 1983 Technology Policy Statement emphasized the need for a technology information base. In July 1984, the working group of the Planning Commission headed by Dr. N. Seshagiri recommended to the Government of India the need for modernizing of library services and informatics during the Seventh Five Year Plan of 1985-1990.

However, in 1986 NISSAT had initiated the establishment of CALIBNET in Calcutta and supported the establishment of DELNET in Delhi in 1988, PUNENET in Pune in 1992, ADINET in Ahmedabad in 1993 and BONET in Mumbai in 1994. INSDOC supported the formation of MALIBNET in Chennai in 1993. BALNET in Bangalore was registered as a society in 1997.

The National Policy on Library and Information System submitted in 1988 recommended among many other recommendations, using of information technology on a national level. As a result the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) was initiated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) as a co-operative venture for pooling, sharing, and optimization of library resources in the country.

The National Informatics Centre of the Government of India has one of its functions to provide Management Information Services (MIS) to various agencies in the central and state governments. NICNET provides access to CD-ROM databases of the US National Library of Medicine, MEDLINE, Biotechnology Abstracts, COMPENDEX, etc.
Education and Research Network (ERNET) was initiated by the Department of Electronics (DOE), Government of India as a thrust area for setting up a computer network for academic and research community with initial participation from the five IITs, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), Mumbai, and the DOE, New Delhi. Of late, ERNET has been collaborating with INFLIBNET for UGC-INFONET.

Scientific and Industrial Research Network (SIRNET) interconnects all the CSIR laboratories and other R&D institutions in India to harness the vast science and technology information available with national laboratories and to promote resource sharing among them. The ultimate aim of the SIRNET is to link the entire scientific community of the country with the national library system and the internet to achieve efficient scientific communication through e-mail, telnet, and FTP.

Under the Biotechnology Information System Network (BTISNET), ten specialized information centres in genetic engineering, cell culture, virology, plant tissue culture, immunology, bio-processing engineering, etc. are being linked with micro-earth stations and X.25 protocols.

DELNET has been in operation since January 1988 and was registered as a society in 1992. It was initially sponsored by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India and is currently being promoted by the National Information Centre, Department of Information Technology, and Government of India.
Many more networks are likely to emerge in India in the near future such as the Defence Science Information Network, Transport Information Service Network, Oil and Natural Gas Commission Network, Network for Business Communications, etc.

1.9 LIBRARIES OF MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE AND THEIR ROLE

Libraries have been accepted as heart and soul of any institutions. Because of the nature of the subject, the role of a library in management institution is all the more important. The discipline of management, unlike many other disciplines, is very vast and complex. Diverse subjects are studied and made research under management in one context or the other. Such a phenomenon has a direct bearing on the management library, its users and managers. A management institute library acts both as a library as well as a laboratory for a management researcher. Unlike other disciplines, it is almost impossible to quantify the information output in the field of management and its related areas. The role of the libraries of the management institutes in acquiring, organizing and disseminating the required information to their patrons cannot be overestimated. Libraries are the only instruments which share the information.

1.10 BACKGROUND FOR RESOURCE SHARING AMONG MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE LIBRARIES

The following are the factors which will motivate management institute to share their available resources within respective institutional framework:

1. Tremendous growth of literature
2. Multiplicity of documents in different subject, language and formats
3. Development of new subject and subject specialization
4. Increasing cost of documents
5. Declining library budget
6. Reduce the operational cost of libraries
7. Technological solutions
8. Increasing of reading community and information seeker
9. Diversity of user group and their information needs
10. Demand of pinpointed, exhaustive and expeditious information services
11. Optimum utilization of existing records

1.11 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING AMONG MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE LIBRARIES

There has been a voluminous growth of published documents in the recent past. As a result, no library is able to procure process or store all documents that its users demand. Today’s no library can afford to acquire even half of all published material, both in terms of cost, and the investment in space and personnel time required to process and provide access to a burgeoning quantity of information. An average size library at a college or university may subscribe to 3,000 to 10,000 journal titles, a fraction of nearly 2,60,000 possible acquisitions. The reasons for this unprecedented growth are several. Inter-disciplinary literary pursuits necessitate dependence on other libraries. The limitations of funds and space besides the lack of proper distribution channels for publications, and lack of proper book selection tools handicap the procurement of published materials in the libraries. It is also noticed that most libraries have been duplicating efforts and material, which has led to inadequate utilization of the overall resources of materials and finances. There has been a great increase in the number of users as also their demands. The information being sought has become extremely diverse. In the circumstances, the libraries are left groping for
ways and means of providing a wider range of services and collections. Sharing of the resources offers practical solutions to these problems.

The pattern of management education and research are subject to change in response to the demands from the new dimensions of management methods, techniques, and applications of technology. The institutions engaged in management studies are, therefore, in constant need of information about the trends and developments in the world of science and technology. The management libraries with their limited resources face serious difficulties in managing enormous information flow generated in the printed form alone. As is the case of every other library today, it has become imperative for the management libraries to share their resources and organize services on a cooperative basis to satisfy collectively the information needs of their respective user communities. The tremendous advancement in information technology now offers very many alternatives for networking and resource sharing among the geographically dispersed and remotely located libraries and information centers.

The dawn of the twenty-first century came with a digital revolution and economic globalization. The rapid pace of development in the field of information technology coupled with the advent of networked information services has called for a total review of management institutions’ resource sharing approach, in this age of the digital divide. There is an urgent need to have networking of management institute which will also translate the concept of resource sharing into reality for libraries.

The following factors can be taken into consideration to implement networking among management Institute:
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- Creation of environment for networking in management institute
- Identification of priorities
- Creation of IT infrastructure for libraries with internet access
- Providing training to library staff
- Creating awareness among users about resources and services
- Integrated and comprehensive website for the libraries
- Formulation of working group
- Study of resource sharing efforts at other institutions
- Formulation of Consortia
- Inter Library Loan
- Library software
- Preparation of union catalogue of journals, books, conference proceedings
- Database creation of project reports and faculty publication.

Hence, it is necessary that the resources, facilities and services of management institutes libraries are carefully studied to determine the feasibility of a resource sharing and networking programme among them. This is in line with the recommendations of the National Policy on Education which states that “The scope for co-operation, collaboration and networking relationships between institutions at various levels and with the user systems will be utilized”.

1.12 IMPACT OF RESOURCE SHARING

The above discussion makes it clear that resource sharing and networking philosophy is very much useful to all management institutions. The implementation of resource sharing will eliminate the feeling among the users that our institute is not
having the required resources. Resource sharing and networking arrangement will help the librarians to provide the document and information which is not available at the institution. We can visualize the following impact of resource sharing and networking on the libraries of management institute.

- Users satisfaction
- Coverage of collections
- Time saving
- Space saving
- Library image and
- Efficiency

1.13. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL LIBRARY NETWORKS

There are large numbers of National and International Level library networks in operation relevant to Library and Information Science field, some the national/international library networks are as follows:

1.13.1. NATIONAL LEVEL LIBRARY NETWORKS:

INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network), NICNET (National Informatics Centre Network), ERNET (Education Resources Network), SIRNET (Scientific & Industrial Research Network), DESINET (Defence Science Informatics Centre), TISNET (Transport Information Service Network), DELNET (Developing Libraries Network), CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network), MANLIBNET (Management Libraries Network), MALIBNET (Madras Library Network), BONET (Bombay Library Network), etc.
1.13.2. INTERNATIONAL LEVEL LIBRARY NETWORKS:

OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre), LIS (Library Information System), ILLINET (Illinois Library Network), OLC (Oakland Library Consortium), AGLINET, (World Network of Agricultural Libraries), STN (Scientific & Technical Information Network), BRS (Bibliographical Retrieval Service), BLAISE (British Library Automated Information Service), ESA/IRS (European Space Agency Information Retrieval Service), DEVINSA (Development Information Network on South-Asia), ISONET (International Standards Organization Network), etc.

1.14. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

Tremendous growth of literature, Development of new subject and subject specialization, Increasing cost of documents, Declining library budget, and Optimum utilization of existing records creates a situation to the libraries for sharing their resources. Now this is happening here and there and in a disorderly manner. To improve the resource sharing, the first thing is to assess the extent of resource sharing and then to find out the means to improve it. Though piece meal studies have been carried out on various libraries, no such in-depth study has been carried out with management libraries for their improvement. Hence this study has been planned to carry out among the management institute libraries to suggest the ways of improving it in Tamil Nadu.

1.15. BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

The investigator is a practicing librarian for nearly One and a half decades. He has often met a situation in which he is unable to help the user when the material asked by the user is not available with his library. Sometimes he has managed the
situation by borrowing from neighboring libraries. When he consulted this problem with his fellow mates, they have also had the same opinion. This has prompted him to study the resource sharing among the management institute libraries and hence this topic was identified with an interest to learn the perception of Library management Systems, resource, ICT facilities, and services of management institute libraries in Tamil Nadu. Hence, is the topic, “Resource Sharing among Management Institute Libraries in Tamil Nadu – A Study” is a suitable one for the researcher and need of the hour.

1.16 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study entitled “Resource sharing among Management Institute Libraries in Tamil Nadu” has been made to assess the present position and extend of resource sharing among the management institute libraries in Tamil Nadu.

1.17 ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTERS

The first chapter includes introduction, objective and scope of resource sharing, types of networks, network topologies, role of networks in libraries, background of resource sharing of management institute libraries, and information transfer and resource sharing through networking, significance of the study, background of the problem, statement of the problem and organization of chapters are discussed.

The second chapter deals with and development of management institutes and demography of Tamil Nadu.
The third chapter deals with various views of the prior studies about the topic chosen for this study. The related literature provides some knowledge on resource sharing and networking of libraries, and the points to be carried out in this study.

The fourth chapter focuses on the structure and design of the present study. In this chapter the objectives of the study, Hypotheses, Methodology adapted, Data Collection, Sampling, Pilot Study, Construction of Questionnaire, Components of Questionnaire, Data Processing, Frame work of analysis, concepts, and limitations of the study are discussed.

The Fifth chapter deals with the assessment in terms of management systems, resources, facilities, and services of management institute libraries in Tamil Nadu which reveals the strong points as well as lacuna of the libraries, and this data provide a useful background against which the authorities concerned could take decisions for further improvement of the libraries, and for further plans for resource sharing and networking.

The Sixth chapter presents the findings, Conclusions and suggestions of the present study.
REFERENCES


