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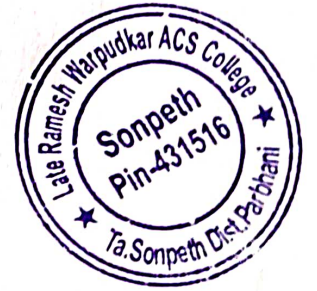
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**Cooperative Sector in India: Opportunities
and Challenges**

Prof. Virag.S.Gawande
Chief Editor
Director

Aadhar Social Research &, Development
Training Institute, Amravati.



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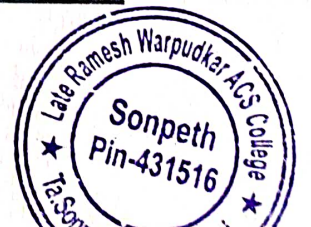
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Co-Operative Collection Development Of A Library

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Abstract:

Library cooperation or a consortia, it is essentially to share resource (at acquisition or dissemination level and expertise to avoid duplicating the resources or to say, reinventing the wheel. Since many decades, tools for resources sharing like union catalogue were very helpful, actual library cooperation has suffered due to lack of institutional cooperation, which may be due to possessiveness or professional ego. However, budget constraints, constant increase of the prices of information resources and the users demand, have made resource sharing inevitable. The conveniences of computer-communication technology have made the resource sharing a matter of click of button, with very less operation cost. Many apex bodies (funding agencies) controlling the libraries played a major role at policy level for library cooperation. In this paper I have highlighted important spheres of co-operative library collection development its benefit and their policy of implementation.

Keywords: Cooperative sharing, collection development, benefits, consortium, policy

Introduction:

Co-operative collection development and resource sharing have emerged as crucial strategies in modern libraries to manage limited resources effectively to enhance and access to diverse materials and provide comprehensive services to their patrons. Library co-operation is an age-old concept. A glance at the pages of the history reveals that during 200 BC Alexandria Library shared its resources with the Pergamum Library. In his classic paper on "Prologue to Library Co-operation" (1975), Kraus states that during the 13th century, there existed the practice of library co-operation among monastery libraries. There are examples of library co-operation in the form of projected union catalogue of the libraries in the 17th century. The first major union list namely "A catalogue of scientific and technical periodicals", was compiled by Henry C. Boston in 1885. We all aware of how library cooperation is important

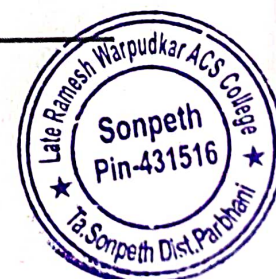
As libraries are facing financial providence and they need s to range of resources, among libraries has become Paramount. Cooperative collection development in halls libraries working together to build and maintain a share collection that meets the information needs of The Uses while avoiding unnecessary duplication simultaneously, resource sharing facilitates the exchange of materials expertise and services among libraries ensuring that valuable resources are accessible to a broader audience this collaborate to approach faster A culture of mutual support and maximizes value of library collections ultimately benefiting both library staff and the communities they serve.

Areas of Resource Sharing:

- Cooperative Acquisition
- Cooperative and shared catalogue
- Inter Library Loan Lending Services
- Cooperative Storage
- Cooperative Delivery Services
- Sharing Training Facilities
- Sharing Experts

I. Cooperative collection development in a Library

Cooperative collection development in library refers to collaborate to strategy where multiple libraries work together to build to maintain a shade collection of resources. In this approach libraries agree to have specific areas of primary collecting responsibility and exchange materials without incurring additional costs. The goal of cooperative collection development is to reduce duplication of a force and avoid a necessary redundancy in acquiring resources. Through Cooperative collection development libraries can optimize their resources by focusing on their strengths and specialties. Instead of is library independently purchasing and maintaining a comprehensive collection the pool there resources and expertise to create a more diverse and comprehensive shared collection. This approach allows libraries to offer their users a broader range of resources without the need for excessive duplication of materials.





Cooperative collection development can take various forms, such as regional library consortia, academic library networks or inter library loan arrangements, Libraries within a Cooperative network co-ordinate their collection development authors ensuring that the share collection allies with the information needs of their respective user communities.

II. Benefits of Cooperative collection development in a Library

Cooperative collection development stands as a cornerstone in modern library management, offering an innovative approach that exceeds the confines of individual institutions to foster collaborative and mutually beneficial resources. This strategy involves libraries working together to build a collective and comprehensive collection that surpasses the capacity of any single entity. The benefits of cooperative collection development are manifold, ranging from optimizing resource allocation and cost effectiveness to enriching the diversity and depth of available materials. By pooling their expertise and resources, libraries can strategically invest in acquiring a broader array of materials, ensuring that each participating institution has access to a more extensive and varied collection than it could achieve independently. This results in a more efficient use of budgets and enables libraries to redirect financial resources toward acquiring specialized or scarce materials that might otherwise be financially challenging to procure. Some of the key advantages of cooperative collection development are as follows:

- 1. Resource Optimization:** Cooperative collection development enables libraries to strategically allocate resources by focusing on areas where they have expertise and forgoing redundant acquisitions instead of each library independently purchasing the same resources. This covers a wider range of subjects and formats. These optimization of resources ensure that libraries can allocate their budget more effectively, obtaining a more diverse and comprehensive collection for their users.
- 2. Cost Reduction:** Collaborative purchasing and sharing of collection development responsibilities reduce the cost for individual libraries. By leveraging collective purchasing power, libraries can negotiate better deals with publishers and vendors, access bulk discounts, and take advantage of cost-sharing opportunities. This cost effectiveness allows libraries to stretch their budgets for investments in additional sources and services.
- 3. Expanded Collection Access:** The cooperative nature of collection development provides library users access to a broader array of resources. Libraries with limited budgets or smaller collections can now offer a more extensive range of materials by tapping into the shared resources of partner libraries. The expanded access benefits users as they can find more resources to meet their research, academic, and recreational needs.
- 4. Enhanced subject Expertise:** Through cooperative collection development, libraries can concentrate on their areas of expertise and build comprehensive collections in those subjects. This specialization allows libraries to provide users with high-quality, authoritative resources and ensures that the collection aligns with their respective user community's unique needs.
- 5. Broader Community Impact:** The benefits of cooperative collection development extend beyond individual library users. The shared resources positively impact the broader community, including students, researchers, educators, businesses, and the general public. This democratization of information enhances knowledge dissemination and fosters a more informed and educated society.
- 6. Improved Inter Library Loan Services:** Cooperative collection development enhances inter-library loan services. When a library does not have a specific resource, it can request the material from partner libraries through ILL. The streamlined process and shared collection ensure faster and more efficient access to requested materials, enhancing user satisfaction and research capabilities.
- 7. Resource Diversity:** The cooperative approach to collection development allows libraries to offer a more diverse and inclusive collection. Partnering libraries may specialize in various subjects, languages, or formats, leading to a well-rounded and culturally diverse resource repository. This diversity enriches the library experience for users, accommodating different learning styles and interests.
- 8. Adaptability to Budget Constraints:** In times of financial constraints, cooperative collection development provides libraries with a flexible solution to maintain the quality of their collections. By collaborating with other institutions, libraries can mitigate the impact of budget limitations and continue to offer valuable resources to their users.





9. **Interinstitutional Collaboration:** Cooperative collection development fosters a culture of collaboration among libraries. This spirit of cooperation leads to knowledge sharing, joint decision-making, and mutual support within the library community. Libraries can learn from each other's experiences, share best practices, and collectively address challenges.

09 **Flexibility and Responsiveness:** The Cooperative approach enables libraries to respond quickly to emerging needs and trends. Through collective decision making libraries can adjust their collection development strategies priority is new subject areas and invest in emerging format insuring the share collection remains relevant and up to date. Cooperative collection development empowers libraries to maximize resources expand collection access and enhance services.

10 **Collaboration with other libraries for collection development:** Libraries are increasingly recognizing the transformative potential of collaborative efforts in Collection development. This cooperative approach involves libraries working together to leverage their collective resources, expertise, and diverse perspectives to build comprehensive and robust collections that cater to the evolving needs of their respective communities. The collaborative model extends beyond mere resource sharing; it encompasses joint decision-making coordinated acquisition strategies, and the elimination of redundancy in holdings. Through consortia, interlibrary loans, and collaborative purchasing agreements, libraries forge Partnerships that transcend institutional boundaries, resulting in a collective strength far surpassing what individual entities could achieve in isolation. t.

11. **Consortia and Networks: Forging Alliances for Collective Strength-**

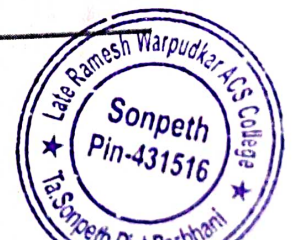
Libraries participating in consortia or networks form strategic alliances that transcend individual boundaries. Consortia are collaborative groups of libraries that come together to pool resources, share expertise, and collectively address common challenges. Through these alliances, libraries gain collective strength in negotiating with vendors, accessing shared services, and embarking on joint initiatives. This collaborative model is particularly effective in optimizing resource utilization and achieving cost savings, allowing libraries to enhance their collections beyond what would be feasible individually. Consortia also facilitates the exchange of best practices and fosters community among participating Institutions creating a support to network for continuous improvement.

1. **Inter Library Loan Services:** Bridging the Resource Gap- Interlibrary loan services are vital to collaborative resource sharing. This service allows libraries to borrow materials from other institutions on behalf of their users, expanding the range of available resources. In-depth collaboration through ILL involves establishing agreements and protocols for efficient lending and borrowing. This ensures that users can access a vast array of materials regardless of their home library. Collaborative ILL services not only bridge resource gaps but also contribute to a culture of reciprocity, where libraries actively support each other in fulfilling the diverse information needs of their users.

2. **Shared Databases and Catalogue:** Expanding Search Horizons- Libraries collaborate by sharing access to databases and catalogs, creating an interconnected system that amplifies resource discoverability. Shared catalogs enable users to search and request materials from multiple libraries within the network seamlessly. This collaborative approach streamlines the user experience, offering a comprehensive view of available resources. Additionally, shared databases provide access to more scholarly journals, articles, and other digital resources. The collaborative nature of shared databases enhances the richness of individual library collections and encourages a culture of knowledge sharing and accessibility.

3. **Collaborative Purchasing Agreements: Maximizing Financial Efficiency-** Collaborative purchasing agreements involve libraries joining forces to negotiate favorable deals for acquiring resources. By combining their purchasing power, libraries can secure better prices, licensing terms, and subscription packages for print and electronic resources. This collaborative approach maximizes financial efficiency, enabling libraries to acquire high-quality materials within budget constraints. The benefits extend beyond cost savings, as libraries can strategically invest in resources that align with the collective needs and priorities of the collaborating institutions.

4. **Joint Collection Development Policies Ensuring Consistency and Focus-** Collaborating libraries often establish joint collection development policies to guide acquisition strategies. These policies outline shared priorities, selection criteria, and methodologies, ensuring consistency in the types of materials acquired. By aligning their collection development efforts, libraries within the collaborative





network can avoid duplication, streamline decision-making processes, and create collections that reflect a unified approach to meeting user needs. Joint collection development policies contribute to a cohesive and purposeful collection that serves the diverse needs of the user community.

5. **Consortia Licensing of Electronic Resources Navigating the Digital Frontier Together** In the digital age, libraries collaborate on consortia licensing agreements for electronic resources, such as databases, e-journals, and e-books. Consortia licensing involves multiple institutions sharing access to a broader range of digital materials. This collaborative model enhances the availability of digital resources and enables libraries to negotiate favorable terms with publishers and vendors. Consortia licensing is particularly advantageous for smaller institutions that may not have the individual resources to secure access to a comprehensive suite of electronic materials. By navigating the digital frontier together, libraries in consortia ensure that their users have equitable access to cutting-edge digital resources.

6. Collaborative Digitization Projects: Preserving and Sharing Cultural Heritage-

Libraries collaborate on digitization projects to preserve and share unique or rare materials, including historical manuscripts, archives, and special collections. Collaborative digitization initiatives involve pooling resources for scanning, metadata creation, and online hosting of digitized materials. This collaborative effort not only safeguards cultural heritage but also expands access to these resources beyond the physical confines of individual libraries. By sharing digitized materials, libraries contribute to a collective, digital repository that enriches scholarly research, educational endeavors, and public access to historical and cultural resources.

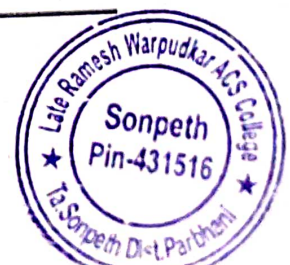
7 **Resource Sharing Agreements: Facilitating Seamless Access-** Formal resource-sharing agreements are established among collaborating libraries to facilitate the exchange of materials. These agreements often include reciprocal borrowing privileges, allowing users from one library to access materials from another within the collaborative network. This collaborative resource-sharing model ensures seamless access to diverse materials and promotes a culture of mutual support. Libraries actively engage in cooperative lending and borrowing eliminating barriers to information access and enhancing the overall user experience overall user experience.

8 Joint Research and Assessment Informing Strategic Decision-Making-

Collaborative libraries undertake joint research and assessment projects to evaluate the effectiveness of their collection development strategies. These collaborative research initiatives provide valuable insights into resource allocation, user needs, and the overall impact of joint collection development efforts. By sharing data and findings, libraries inform strategic decision-making processes. This collaborative research approach enhances the evidence-based practices of participating libraries, ensuring that collection development efforts are responsive to the evolving needs of their user communities.

9. **Participation in Library Association:** Fostering a Community of Practice Library associations and professional organizations are pivotal in fostering collaboration among member institutions. Through conferences, workshops, and collaborative initiatives facilitated by these associations, libraries share best practices, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities for joint collection development. Participation in library associations fosters a sense of community and professional camaraderie. Collaborative endeavors within the association framework contribute to the ongoing development of the library profession, promoting innovation and ensuring that libraries remain dynamic and responsive to emerging trends and challenges.

10. **Collaborative Preservation Initiatives: Safeguarding Cultural Heritage Together-** Libraries collaborate on preservation initiatives to ensure the long-term accessibility of rare or fragile materials. Collaborative preservation efforts may include shared storage facilities, conservation initiatives, and disaster recovery planning. By pooling resources and expertise, collaborating libraries enhance their ability to safeguard cultural heritage materials. This collective approach to preservation ensures that valuable resources are protected against deterioration and are available for future generations. Collaborative preservation initiatives reflect a shared commitment to the stewardship of cultural and historical materials, contributing to the enduring legacy of libraries as guardians of knowledge and cultural heritage. Collaborative strategies in library collection development have emerged as a beacon of





innovation and efficiency. Libraries, through consortia, interlibrary loan services, shared databases, and a host of other collaborative initiatives, are redefining the landscape of knowledge accessibility.

11. Formal agreements to facilitate Cooperative collection development:-

Formal agreements and partnership are often established to facilitate Cooperative collection development affairs among library. These agreements provide structure Framework for collaboration out lining the participating Institutions terms responsibilities and goes several common types of formal agreements and partnership includes as follow:

12. Consortium Agreements: Libraries often join consortia, which are formal associations of institutions that collaborate on various aspects of library services, including collection development. Consortium agreements define the scope of collaboration, the rules for resource sharing, and the shared goals of the participating libraries. These agreements may cover joint purchasing, shared catalogs, and collaborative initiatives to enhance resource accessibility.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Agreements: Libraries establish formal agreements for interlibrary loan services, defining the terms under which materials can be borrowed or lent between institutions. These agreements specify procedures for requesting and supplying materials, as well as guidelines for responsibilities, such as loan periods,

13. Renewal policies and any associated fees. Resource Sharing Agreements: Resource sharing agreements formalize the collaborative exchange of materials among libraries. These agreements may include reciprocal borrowing privileges, allowing users from one library to access resources from another library within the collaborative network. Terms related to the handling of borrowed materials, turnaround times, and notification procedures are typically outlined in these agreements. Consortial Licensing Agreements: Libraries enter into consortia licensing agreements for electronic resources, such as databases, e-journals, and e-books. These agreements outline the terms of access, pricing structures, and licensing conditions for shared electronic materials. Consortial licensing agreements allow libraries to leverage their collective purchasing power to negotiate more favorable terms with vendors.

Conclusion: with the help of library Cooperation or Resource sharing Library can solve many solutions for the user needs and satisfaction union Cataloguing, collection development, Acquisition, Inter-Library Loan, consortia, Networking Expertize solution. It should be implemented by using effective policies of resource sharing for implementing better services to the library users.

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