



RESEARCH ARTICLE

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORKS -AN OVERVIEW (MAJOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS)

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Abstract

This article describes the basic concepts of library networks, objectives of library networks, need of library networking and coverage of networks, major Library networks in India, such as ADINET, DELNET, INFLIBNET, MANLIBNET, MALIBNET and other countries, such as AARLIN, CALIS, JANET, JISC, OCLC, and RLG. The reason of this article is to encourage librarian to rethink library networking and sharing, cooperation, and overall execution.

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Introduction:-

The rapid increase in the amount of published information, storage and retrieval methods is changing rapidly. Today with the increasing in the cost of published information and sort of library place, budget and librarians face many challenges that can only be solved by networking in these libraries. Information and communication technology extremely important in libraries for resource sharing. Because of today libraries are remodeling traditional libraries from to information Centre. Library networking helps to libraries to share resources; use of library collections and linkage tries of libraries can reduce the problem of replication of the collection.

Library Networking:-

Library network is avital conception in field of library and information science. Library networking means connection of libraries so that the participating libraries can share the information and resources effectively. Library networking is a collaboration of libraries who have agreed to work together and share their resources with each other based on demand. It aims to promote and facilitate the allocation of assets to the collection of collaborative libraries. Library networking is the area with a direct impact on services, their performance and effectiveness.

Objectives of Library Networks:-

1. Sharing of resources among all the participating libraries with minimum investment.
2. Provide online service such as E-mail, document delivery services etc.
3. Information transmission using a computer.
4. Creation of specialized bibliographic database of books, serials and non-book materials of all participating libraries.
5. Creation of online union catalogue of books, serials and non-book material of all participating libraries.

Need of Library Networking:-

The general purpose of a library networking is to acquire and develop a unique collection of materials, and avoid duplication of material to solve a budget problem. Each library shares resources with each other based on demand.

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The following needs of library networking.

1. Rapid increase in the amount of literature.
2. Increasing the cost of resources.
3. The library budget is reducing.
4. Advancement in Technological.

Coverage Of Networks: -

The networks are often classified into three types of networks. Local Area Network (LAN), Wide Area Network (WAN), Metropolitan Area Network (MAN).

Local Area Network (LAN), is a computer network that operates over a small area such as a room, office building or a campus it called LAN.

Wide Area Network (WAN), is a computer network that operates over a large geographical area often a country or continent or the whole world. Example of WANS are: DELNET, INFLIBNET OCLC.

Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), is a computer network that operates within a city it's called as Metropolitan Area Network (MAN).

Major library networks in India

| SL.NO | Network Name | Year | Place |
|-------|---|------|-----------|
| 1 | Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET) | 1994 | Ahmadabad |
| 2 | Bangalore Academic Library Network (BALNET) | 1995 | Bangalore |
| 3 | Bombay Library Network (BONET) | 1992 | Bombay |
| 4 | Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET) | 1986 | Calcutta |
| 5 | Developing Library Network (DELNET) | 1988 | Delhi |
| 6 | Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) | 1991 | Ahmadabad |
| 7 | Madras Library Network (MALIBNET) | 1993 | Madras |
| 8 | Mysore Library Network (MYLIBNET) | 1994 | Mysore |
| 9 | Management Libraries Network (MANLIBNET) | 1998 | Indore |
| 10 | Pune Library Network (PUNENET) | 1992 | Pune |

There have been several library and information networking initiatives in India, but most of them are not active. Some of the most active networks are INFLIBNET, DELNET, ADINET, MALIBNET and MANLIBNET etc.

ADINET: (Ahmedabad Library Network)

ADINET is the library network of Gujarat area. Founded in 1994, it received the first grant of several years from the National Science and Technology Information System (NISSAT), Department of Science and Industrial Research, Government of India, New Delhi. Formerly known as the Ahmedabad Library Network. At present its name is changed to Advance Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat. ADINET covers all types of Libraries: school, college, universities, institutional libraries and even public libraries. Consequently, access is given to many libraries, administrators and associations through the ADINET Network.

DELNET: (Developing Libraries Network)

DELNET was founded in 1988 and registered as a society in 1992 with the financial support of NISSAT at the India International Center Library Delhi. Formerly known as the Delhi Library Network. At present its name is changed to Developing Libraries Network. The Delhi Library Network was originally established with the goal of sharing resources among its member libraries. It aims to collect, store, and disseminate information besides offering computerized services to users, to coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and also to reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible. At present it has 7648 libraries as its members, of which 310 libraries are in Delhi; 7315 libraries in 28 states and 8 union territories on the outskirts of Delhi; and 23 foreign countries.

INFLIBNET: (Information and Library Network)

INFLIBNET Center in Gandhinagar is the Autonomous Inter-University Center (IUC) of the University Grants Commission (Ministry of Education, Government of India) in New Delhi. This is a major national program

launched by UGC as a project within IUCAA in March 1991. It became an independent inter-university center in June 1996. Originally on the campus of Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, it was later moved to Gandhinagar. INFLIBNET is helping to modernize Indian academic libraries by equipping them with the latest technology to maximize the use of information resources.

MANLIBNET : (Management Libraries Network)

Management Libraries Network was established in 1998 at the first conference co-sponsored by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and the Ahmedabad Management Association. The Management Libraries Network was registered under the Social Registration Act of 1860-XXI. The main goal of MANLIBNET is to provide a common forum for professionals, especially to develop understanding and collaboration between corporate and government libraries and library professionals. MANLIBNET acts as a mutual teacher and advisor, helping you identify problems and overcome challenges with national advice and support.

MALIBNET: (Madras Library Network)

MALIBNET is a registered society (non-government organization) was found in 1993. Through an MOU, Indian National Scientific Documentation Center (INSDOC) has been entrusted the responsibility of putting in and provides technical support for in operation the network. Presently, nearly 50 libraries in Madras are conducive actively to the creation of varied databases on MALIBNET. With the assistance of communication links and advanced info technology, the resources of the member libraries are shared and created obtainable to the users. Presently 17 major educational/research organization have joined as member institutions of MALIBNET.

Major library networks in other countries

| SL.NO | Network Name | Year |
|-------|---|------|
| 1. | Australian Academic Research Library Network (AARLIN) | 1999 |
| 2. | China Academic Library and Information System (CALIS) | 1998 |
| 3. | Joint Academic Network (JANET) | 1984 |
| 4. | Jisc (Joint Information Systems Committee) | 1993 |
| 5. | Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) | 1967 |
| 6. | RLG (Research Libraries Group) | 1974 |

AARLIN: (Australian Academic Research Library Network)

The AARLIN was initiated in 1999. AARLIN is an Australian Research Council (ARC) & Commonwealth Department of Education, Science & Training (DEST) funded project aiming to provide a collaborative research information infrastructure to: Streamline information access, offer services at point of need, enhance resource sharing, Offer portal features. AARLIN is a consortium of Australian University Libraries taking part to supply built-in and more suitable mechanisms of navigation, discovery and shipping of a wide variety of scholarly sources. It stopped operating in late 2010.

CALIS: (China Academic Library and Information System)

CALIS was officially initiated in November 1998. From 2013 to the present, it has been supported by the Ministry of Education's regular operation and maintenance funds. Three main visions of CALIS are 1. Lead the construction of libraries in the new era and promote the overall development of university libraries 2. Continue to build and improve the public service system that supports the development of university libraries 3. Build new formats and new modes that support the construction of libraries in the new era, and help libraries grasp the autonomy, initiative and right to speak in future development. At present, there are more than 1,800 registered member libraries, covering 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) and Hong Kong and Macao regions in China except Taiwan Province, becoming the world's largest university library alliance.

JANET : (Joint Academic Network)

The JANET was launched on 1st April 1984. It was formed to manage the operation and development of the UK's national education and research network. Previously, JANET was a private organization funded by the UK government, providing the Janet computer network and related research and education collaboration services in the UK. It is now operated by Jisc Services Limited, part of Jisc. It serves 18 million end users. JANET's range of activities enables individuals and organizations to push the boundaries of traditional teaching, learning and research methods. The other JANET services are –Cataloguing, Database Service, JANETOPAC, JANETNews, Email service etc.

JISC:(Joint Information Systems Committee)

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) was established on April 1, 1993. Jisc is a non-profit organization in the United Kingdom that provides network and IT services and digital resources in support of higher and higher education institutions and for not-for - profit and the public sector.

Jisc provides services such as: shared digital infrastructure and services, such as the JANET network, online resources, Union Catalog, digital technology training for education and research and also provides plagiarism counseling service, also known as JISCPAS.

OCLC:(Online Computer Library Center)

OCLC was began as the Ohio College Library Center on July 5, 1967, and became an online computer library center in the process of its expansion. In 2017, the name was officially changed to OCLC, Inc. OCLC is a global library organization that provides shared technology services, original research and community programs to its members and the entire library community. Currently, there are more than 30,000 libraries in more than 100 countries. OCLC makes bibliographic information, summaries, and full-text information available to everyone. OCLC and its affiliated libraries co-create and maintain WorldCat, the OCLC online union catalog, the world's largest online public access catalog(OPAC).WorldCat has records from public and private libraries around the world. OCLC maintains the Dewey Decimal Classification system.

RLG:(Research Libraries Group)

RLG is a non-profit organization of more than 160 research libraries, archives, museums and other cultural memory institutions. The Research Libraries Group (RLG) was a US-based library consortium founded in 1975 by the New York Public Library, Columbia University, Harvard University, and Yale University. RLG has developed and delivered innovative information discovery services, organizes collaborative programs and plays an active role in creating and promoting relevant standards and practices. In 2006, RLG merged with the OCLC library consortium. The RLG catalog became part of OCLC's WorldCat. Eureka databases weremoved to OCLC's FirstSearch service. A limited-sized RLG staff was moved from Mountain View to San Mateo, California.

Conclusion:-

For the past decades, the collaboration of resources in libraries has become increasingly necessary and useful, so that interdependence on one another has increased day by day. It evolves a new concept of networking in the field of resource sharing, where a network is a system or administrative structure that connects a group of libraries to share their resources. The world is now moving through a revolution in the growth and dissemination of information. The number of titles published worldwide is growing exponentially networking is essential, as a single library cannot store the full range of library resources that its users need, increasing costs and duplications. In this world of information explosion, storage and retrieval techniques are changing rapidly. With the explosion of information and limited library funding, librarians face many challenges that can only be overcome by setting up networking in these libraries.

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