CONSORTIA INITIATIVES IN ENGINEERING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN TAMIL NADU(INDIA)
: A PROTOTYPE DESIGN MODEL
인도 타밀 나두 주 공학교육기관의 컨소시엄 사업의 프로토타입 설계 모형

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초 록

이 논문은 국가 및 국제수준에서 이루어지고 있는 컨소시엄사업에 대해 개괄적으로 살펴보기 위한 것이다. 선진국에서는 컨소시엄사업이 점차 증가하고 있는 반면, 인도와 같은 개발도상국에서는 상황이 좋지 않은 편이다. 이 논문에서는 이러한 시각에서 인도 타밀 나두 주의 공학교육기관들의 컨소시엄에 대한 인식을 살펴보고자 하였다. 컨소시엄에 대한 인식과 컨소시엄 가입에 대한 태도를 측정하기 위해 이 지역 공학교육기관들에 대한 실태조사를 실시하였다. 조사결과를 바탕으로 이 지역 공학교육기관을 위한 모형 컨소시엄을 제안하였다.

주제어: 도서관 컨소시엄, 공학교육기관, 타밀나두 인도, 도서관 실태조사, 컨소시엄모형

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to present a brief overview of consortia' initiatives that have been taking place at national and international level. The developed countries witnessed the progressive growth of consortia initiatives; on the other hand, the situation is not encouraging in developing countries like India. Therefore in this paper an attempt has been made to trace the current developments in consortia awareness in Engineering Educational Institutions. For this purpose, a survey of Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu has been considered to measure the consortia awareness and also the attitude towards joining any consortia. Based on the results of the survey a model consortium has been proposed for the Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu.

Key Words: Library Consortia, Engineering Educational Institutions, Tamil Nadu, India, Libraries, Survey, Consortia Model.

Ⅰ. INTRODUCTION

Libraries are the hub for the information storage, retrieval and dissemination. They are committed to provide best possible and available national and international reading materials /resources to their users. In the present fast changing environment, libraries are facing serious challenges due to cuts in their budgets on one hand, and stress to perform better way and to serve a wide variety of users on other hand. Added to this, lack of expertise with in the existing staff to handle information technology is another problem. If libraries do not have expertise in handling information technology, sometimes they may not be in position to negotiate e-resources with vendors/ publishers for better pricing. The one way is to join their hands together with other libraries to pool resources in the light of escalation of prices of journals and the shrinking of budget allotment in order to serve better and to achieve common interest. It is very difficult for any library to have a solution for this situation as an individual. But libraries as a group and in a consortium can address issues in an effective manner. [1)]

This paper aims to present a survey of consortia initiatives that have been taking place at Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu, and based on the developments a prototype model of Library Consortium for Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu has been designed and developed.

The major objectives of this paper are:

- To survey the Engineering Educational Institutions which are opting for consortia initiatives in Tamil Nadu.
- To examine the reasons for joining consortia
- To survey the consortia initiatives at national and international level
- To identify the constraints in joining consortia.
- To create awareness among the LIS professionals about consortia.

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1) Foskett, D.J and Perry, Shirley, "The Consortium of University Research Libraries: An Experiment in Resource Sharing in the United Kingdom," *Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory*, Vol.17, No.3(1993), pp.303-310.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT CONSORTIA

1. CONCEPT OF CONSORTIUM

The word 'consortium' is derived from the Latin word "for fellowship". A library consortium is defined as a group of libraries coming together with common interest to fulfill their requirement by joining hands. One of the libraries or agencies can act as a co-ordinator for identification of resources, managing consortium services, managing affairs related to common interest, implementation of its objectives etc. The aim of consortium is to achieve what libraries can not achieve individually. It is a collective activity of a group of libraries for a common goal of sharing the resources and association of like-minded libraries to provide access to e-resources.[2] Consortium is a "community/co-operative of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to co-ordinate, co-operate in, or consolidate certain functions" to achieve mutual objectives. Consortium may be formed on a local, regional, or larger basis; or a subject basis.[3] A library consortium is a group of libraries that agree to share their resources to satisfy the needs of users. Library consortium is a collective activity of any group of libraries towards a common goal.

2. TYPES OF CONSORTIA

The types of consortia identified are generally based on various models[4][5] evolved in India in a variety of forms depending upon participants' affiliation and funding sources.

　• Open Consortium

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2) Pathak, Sandeep K and Deshpande, Neela, "Importance of Consortia in Developing Countries-An Indian Scenario," *The International Information & Library Review*, Vol.36, No.3(2004), pp.227-231.

3) Alexander, Julie S, "Cooperative Collection Development and Consortia: A Report of the ALCTS CMDS Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries Discussion Group," *Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory*Vol.21, No.4(1997), pp.533-535.

4) Foster, Connie et al., "International Coalition of Library Consortia Statement of Current Perspective and Preferred Practices for the Selection and Purchase of Electronic Information: "Update No. 1" and Reactions from the Scholarly Community," *Serials Review*, 2003, pp.3-4.

5) Goudar, IRN and Poornima Narayana, "Emerging Pricing Models for E-Journals Consortia and Indian Initiatives," Proceedings of the International Conference on Digital Libraries(ICDL 2004), New Delhi, 24-27 February 2004, 333-341.

This type of consortium is very flexible and it is the wish of members of consortium to join and leave as they please.(e.g. Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology(INDEST) Consortium).

• Closed Group Consortium

It is within a defined group. This kind of consortium emerges either by affiliation or collaboration among them like Council of Scientific Industrial Research(CSIR), Department of Atomic Energy(DAE), and Indian Institute of Management(IIM) Consortium. The formation and operation of the consortium guidelines and their administration is fairly simple and easy.

• Centrally Funded Model

This consortium will solely depend on the parent body. A few examples are. Information and Library Network(INFILBNET) by University Grants Commission(UGC), Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) Consortium, Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research(DSIR).

• Shared-Budget Model

In this model the participating libraries take the lead and form the consortium. Indian Institute of Management(IIM) and Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics(FORSA) are examples of this model.

• Publisher Initiatives

The Emerald Full-Text Library published by the Emerald Publishing Group(formerly MCB University Press) is recent example. Here, the consortium members will get deep discount price to the participating libraries.

• National Consortium

The main function of this model is to get, national level licensing of products, examples are Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology-All India Council of Technical Education(INDEST-AICTE) and UGC-InfoNet.

3. CONSORTIA INITIATIVES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

To mention a few library consortia at international level, International Coalition of Library Consortia(ICOLC), Australian University Libraries Consortia; Canadian University Libraries Consortia; European University libraries Consortia; United States of America

University Libraries Consortia; Ohio LINK(Ohio Library and Information Network of Ohio Universities, Colleges, Community Colleges and State Library); Centre for Research Libraries(CRL); Illinois Digital Academic Library(IDAL); Library Consortia in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho; South Asia Library consortia; Washington Research Library Consortia, The Virtual Library of Virginia(VIVA), Georgia Library learning Online are some of the noteworthy initiatives. Except the ICOLC all other consortium are confined to either region or nation or state level and belong to either academic or special or public library category. On the other hand the ICOLC is an integrated international consortium of all sizes and groups. The International Coalition of Library Consortia(ICOLC) has been in existence since 1996. The Coalition is an informal group comprising currently over 160 member library consortia in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa. 6) This is intended to inform its members about electronic information resources, pricing practices of electronic publishers and vendors. In the United Kingdom(UK) three major consortia are in operation, namely, Consortium of Academic Libraries in Manchester(CALIM), Consortium of University Research Libraries(CURL) and Joint Academic Network(JANET). In the Asian continent, in addition to India, countries like China, Philippines and Korea are also emerging in the field of consortia such as Korean Educational and Research Information Services(KERIS) in Korea; China Academic Library and Information Systems(CALIS) and Philippine Library Consortia.

III. CONSORTIA INITIATIVES IN INDIA

In this electronic age, library consortia have gained momentum even in the developing countries like India. The phenomenon of consortia or group of libraries buying e-information together has become very important. There have been many co-operative efforts for resource sharing among the libraries of India in the last two decades.

The major research and development organizations like Council of Scientific Industrial Research(CSIR), Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO), Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO), Department of Atomic Energy(DAE), Indian Council of Agricultural

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6) Thomas, Gwenda and Fourie, Ina, "Academic Library Consortia in South Africa: Where We Come From and Where We are Heading," *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 2006, pp.432-438.

Research(ICAR), Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) and Department of Bio Technology (DBT), etc, spend annually huge amount towards library acquisition of journals. In spite of this, they are not in a position to maintain subscription of core journals to avoid this some consortia have started to subscribe e-journals and e-resources as follows, Department of Atomic Energy(DAE), and Indian Institute of Management(IIM) Consortium.

1. INDIAN NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY IN ENGINEERING SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (INDEST)

In the Indian National Digital library in Engineering Sciences and Technology(INDEST)[7] set up by Ministry of Human Resource Development(MHRD), 38 institutions including Indian Institute of Science(IISc), Indian Institutes of Technology(IITs), National Institutes of Technology(NITs), Indian Institutes of Management(IIMs) and a few centrally funded government institutions, beside, a number of engineering colleges have joined this initiative. A good number of e-resources have been made available, such as IEL online, ACM Digital Library, ASME Journals, ASCE Journals, Springer Verlag's link, ScienceDirect, Applied Science & Technology Plus, ABI Inform Complete, Compendex and INSPEC on Ei village, SciFinder Scholar, MathNet, Web of Science, J-Gate and JCCC(J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia).

2. COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH(CSIR)

The Council of Scientific Industrial Research has subscribed to about 3100 unique journals by spending about Rs. 25 crores The following publishers of e-journals have been made available to all 40 CSIR laboratory such as, Elsevier(1700 e-journals), Kluwer(550 e-journals), Springer(450 e-journals).

3. INFORMATION AND LIBRARY NETWORK(INFILBNET): UGC-INFONET CONSORTIUM

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7) Arora, Jagdish, "Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology(INDEST): A Proposal for Strategic Cooperation for Consortia-Based Access to Electronic Resources," *The International Information & Library Review*, Vol.35, No.1(2003), pp.1-17.

Information and library network(INFLIBNET), under the grants of UGC has given the access to a number of universities and institutions to many e-resources, including full text published by ACS, IOP, RSC and Bibliographic database like BIOSIS, SCIFinder, J-Gate, INGENTA, few more sources in pipeline. It has been set up UGC-InfoNet for giving access to many in-house and outside e-sources.

4. INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT(IIMS)

Six Indian Institutes of Management[8] have formed a consortium and approached the publishers of e-journals and databases in the area of Management. It covers e-journals such as Elsevier(247 titles), Blackwell(268 titles), Kluwer(33 titles), Wiley titles, etc.

5. FORUM FOR RESOURCE SHARING IN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS(FORSA)

Electronic access to journals published by a few publishers with members and branch libraries has been made possible under this forum.

6. HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORK(HELNET) CONSORTIUM

It is operated through Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences since 2003 in Bangalore.[9] It covers about 30 libraries in the field of Health, Medicine, Biomedical Science and related subjects. It covers publishers and vendors, namely, Blackwell, Elsevier, Springer, Kluwer, Nature Publishing, T&F, J-Gate, etc.

7. CHANDIGARH LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM(CLC)

The librarians of important institutional and college libraries in Chandigarh along with its satellite towns of Panchkula and Mohali got together between July 2001 and February 2002 in a series of meetings to prepare a blue print for the formation of Chandigarh Libraries

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8) Paul Pandian, M, Jambhekar, Ashok and Karisiddappa, C.R., "IIM Digital Library Systems: Consortia-Based Approach," *The Electronic Library*, Vol.20, No.3(2002), pp.211-214.
9) Anjana Bhatnagar and Rakesh Bhatnagar, "Trends in Library Consortia of Indian Academic Libraries". In: *Library Consortia. Hyderabad: IATLIS and Osmania University*, (2004), p.39.

Consortium(CLC).[10] The Punjab University, British Library, MGSIPAP library, central state library, IMTECH Library and the NIPER library were actively associated for the formation of CLC. The CLC became operational in February 2002 and is a registered body under Registration of Society Act. The CLC at present has 26 members consisting of academic libraries, special libraries and public libraries.

8. AN OVERVIEW OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU

The first and foremost engineering college in Tamilnadu, namely College of Engineering, Guindy, Chennai(formerly Madras), was established in 1886(Now it is named as Anna University). This is followed by a number of colleges established by the State Government, government-aided and self-financing managements. At present there are about 266 Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu, out of which 245 colleges represent "Self-Financing" category. It is interesting to note that there are six institutions exclusively for women in Tamil Nadu.

Table 1. Statistics of Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu as on 2007

S. No.	Type of the Institutions	No. of Institutions
1	Central Government Institutions(including of Central Government Colleges, Institutions and IIT, Chennai)	05
2	State Owned Universities	04
3	Private Universities	12
4	Government Colleges	06
5	Government Aided Colleges	02
6	Self-Financing Colleges(Minority Community)	81
7	Self-Financing Colleges(Non-Minority Community)	156
	Total	266

Source: Anna University(2007). Tamil Nadu Engineering Admission 2007.[11]

Since many colleges are falling under self-financing category and to compete with the other colleges they are modernizing their libraries by automating them. A survey[12] of the

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10) Anjana Bhatnagar and Rakesh Bhatnagar, "Trends in Library Consortia of Indian Academic Libraries," In: *Library Consortia*. Hyderabad : IATLIS and Osmania University, 2004, p.39.

11) Anna University, Tamil Nadu Engineering Admission Handbook, 2007.

12) Ramesh Babu, B and Subramanian, N. "Self-Financing Engineering Colleges in Tamil Nadu: State-

engineering colleges and the state-of-art-of their libraries in Tamil Nadu reveals that many are in the process of automating their libraries. In the recent survey[13] by the authors about the digitization initiatives in Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu reveals an encouraging situation in this regard.

IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

1. SAMPLE SIZE

There are about 266 Engineering Educational Institutions all over Tamil Nadu. They can be categorised as Government Owned Universities, Private Universities, Central Government Institutions(including IIT Chennai) Government Colleges, Government Aided Colleges, and Self-Financing Minority and Non-Minority Engineering Colleges. A purposive of sample of 225 questionnaires was distributed among different categories of institutions which where established before 2003 and the responses received are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of Questionnaires and Responses Received

S. No.	Types of Institutions	No. of Questionnaires Distributed	Responses Received	Percentage
1	Government Institutions (including central government institutions, state government colleges and state owned universities)	5	2	1.17
2	Government Aided Colleges	3	3	1.75
3	Self-Financing Minority Institutions (Including self-financing minority colleges and private universities under minority community status.)	80	61	35.68
4	Self-Financing Non-Minority Institutions (Including self-financing non-minority colleges and private universities under non-minority community status.)	137	105	61.40
	Total	225	171	100

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of-the-Art," *Indian Journal of Technical Education,* Vol.22, No.4(1999), pp.1-6.

13) Vinayagamoorty, P, Ramesh Babu, B and Gopalakrishnan, S. "Digital Library Initiatives in Engineering Educational Institutions in Tami Nadu: A Survey," *The Indian Journal of Technical Education,* Vol.29, No.1(2006), pp.68-77.

Out of 225 questionnaires distributed 171 have responded and the response rate is 76%. A majority of them(166) represent self-financing institutions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIBRARIES SURVEYED

Out of171 libraries surveyed, a majority(42.1) were established between 1996 and 2000. Nearly one-fourth of the sample libraries established at the beginning of the new millennium. By and large, about one-third of sample are established before 1995. Seventy seven Engineering Educational Institutions have been certified by the agencies such as either International Organization for Standardization(ISO), or National Board of Accreditation(NBA) of AICTE or both. This shows that the Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu are keen in getting accredited either by national agency or by an international organization to establish quality of education. The libraries of these institutions are building different types of collections such as printed books, journals, e-resources such as e-books, CD ROM products, e-journals and e-project reports.

3. NATURE AND EXTENT OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Today library automation is necessary for any type of library and Engineering Educational Institutions libraries are not an exception. Without library automation digital initiatives cannot be thought of. While nearly two-third of the sample libraries are fully automated, 56.76% of libraries adopt commercially produced software and remaining use in-house software.

Table 3. Types of Institutions Vs Extent of Library Automation

S. No.	Extent of Library Automation	Type of Institutions				Total (n=171)
		Govt. (n=3)	Govt. Aided (n=2)	Self-Financing Minority (n=61)	Self-Financing Non-Minority (n=105)	
1	Fully automated	2(1.17)	2(1.17)	39(22.81)	65(38.01)	108(63.16)
2	Partially automated	1(0.58)	0	22(12.87)	40(23.39)	63(36.84)
	Total	3(1.75)	2(1.17)	61(35.68)	105(61.40)	171(100)

※ Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

4. MEMBERSHIP IN LIBRARY CONSORTIA

In India, two major consortia are in operation for academic institutions, one for traditional universities, namely, UGC-InfoNet and the other for technical education, namely, INDEST. The respondents were asked to state their participation in those consortia and the data is shown in the Table 4. The data reveals that only 31 libraries out of 171 respondents positively, out of which 30 are taking part in INDEST consortium: Further they were asked to state about their awareness on library consortia and the data is shown in Table 5.

Table 4. Types of Institutions Vs Membership in Consortia

S. No.	Membership in Consortia	Types of Institutions				Total (n=171)
		Govt. (n=3)	Govt. Aided (n=2)	Self- Financing Minority (n=61)	Self-Financing Non-Minority (n=105)	
1	INDEST Consortium	1(0.58)	2(1.17)	11(6.43)	16(9.36)	30(17.54)
2	UGC-InfoNet	1(0.58)	0	0	0	1(0.58)
Total		2(1.17)	2(1.17)	11(6.43)	16(9.36)	31(18.13)

Table 5. Types of Institutions Vs Awareness of Library Consortia

S. No.	Awareness about Library Consortia	Types of Institutions				Total (n=171)
		Govt. (n=3)	Govt. Aided (n=2)	Self-Financing Minority (n=61)	Self-Financing Non-Minority (n=105)	
1	Yes	3(1.75)	2(1.17)	60(35.09)	97(56.73)	162(94.74)
2	No	0	0	1(0.58)	8(4.68)	9(5.26)
Total		3(1.75)	2(1.17)	61(35.68)	105(61.40)	171(100)

It is evident from the Table 5 that nearly 95% of the sample librarians are aware about the library consortia.

Table 6. Types of Institutions Vs Willing to Join Consortia

S. No.	Willingness to Join Consortia	Types of Institutions				Total (n=171)
		Govt. (n=3)	Govt. Aided (n=2)	Self-Financing Minority (n=61)	Self-Financing Non-Minority (n=105)	
1	Yes	3(1.75)	2(1.17)	57(33.33)	86(50.29)	148(86.55)
2	No	0	0	4(2.34)	19(11.11)	23(13.45)
Total		3(1.75)	2(1.17)	61(35.68)	105(61.40)	171(100)

As seen from the Table 6 about 87% of the samples are expressing willingness to join consortia. The reasons for joining consortia are shown in the Table 7

Table 7. Types of Institutions Vs Reasons for Joining Consortia

S. No.	Reasons for Joining Consortia	Types of Institutions				Total n=148
		Govt. (n=3)	Govt. Aided (n=2)	Self-Financing Minority (n=57)	Self-Financing Non-Minority (n=86)	
1	Participating in inter library loan	2	2	57	86	147
2	Saving in the cost of journals	3	1	41	79	124
3	Sharing of expertise	1	2	18	30	51
4	Co-operative catalogue	1	1	21	49	72
5	Co-operative collection development	3	2	25	53	83

It is observed from Table 7 that a majority of 147 respondents are joining the consortia for the purpose of "Participating in inter library loan" followed by "Saving in the cost of journals(124) and "Co-operative collection development(51) as second and third ranks respectively.

Table 8. Types of Institutions Vs Reasons for Not Joining Consortia

S. No.	Reasons for Not Joining Consortium	Type of Institutions				Total n=23
		Govt. (n=0)	Govt. Aided (n=0)	Self-Financing Minority (n=4)	Self-Financing Non-Minority (n=19)	
1	Need more information on consortia	0	0	3	17	20
2	Lack of infrastructure	0	0	3	15	18
3	Inadequate funds	0	0	4	5	09
4	Lack of co-operation from management	0	0	2	8	10
5	Inadequate staff	0	0	3	9	13

In Table 8 only a few colleges are not willing to join the consortia for reasons like lack of information on consortia and lack of infrastructure.

V. LIBRARY CONSORTIUM FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: A PROTOTYPE DESIGN

From the analysis made in the foregoing pages, it is evident that there is consortia awareness in Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu. It is necessary to form consortium exclusively for engineering education. Keeping the urgency in mind, it is proposed to design a model consortium among Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu. The model has been named as Library Consortium for Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu(LCEEITN). This will form a part of INDEST also. The design model is shown in Figure 1.
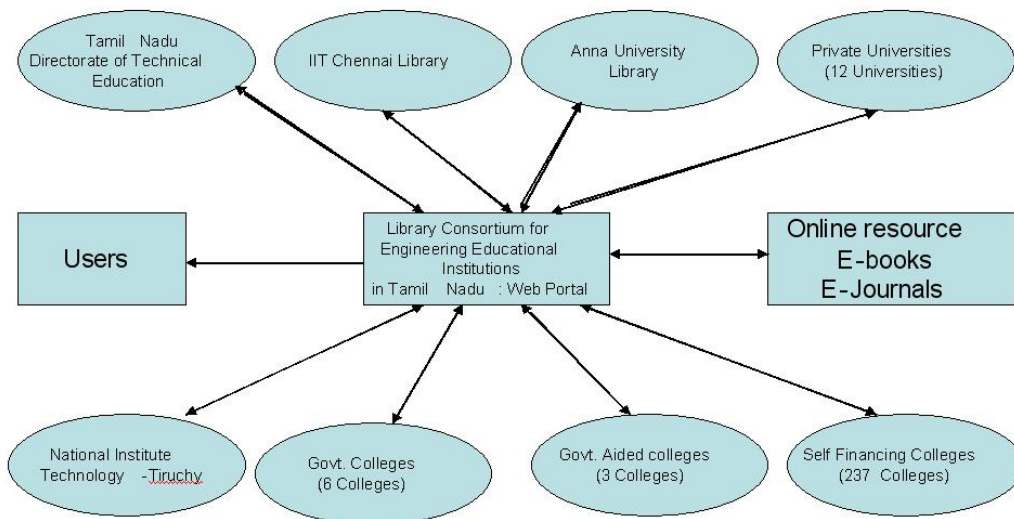

Figure 1. Library Consortium for Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu(LCEEITN)

The working of the model has been conceived from the experiences and earlier proposed models of consortia for public libraries,[14] Sanskrit Vidyapeethas,[15] National Institutes of Fashion Technology in India[16] and University libraries[17] and Engineering Colleges in Karalla.[18]

14) Ramesh Babu, B and Asok Kumar, S.K., "Public Library Consortia in India." In: *Library Consortia*. Hyderabad: IATLIS and Osmania University, (2004), pp.259-266.

15) Gopal Reddy, G and Ramesh Babu, B and Gopalakrishnan, S. "Consortia of Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Libraries in India: A Proposal," In: *Library Consortia*. Hyderabad: IATLIS and Osmania University, (2004), pp.237-244.

16) Gopalakrishnan, S, Ramesh Babu, B and Gopalakrishnan, S, "Design and Development of Web Portal on

All the 266 Engineering Educational Institutions' libraries are required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU), which clearly states the common mission, modus of operations etc. There must be a governing body comprising of all the librarians /information officers of participating libraries. One of them shall act as co-ordinator on rotation basis. Separate bodies shall be formed for negotiation, technical aspects, publication and staff training, etc.

The main work of the consortium may be to subscribe commonly the electronic resources like e-journals, e-books, online databases, etc and to distribute to their members institutions and also it should have a provision to provide link to other libraries like IIT, Anna University and participating libraries to access their in-house e-resources such as students' project reports, etc.

1. SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED CONSORTIUM MODEL(LCEEITN)

This consortium will invite all the Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu irrespective of the management. It will serve the community of Engineering Educational Institutions by facilitating its member's libraries in the collection development and dissemination of information in a collective, co-ordinated and comprehensive manner. The following plans/activities of the LCEEITN are contemplated such as selection of database/ journals, subscription period, price protection, payment methods(part/full), licensed materials (format, delivery, updates, interfaces), access method, domain name, network speed & security, archiving option, usage statistics, ultimately the reputation of the information provider. The activities of the proposed model of library consortium model is to control and reduce information costs, to improve resource sharing, to develop a network information environment and to share licensing issues with each other and promote e-resources in Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu. The proposed model will identify vast amount of electronic resources, collaborate, promote eresources, negotiate with the publishers/ vendors for access and archive, discuss licensing issues for access, and host these resources

Fashion Technology: A Case Study of national Institute of Fashion Technology(NIFT)," Frankfurt. Paper Presented in 28th International Conference-August 2006, DGI-Online Tagung.

17) Bavakutty, M(2003). "Consortium of University Libraries in Kerala: A Proposal. In: Information Access, Management and Exchange in the Technological Age," Ed by M. Bavakutty. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publications. pp.211-222.

18) Bavakutty, M and Abdul Azeez, T.A., Consortium of Engineering College Libraries of Kerala: A Proposal. In: *International Convention CALIBER 2006 Proceedings*. Gulbarga, (2006), pp.409-414.

on the web for access to member institutions from its headquarters.

The other basic objectives can be listed as follows:

- Avoid duplication of subscription of e-resources and promote the rational use of funds.
- Better negotiation for purchase of e-journals with vendors that conventional library cannot do.
- To apply information technology in human resource development.
- Promote better, faster and more cost-effective ways of providing electronic information resources to the information seekers.
- Ensure continuous subscription to these periodicals.
- Reduce the cost of access to e-journals to member institutions and share the expenditure.
- Bring awareness and explore the benefits of existing consortia.
- Increase the universe of publications available to the users through collection sharing.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE MANAGEMENT OF LCEEITN

The management of proposed consortium will consist of the following:

- *Governing Council:* Highest and decision making body to run the proposed model. It will consist of members from various institutions from all over Tamil Nadu. Preferably head of the various Engineering Educational Institutions libraries will meet regularly and plan future course of actions.
- *Governing Body:* The board will consist of subject experts and provide regular inputs to the council.
- *Committees:* Under the governing board, various committees can be formed such as negotiation committee, financial committee and expert committee, etc.

It will be a simple, efficient and highly cost effective system. The basic principle of this system will be highly centralized. Therefore it will have a separate source of funding agency(state/central authority or others) to advocate for external funds. A portion of these funds will be utilized for operating the consortium. Otherwise, these funds can assure the buying power of the consortium and members can get better pricing benefits in their consortia-based subscriptions. The consortium is more likely to have dedicated staff for

performing the ongoing routine works and be provided with headquarters and member convener, etc, which are good enough to realize the goals of the consortium.

VI. CONCLUSION

The survey revealed that out of 171 institutional libraries surveyed only 31 engineering institutions are already members in the national level consortium exclusively for engineering and technology(INDEST-AICTE consortium). Due to cost factor many libraries are not members in this consortium. In this context it is proposed in this paper to set up a state level consortium for Engineering Educational Institutions libraries in Tamil Nadu. In future it may be linked with regional and national consortium like INDEST etc. The main concept of Library Consortium for Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu is fertile one. If properly planned and implemented, it will certainly yield fruits. But the success of consortium like other co-operative efforts depends on the proper mix of enthusiasm, innovative thinking, caution and skepticism. The consortium co-operation is in reality a step towards inter-institutional collection development, where libraries pool shares of their funds for collection development into mutual commitments. The dictum, *"coming together is a beginning, work together is progress and sharing together is success"* is very apt to the library consortia in India, in general and Tamil Nadu, in particular. Therefore in the light of changing environment, all the Engineering Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu shall take immediate initiatives to join this consortium approach model, so that it will be able to access more number of e-resources at minimum cost.