

Migrating from Informal to Formal Consortium - "COSTLI" issues

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Abstract. There are many models of library consortia which came into existence due to various reasons and compulsions. FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy) is an informal consortium borne from institutional linkages of academic institutions specializing in Astronomy in India, which is a library professionals initiated cooperative venture.. Though this consortium was formed mainly for inter-lending activities and bibliographic access, it has matured over the years to adopt the consortium approach on cooperative acquisitions, due to increased requirements. A rationale approach from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of Government of India triggered the union of DST libraries and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) libraries to cooperate to provide additional electronic resources to their users. DST and CSIR are two different scientific departments with in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India with 26 institutes under DST and 39 laboratories under CSIR. Out of these 26 institutes of DST, five are members of FORSA consortium. Recently DST joined hands with CSIR in forming the consortium called as 'COSTLI', Consortium Of Science and Technology Libraries. All the member organizations of DST will be accessing the additional electronic resources which are already available to CSIR member libraries through this consortium. COSTLI will be formally governed with central funding. The various issues in the process of migrating from an informal to a formal consortium are discussed in this paper. As this initiative is very new, the concept and the idea of migration needs to be debated.

1. Migrating from Informal to Formal Consortium (National Knowledge Resource Consortium)

1.1. Advantages

- More buying power for additional contents
- Protection under the law
- Formal commitment enforces usage review
- More flexibility with more members
- Possibility of more combinations
- Better negotiating power with publishers/vendors
- Protection for smaller libraries
- Equal information access for all the members
- Publishers are happy to negotiate with a single representative committee



Figure 1. FORSA LOGO

1.2. Disadvantages

- Thrust with redundant contents under bundling of packages
- Non-flexibility to choose individual titles
- Absence of flexible licensing models
- Requirement of additional manpower to maintain the consortium
- Requirement of additional funds from the parent organization to support the merger
- Non-uniformity of access to contents by members
- To maintain Print + Electronic by individual participant for some resources

1.3. Small is Beautiful

- FORSA libraries are 12 in numbers compared to the DST (25) & CSIR (39) libraries combined
- FORSA libraries are subject oriented to specialize in Astronomy
- FORSA libraries have better communication and Interaction among the members
- FORSA libraries are well connected and equipped with Infrastructure and Facilities
- FORSA consortium is an open ended consortium with decentralized funding
- FORSA consortium is de-centralized with more flexible administrative procedures (Figure1.)

2. FORSA MEMBERS

- Indian Institute of Astrophysics II Block, Koramangala Bangalore 560 034 INDIA
- Physical Research Laboratory Navarangapura, Ahmedabad 380 009, INDIA
- Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics 1/AF,Bidhannagar Kolkata-700 064 INDIA
- Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics Post Bag 4, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007, INDIA
- Raman Research Institute C V Raman Avenue, Sadashivnagar Bangalore 560 080, INDIA
- Harish-Chandra Research Institute Chhatnag Road, Jhusi, Allahabad 211 019, INDIA
- National Centre for Radio Astrophysics Post Bag No. 3, Pune University Campus Ganeshkhind P.O., Pune 411 007, INDIA

- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba Mumbai 400 005, INDIA
- Bose Institute 93/1 A.P.C. Road, Kolkata 700 009, INDIA
- Nizamiah Observatory Department of Astronomy, Osmania University Hyderabad 500 007, INDIA
- Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Manora Peak, Nainital 263 129, INDIA
- S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) Block JD, Sector III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 098, INDIA

3. Merging of Two Different Consortia CSIR and DST

3.1. Problems Envisaged

- Members with heterogeneous background
- Members have different journal collection Policy
- Duplicate copies of journals to be retained
- Mode of subscription cannot be altered
- Disruption of the subscription period
- Total subscription amount of the print to be maintained for all the publishers
- Members' collection policy diluted with additional access to less important journals
- Changed profile of the consortium with Increased number of members & increased Interlibrary loan transactions
- Requirement of Training Program for access to additional contents
- Less usage to contents which are peripheral focus for members

3.1.1. Negotiation and Bargain

- Requirement for a balanced representation from both consortia for negotiation and bargain
- Requirement of the knowledge of the administrative and accounting procedure in a merger as two departments of the Government are represented in the Consortium
- Requirement for a formal committee with hierarchy and procedure
- Requirement for series of meetings for negotiation
- Requirement for a Formal Name for the consortium after the merger with consensus resulted in - National Knowledge Resource Consortium

3.1.2. Access & Usage Review

- Contents of 30 different publishers are identified for CSIR and DST Labs for access
- Access to the contents is IP based for all the members
- Each member has to arrange training for all new products
- Access has to be monitored for each lab
- Each Lab has a nodal officer to monitor all activities related to the consortium at the Institute Level
- Periodic review has to be done about usage and measures taken to enhance usage

statistics

- Review is done for each lab regarding usage of all resources provided and renewal is taken up

3.1.3. Future Renewal

- The present subscription is for the period 2009 - 2012
- Renewal for another term will be based on usage statistics of all labs
- This effort has given access to wide range of products which otherwise not possible as an individual
- As a feedback users are in all labs are happy as major content is accessible at their desk top
- The usage statistics will have direct link to the investment from both consortia
- It is too early to conclude about the functioning and the success of the newly established consortium with 76 members

National Knowledge Resource Consortium

4. Conclusion

FORSA is a Librarian's initiated consortium and selection of resources is actually need based and decentralized payment & licensing. Each institute takes care of monitoring and motivates users for better use of resources. By migrating into National Knowledge Resource Consortium, FORSA & DST Labs could continue same publishers & perpetual access was not a constraint. Here the bundled resources of a particular publisher cater to large number of institutes which is heterogeneous in nature & centrally funded. By migrating to NKRC, access to resources is enlarged & users are happy to access the same from their desktop. As large number of resources are provided, access to resources by users has to be done by the publishers by way of training & the Nodal Officers have to monitor usage so that while renewal after end of term, deletion could be done. It has to be monitored for the term subscribed; 2009 - 2012 & then review has to be done for next term with deletion/addition of resources.