

Book Review

Consortium approach to resource sharing in an e-environment by Dr. Y.M. Patil. Scientific Publisher (India), Jodhpur, India, Hardbound; Price: Rs. 1250.00; \$42.00.

Dr. Y.M. Patil has wide range of experience in the domain of special librarianship. He headed libraries like Radio Astronomy Centre, TIFR, Ooty, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), ICAR, Nagpur and Raman Research Institute, Bangalore where he established library practices and applied available library technologies. He was deeply involved in forming two consortia viz. FORSA and NKRC. To begin with, there were no set guidelines, policies and procedures while forming consortia. This book is an output of his experience gained as lead member in consortia such as FORSA Consortium and National Knowledge Resource Consortium.

The title 'Consortium approach to resource sharing in an e-environment' is very appropriate in the present context. The book brings together all scattered information in one place covering entire spectrum of literature on consortium. The book gives a global perspective on consortium as a way of resource sharing.

The book has fifteen chapters dealing with resource sharing, electronic publishing and e-journals, consortia types, pricing models, licensing, for e-journals, National Consortium for Site Licensing, negotiations, technology infrastructure, digital preservation, consortia merger and migration, emergence of consortia in India and finally Indian consortia.

Historical perspectives of library consortia from some major countries (USA, UK, China and India) are also discussed. A detailed account on challenges in running a consortium, policies/byelaws related in the governance of consortium, negotiations, financial structures and pricing models, measures of evaluating the success of a consortium, etc are some interesting topics that are covered. Useful guidance may be found in this book on several key topics for group of libraries that are planning to form consortium. Author has dealt with consortia types and models in a great length covering all important models. Author has also quite successfully explained the complex topic like licensing terms and conditions, and prevailing

pricing models for e-journals in consortium. Author has also unfolded the mysteries of 'Big Deals' offered by publishers to consortia. The major advantage of a consortium is found to be its collective bargaining power. Therefore, library consortia negotiation has been dealt with quite extensively. Author has also touched upon other key areas such as technologies related to library consortia, aspects of digital preservation and consortia mergers and migration. There have been concerted efforts in India in forming consortia and a brief of each consortium is given followed by experiences gained which created confidence and strength to run consortia on a sustainable basis. The key pointers to important resources on consortia are also provided along with Request for Proposal (RFP) sample at the end.

This book is a welcome addition to literature in library and information science which could be a good source material for those who are engaged in library consortia activities. The book could be of specific interest to wide range of readers including consortia administrators, coordinators, decision makers, consortia stakeholders, researchers, students and teachers in LIS. It is also useful to scientific, technical, academic libraries where consortia activities are growing at a faster rate. The book should find a place in libraries where resource sharing and consortia activities are the main concern.

Although the cost is modest and publishers should have also thought of bringing paperback edition as it is a very important resource for students of library and information science.

On the whole the book successfully caters consortia information requirements to a wide spectrum of readers. It can be considered as a best reference book on library consortia. I congratulate the author for putting across his ideas in book form and bringing it out at such a time when consortia are growing rapidly.

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