

Book Review

Library Resource Sharing and Networks

KAUL (H K), New Delhi, Virgo Publications, 1999, 336p. ISBN 81-85870-22-5 (Hard bound) Price Rs. 58/-

Computer networks have become a necessity in the present day research environment. The library and information science professionals have to respond to the challenges posed by resource sharing and networking as the information era has ushered in proliferation of publications. The growing resources of data, information and knowledge that flow out of a vibrant world today have resulted in growing needs of the users. No library can afford to house all documents that are published in the area of its specialisation. Due to the rising cost of publications and their phenomenal growth in each subject, resource sharing among libraries has become a necessity the worldover. Collection development policies had to be introduced in order to select the most important and core documents and share the remaining with other libraries or networks.

Resource sharing is possible at different geographical locations among different libraries. This necessitates preparation of Union Catalogues which may be centralised or decentralised. 'Library Resource Sharing and Network' by H. K. Kaul presents the subject of library resource sharing from its roots in the universe of knowledge to its future in the spheres of networking and Internet and the barriers of resource sharing. Resource sharing barriers are discussed in greater detail with case studies, research inputs and references based on the advancements in resource sharing that have taken place in the world especially in USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan and Netherlands.

Based on the thesis of the author on the topic, " Barriers to Resource Sharing in Library Networks: An analysis of DELNET ", the book has 12 chapters, and 5 appendices which include a select bibliography, tables and diagrams on DELNET interlibrary loan scenario. The book deals with resource sharing, resource sharing tools, library networks, resource sharing technology and future of resource sharing. A Chapter on a functional resource sharing model and its management provides a framework for anyone intending to commence a resource sharing venture.

Overall, the book can be rated as valuable for anyone wanting to know details of resource sharing, networking etc, especially students of library and information science courses. Most of the topics are very valueable to the newcomers in the field.

The various case studies, illustrations and examples highlight the topics discussed and clarify the issues. Though based on the DELNET experience, it is also a valuable reference guide for information specialists, librarians, library directors and network managers.

(Reviewed by Mrs. Renu Arora & Mrs. Rekha Mittal)