Prospects of Library Consortia and Open Educational Resources in Collection Development: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Libraries receive a rigid budget, growth of literature and the enormous rise in the cost of books and periodicals have limited the purchasing capacity of the library resources. Library consortia are platforms for sharing resources with the participating libraries. Here, library consortia and open educational resources are viable solutions to the mentioned problems. The present study examines the availability of e-resource collections in libraries to determine the awareness and usage of open educational resources and consortia among the library users of affiliated colleges in Assam. The study concluded that many library users do not use consortia and open educational resources. On the other hand, among the open educational resources, 13.27% of respondents used NCERT e-Textbooks and 58.81% of respondents used N-LIST consortia. The study recommended that the government attempt to offer the essential information and communication technology infrastructure, such as computers, electricity facilities, and high-speed links to a stable high bandwidth network for access to e-resources such as e-books and e-journals and government and library science professional bodies take the initiative to conduct some workshops on consortia, e-resources, OERs and begin a forum to bring all library professionals, vendors, and Indian and foreign publishers together for better interactions, collaboration and communication.

KEYWORDS: Open Educational Resources, Library, Library consortium, Collection development, E-Resources, NLIST, Library User, College Library.

INTRODUCTION

The growth of literature and the enormous rise in the cost of books and periodicals have limited the purchasing capacity of library documents. Several factors influence the collection building and development of a library. Due to financial constraints, most of the library's procurement is limited. The problem has become sensitive due to limited budgetary allocations to the libraries. Electronic resources are essential for libraries because they are more flexible and dynamic, learning wider variety. In the ICT environment, consortia are highly important to the library. Library

consortia are a common platform for sharing electronic resources with participating libraries. It is an association of two or more companies, groups, or organizations achieving a common goal. Consortia are formed at regional, national, and international levels. There are several types of consortia, such as CSIR, INDEST, CALIBNET, DELNET, UGC-INFONET, FORSA, NLIST, HELINET, ERMED, DeLCON MALIBNET, etc. A consortium subscription enables a large platform of digital resources for many readers from a central place. It reduces staff and storage space for print resources. It also reduces the cost of printing journals and books. Print resources require lots of time to acquire, process, and display. On the other hand, e-resources are easy to handle, have multiple users access at a time, and require less physical space. Open educational resources are free in the public domain or introduced under an open license. People can access those resources freely. There are several open educational resource initiatives in India, such as NDLI, NCERT e-Textbooks, NIOS, e-Gyankosh, e-PG Pathshala, etc.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Satija and Kaur (2009) discussed consortia and cooperative collection development in libraries. The research paper also identified the library consortia such as CALIBNET, DELNET, CSIR, etc. It reflects their activities, membership, objectives, core members, etc.

Chakraborty and Ghosh (2011) discussed the advantages of open-access resources, especially in a developing country such as India; we, Indian Library and Information Science professionals have faced different complications in providing higher educational resources to users. The researcher concluded that INFLIBNET and NIC have helped the participants in the Higher education community.

Manusur (2012) discussed library collections and identified the development of electronic resources in engineering college libraries. The study identified the overview of e-resources, features, selection criteria, steps, and challenges of e-resource collection development.

Bhan (2013) recommended collection building and services in Engineering College Libraries. The study helped librarians know the users' requirements and set policies based on them. Collections should be procured at the user's recommendation. The engineering college library hours should increase during the examination days. Libraries should subscribe to more e-resources and participate in different consortia. A collection development policy should be framed for e-resources.

MHRD (2013) published a research paper at the conference. The paper deliberated on different government Initiatives on Open Educational resources, such as Karnataka-Open Educational Resources, e-PG Pathshala, e-Gyankosh, the National Institute of Open Schooling, etc. The study also explained the Indian K-12 Context, distribution, and usage of Open Educational Resources.

Kaur and Gaur (2017) explained the collection development process in the digital environment, the collection development policy, and the selection criteria for digital resources. The study briefly discussed the digital collections of libraries. All libraries are reformulating their traditional collection development policies to include selection, procurement, conservation, and sharing of the library collection to survive in the digital environment.

Mongeon et al. (2021) conducted a survey method in Canadian university libraries. The study concluded that consortium agreements are important e-resource collections for individual libraries to reduce their journal subscription expenses. The study identified that university libraries have subscribed to a large number of scholarly journals through a big deal, it is very disappointing that only a small portion of these journals are regularly used by the library user.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ To examine the accessibility of e-resources at affiliated colleges in Assam.
- ✓ To find out the awareness of Open Educational Resources and library consortiums among the library users of affiliated colleges in Assam.
- ✓ To know the usage patterns of Open Educational Resources and library consortiums among the library users of these selected colleges.
- ✓ To identify the reliability of NLIST consortium resources among library users.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study adopted a descriptive survey method. The study was conducted in the 22 provincialized general degree colleges affiliated with Guwahati and Dibrugarh University of Assam established on or before 1960. For collecting data, a structured questionnaire was distributed to one thousand library users of the colleges in Assam.

S. N.	Name of the College	Established Year of the College	Affiliation University
1	Abhayapuri College	1955	Guwahati University
2	Anandaram Dhekial Phookan College	1959	Guwahati University
3	B. Barooah College	1943	Gauhati University
4	Bholanath College	1946	Gauhati University
5	Bilasipara College	1960	Gauhati University
6	Biswanath College	1960	Gauhati University
7	Chandra Kamal Bezbaruah College	1959	Dibrugarh University
8	Darrang College	1945	Gauhati University
9	Debraj Roy College	1949	Dibrugarh University
10	Devicharan Barua Girls College	1955	Dibrugarh University
11	Dibrugarh Hanumanbux Surajmal Kanoi (DHSK) Commerce College	1960	Dibrugarh University
12	Dibrugarh Haumanbax Surajmall Kanoi (DHSK) College	1945	Dibrugarh University

13	Gargaon College	1959	Dibrugarh University
14	Goalpara College	1955	Gauhati University
15	Handique Girls' College	1939	Gauhati University
16	Lumding College	1959	Gauhati University
17	Madhab Choudhury College	1939	Gauhati University
18	Mangaldoi College	1951	Gauhati University
19	Nalbari College	1945	Guwahati University
20	Nanda Nath Saikia College	1959	Dibrugarh University
21	Pragjyotish College	1954	Gauhati University
22	Tinsukia College	1956	Dibrugarh University

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The surveyed data of respondents is organized, evaluated, and tabulated by using statistical methods such as figures, tables, and percentages in the following sections:

Table 1: Percentage of Questionnaire Respondents

Questionnaire Respondents	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Respondents	920	92.00%
Non-respondents	80	08.00%
Total	1000	100%

Table 1 shows the information regarding questionnaires distributed to the user. It is observed that 920 (92.00%) filled questionnaires were received from the respondents. Again, 80 number of respondents did not fill up the questionnaires, so the non-respondent rate is 8.00%.

Table 2: Gender-wise respondents' status

Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Male	475	51.63%
Female	445	48.37%
Total	920	100%

Table 2 gives brief information on respondents' gender categories. The table depicts that, 475 (51.63%) of respondents are male. Again, 445 (48.37%) of the respondents are female.

Table 3: Age-wise respondents' status

Age Group	Number of Respondents	Percentage
10-20	367	39.90
20-30	359	39.02
30-40	98	10.65
40-50	96	10.43
Total	920	100%

Table 3 shows the basic information on respondents' user age. However, 367 (39.90%) of respondents fall under the 10-20 age group, 359 (39.02%) of respondents fall under the 20 to 30 age group, 98 (10.65%) of respondents fall under the 30 to 40 age group, remaining 96 of respondents (10.43%) fall under the 40 to 50 age group.

Table 4: Library visit pattern

S.N.	Library visit pattern	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Everyday	165	17.93%
2	Once in two days	167	18.15%
3	Once a week	188	20.43%
4	Once in two weeks	134	14.57%
5	Once a month	136	14.78%
6	Rarely	130	14.14%
	Total	920	100%

Table 4 shows, 20.43% of respondents visit the library once a week. Again, 18.15% of respondents visit the library once in two days. Moreover, 17.93% of respondents visit the library every day. Moreover, 14.78% of respondents visit the library once a month. On the other hand, 14.14% of respondents visit the library rarely.

Table 5: E-resources collections availability

Availability of e-resources collection	Number of Libraries	Percentage
Yes	497	54.02
No	423	45.98
Total	920	100

The survey findings shown in Table 5, 54.02% of respondents found e-resources collections are available in their libraries. Again, the remaining 45.98% are not found in available e-resource collections in libraries.

Table 6: Accessing e-resources remotely

Remotely accessing e-resources	Number of Libraries	Percentage
Yes	464	50.43
No	456	49.57

Total	920	100

Table 6 indicates that 50.43% of respondents can access e-resources remotely. Again, the remaining 49.57% of respondents cannot access e-resources remotely.

Table 7: Awareness of the term Open Educational Resources

Understanding with the OER	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	468	50.87
No	452	49.131
Total	920	100

Table 7 found that 50.87% of respondents are familiar with open educational resources. On the other hand, the remaining 49.13% are not familiar with open educational resources.

Table 8: Consortia usage by the user

Usage of Consortia	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	442	48.04
No	478	51.96
Total	920	100

Table 8 depicts that 51.96% of respondents do not use consortiums in libraries. Likewise, the remaining 48.04% of respondents use consortiums in libraries.

Table 9: Open Educational Resources used by respondents

S.N.	Types of OER	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	NPTEL	85	8.67
2	IGNOU e- Gyankosh	96	9.81
3	e-PGpathshala	92	9.39
4	NCERT e-Textbooks	130	13.27
5	NDLI	85	8.67
6	DIKSHA	94	9.59
7	VIDWAN	85	8.67
8	SWAYAMPRABHA	86	8.77
9	NIOS	85	8.67
10	Not used	142	14.49
	Total	980	100

Table 9 shows that 14.49% do not use Open Educational Resources. This is followed by 13.27% of respondents using NCERT e-Textbooks, 9.81% of respondents using IGNOU e-Gyankosh, 9.59% of respondents using

DIKSHA, 9.39% of respondents using e-PGpathshala, 8.77% of respondents using SWAYAMPRABHA, 8.67% of respondents using NPTEL, NDLI, NIOS and VIDWAN respectively.

Table 10: Consortia used by respondents

S.N.	Types of Consortia	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	N-LIST	541	58.81
2	DELNET	129	14.02
3	Not used	250	27.17
Total		920	100

Table 10 displays that, 58.81% of respondents used N-LIST. Similarly, 14.02% of respondents used DELNET. On the other hand, 27.17% of respondents had not yet used consortia.

Table 11: Availability of useful resources under N-LIST

Adequate or useful resources under N-LIST	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	480	52.17
No	440	47.821
Total	920	100

Table 11 shows the availability of useful resources under NLIST. Here, it is seen that 52.17% of respondents found an adequate or useful resource under NLIST. On the other hand, the remaining 47.82% of respondents did not find an adequate or useful resource under NLIST.

FINDINGS & CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The study found that 54.02% of respondents found e-resources collections in their libraries. Again, the remaining 45.98% are not found in available e-resource collections in libraries. Moreover, 50.43% of respondents can access e-resources remotely. Again, the remaining 49.57% of respondents cannot access e-resources remotely. Again, 50.87% of respondents are familiar with open educational resources. On the other hand, the remaining 49.13% are not familiar with open educational resources. Similarly, 51.96% of respondents do not use consortiums in libraries. Likewise, the remaining 48.04% of respondents use consortiums in libraries. Moreover, 13.27% of respondents used NCERT e-Textbooks. Likewise, 58.81% of respondents used N-LIST. Similarly, 14.02% of respondents used DELNET. Again, 52.17% of respondents found an adequate or useful resource under NLIST. On the other hand, the remaining 47.82% of respondents did not find an adequate or useful resource under NLIST.

The government attempts to offer the essential information and communication technology infrastructure, such as computers, electricity facilities, and high-speed links to a stable high bandwidth network for access to e-resources such as e-books and e-journals, and that government and library science professional bodies take the initiative to conduct some workshops on consortia, e-resources, OERs and begin a forum to bring all library professionals, vendors, and Indian and foreign publishers together for better interactions, collaboration and communication. All

national and international policymakers and internet service providers (ISPs) should together find a way to achieve the widespread use of the internet. Librarians should conduct library orientation programs to instruct their student's usage of consortia, benefits, etc. They should conduct seminars, conferences, webinars, and workshops on open educational resources and consortia to promote open educational resources among library users. Libraries have faced budget problems since ancient times, introducing library consortia and open educational resources help libraries to fulfill the user demand and develop e-collections of libraries. Librarians and information professionals should try to build an information society for the development of nations. As rightly mentioned by the earlier researcher (Bordoloi et al 2021) the teachers and learners should be trained to get themselves cope with the available online resources, develop required IT infrastructures, and provide necessary funds to the academic institutions to boost the situation in the future.

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