Perceptive Change in Collection Development Policy in e-LICs: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

Due to information explosion, growing multi-disciplinary research, increasing information demand of users etc., made the libraries to opt information communication technology application in library to render its users at optimum level. This environment demands the major shift in collection development policy in libraries. This paper discusses about collection development in electronic environment, evaluation criteria to be adopted while procuring e-Resources. It also discussed about policy on content, access, pricing models, technical support, license agreement etc. It discussed about types of e-resources, its selection criteria, evaluation and problem, precautions and prospects in due course of time.

Library play a vital role in growth and development of society. The main objective of any library is to render an efficient and effective service to its clientale in any form, i.e either in the form of print or non-print or combination of both. However now a days due to advent of computers and Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the field of library Science, the ICT has become driving force in bringing out electronic Information Resources more significant. The integration of information resources and ICT make the information service more accuarte, effective and faster in support of teaching, learning and research.

'e- resources' can be defined in library context as resources that requires computer access. Generally electronic Resources covers CD-ROMs, CD-ROM databases, e-Journals, e-books, On-line Portals, full text databases, images collection, multi-media products, statistical/numerical databases etc.

International Coalition of Library Consortia (1998) defines electronic information as 'A broad term that encompasses abstracting and indexing services, electronic journals

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and other full text materials, the offering of information aggregators, article delivery services etc., Electronic information can be accessed *via* remote networks from information providers or locality mounted by a consortium or one of its member libraries (Kumar and Hadagali 2007)

As per Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules – 2 for Machine Readable data files as a 'Body of information coded by methods that require the use of a machine (typically a computer) for processing' (Kumar and Hadagali 2007)

Thus in an Information Technology (IT) or electronic-based environment, there was perceptive change in approach and philosophy of libraries. The paradigm of libraries have been shifted from custodian of books to service –oriented information providers, one medium to multiple media, own collection to library without walls, In-sourcing to out-sourcing, local search to global search, user go to library to library come to user, core collection to core access, store house model to gateway model and so on (Seetharama and Ambuja 2000).

In this changing scenario, the libraries and librarians should continue to play a significant role in handling conventional and electronic Resources simultaneously, other wise other professionals will replace the librarians and play better role than librarians in functioning. Due to advent of electronic information resources, new methods of documentary delivery and access to information, methods of procurement etc., has been changed. With the availability of Internet and Information technology users are not stepping into the library for information rather they are accessing the same from their work place. Due to this change of media and approach, all libraries should have to be flexible and understand the true nature of their existence or their mission. Products and services provided by all will have to change but mission will stay the same (Luigendigk 1996).

Collection Development in Electronic Environment

Collection development policy is a " Coomunication tool for management, librarains, users i.e a detailed outline of collecting level, a description of collection development, responsibility and budgeting tool etc which governs librarians/libraries in acquisition of both electronic and print resources (Seetharama and Ambuja R 2000).

In this changing information environment, the question always remains unanswerable that what does the future hold of library collection or for collection development in libraries ? That the electronic revolution affects the traditional role of library, that used it collects, store, process, organise and dissiminate to its user would be obvious and undisputable.

Criteria applied while procuring print resources such, as authority, content, price proof, conversion of currency, intended users, current publication, accuracy etc., are also applicable for electronic reources. However while subscribing electronic resources, the libraries faces some challenges which will not be encountered in acquiring traditional library materials. Some issues, like access, interface, and technical support, licensing, pricing methods etc. play very pivotal role in the way of e-resources subscription. The libraries therefore need to formulate a separate electronic resources collection development policy to address these issues. The purpose of this policy is to provide not

only guidelines to the library but also help in choosing appropriate electronic resources to establish consistency and priorities in managing libraries' e-collection.

Collection development include planning for the systematic and rational building of a collection. The term includes all such activities as assessing the user needs, evaluating the present collection, determining the selection policy, coordinating in selection of items, re-evaluating and planning for resources sharing etc. Thus collection development is not a single activity but group of activities (parameswaran 1997.). However the current advent of electronic environment demands a complete revolution in policy of e-collection development in libraries. There is a standard norms/practice in traditional collection development, but when it come to e-environment, it is different from traditional in terms of access, interface, and technical support, licensing etc., but rest of policies like target audience, users requirements, guidelines in the collection development, including the general selection criteria and duplication policy, will apply to electronic resources also.

General Evaluation Criteria of e-Resources

In the context of changing collection development patterns, the key issues play imporatnt role are:

(a) Ownership or limited period access
(b) Chossing of collection as per requirement or entire collection of package
(c) Pay for item or for entire bouquet
(d) Online or off-line
(e) Evaluation

Whatever be the methods adopted, one should always keep in mind the ultimate objective or purpose of collection is to satisfy the needs of users. Some of the evaluation indicaors are:

Content: Content of e-resources procured must support the curriculam of students, mandate of organization and requirement of researhers and also these should be at the intellectual level of targeted audience and an expected level of use. Except archieves rest of the collection should be current and updated regularly. Accuracy and completeness should also be considered.

Interface should be user friendly, help line tool, like Pop Ups menus, online tutorials etc should be provide. The search and retrieval software should be poweful and flexible. Interface should be with some features, like simple/advance search techniques, truncation, auto-stem, thesaurus, history, user e-mail alerts, SDI, should support multiple export options, like e-mail, priting, saving etc., and also should have link with full text. while considering any database we have to see whether it is abstracts database or full text database. Even if it is a full text database it is not necessary that print version of resources will exactly be replaced with e-version. However some addition/deletion or retrospective data may always be expected in e-resources. Moreover the references with hyperlink and e-mail connectivity to the authors is also additional advantages in e-resources. Latest updates, citation links to the authors articles, no. of reference and no. citations to the authors, articles as well as Journals will also be available in some of the

Access: Mode of access for e- resources for on-line resources will be two types;

(a) I P Access

(b) User ID and password access

University/Institute will get access through IP range of Institute which is safe from unauthorised access/number of downloads etc. Moreover the publishers will maintain user statistics, access details etc which is useful for policy decision for library while going for renewal etc., But disadvantage of this access is that user will be denied access if he is out of IP range given to publisher.

Individual subscriptions and some Institutional subscriptions where IP Access in not possible and Individual subscription prefers User ID and password access. However advantage of this access is user can access where ever he moves, i.e either in office, residence during journey etc., But this access will be misused by users for unauthorised downloads and transfer of passwords to their friends/colleagues etc which is violation of terms and conditions under License Agreement.

As far as CD-ROM databases are concerned some of the databases will be stand alone and some will be working in network environment. While procuring CD-ROM databases the libraries have to see the pros and cons of these versions. If it is network version whether these CDs will be made available on LAN or WAN.

Technical support: Technical support is very important part in subscription of e-resources. After subscription of e-resources, if library infrastructure is not compatible with applications software of e-resources/bandwidth which deprives the information to down loads the full text, audio, video or images, will not carry any justification in spending lot of money. Inorder to subscribe the e-resources, the library make an advance payment to publisher/vendor.

Hence it is very essential for the library to verify the following issues while subscribing/procuring e-resources:

(a) If provider is a publisher, then library has to verify the credentials of the Publisher as well as genuineness of the propretiary certificate.

(b) If provider is a vendor/distributor, then library has to verify the distributory certificate issued by publisher as well as credentials of the distributor as well as genuineness of the propretiary certificate

(c) Demonstration and initial training may be obtained to check access and retrieval problems

(d) After demonstration, if library intended to subscribe, the servce may be sought on trial period for one month to keep check the problem come across (if any).

(e) Imparting training to library professional for setup and to combat problems if any, day to day environment etc., is necessary

(f) Libraryn has to see whether any detailed instructions that come with product and any on-line/chat facility is available with publishers.

(g) Customer and technical support should be timely, accurate and professional

(h) The vendor should be prepared to respond to the libraries requests for customization, branding, giving URL link to each title through library website.

(i) The vendor should provide quality statistical usage report or Admin login facility to check by library itself.

(j) The publisher/vendor should provide advance notification for content and platform changes as well as system down time.

(k) Imparting training to the library professional as well as users on accessing product

(l) On site help of Publishers/distributors is very essential when ever situation demands (Ref.6)

Pricing Methods

Over the last few years there has been an increase in budget allocation for e-resources in Libraries. Now days, the libraries also started considering budget allocation for e-resources as cohesive part of overall budget of library. Moreover now a days many e-resources are pouring in the market by different publishers. In order to publicise or as policy of sale, many publishers started giving different pricing schemes based on structure, based on the type of licence, but they can also have different pricing schemes based on the type or size of library. Publishers are offering discounts if a library purchases titles in multiple formats or if it purchases in a cluster/bundle of products etc.,

The pricing models of e-resources are always in benefit are vendors. The libraries are being imposed by publishers on hard core policies. In this type of situation libraries need not comprimise on publishers policies, rather insists the vendor for the policies which are mutually agreeble.. If all libraries insists the policy for mutual benefits, i.e for both publisher as well as libraries, automatically after sometime, the publishers also may change their mindset to formulate 'Negotialble' policies which are advantages for both 'Provider' and 'User'.

1. Pay for choosen title but not for complete bouquate
2. Vendor should offer a choice of pricing models from which the libraries may select. These models could be based on various criteria, including the number of simultaneous users and user population.
3. Pricing models that are based on IP range should only take into account as the size of the actual user community. A specialized electronic resource should not be charged, based on the total user population of Organization. (ref.6)
4. The cost of providing access and the cost of content should be separate.
5. Preferably, the subscription fee for a licensed e-resources should include permanent rights to use the information that has been paid for. Alternately vendor should offer price for current year by maintaing access for Archievs once paid
6. The libraries should not be required to purchanse both the print and electronic version of a resources. It is a mandatory to maintain print version of Elsevier's Journals to subscribe 'Sciencedirect' of 'Elsevier' by paying content fee on print cost to access Archieves.
7. The cost of the electronic resources shuld not exceed that of the print counter pert. An increase in price from print to electronic format and from CD-ROM to Web, should be reflected in the increase in functionality and accessibility.

However the cost consideartion for e-books is different from other e-resources like journals and datanbases etc, At present two types of pricing models are being offered by Publishers

Purchasing model: In this model, once payment for e-book made, that book will become property of the library, it can own it permanently. No time bound or limitations in access. However prodcut will be in Publisher's server, it can be given access through its web site but for maintence fee has to be paid by library annually. Simultaneously library can download the copy of the same and keep preserved for future access.

Leased model: Some models offer price for e-books on lease. In which library does not 'Own' the prodcut but makes it available to the users untill the end of the lease.

License Agreement/MoU

Licence Agreement i.e terms and conditions for e-resources subsciption is a fact of life in conductiong business in the electronic environment. Publishers of e-resources are employing Licence as a legal means of controlloing the use of their products. (Kumar and Gurujaj, S Hadagali 2007) In e-environrment where the traditional print practice of ownership through purchase is being replaced by access through licence. Librarians should be cautious while signing agreement that it may restrict their legal rights and those of their users. Therefore libraries should negotiate with publsihers that license should adress the organization's need, access etc for networked verion rather than comprising with stand-alone/single access verion. Librarians should get it clear and stress on following points while subscribing:

1. License should be clearly mentioned whether access rights are for certain period or permanent.
2. Rights should not be restricted to authoized users, but not limited to only printing, downloading, e-mailing, copying etc.,
3. State clearly that library is not responsbility for violation of agreement/any authorized access by user/third party. However library will take steps to educate/ notify the users not to adopt any unethical practices.
4. Seek a reasonable time and opportunity to investigate and correct any alleged license violations.
5. Since users are slowly shfiting their reading habit from print to e-version, they may not be comfortable inially so there should be always provision to change the rights in agreement or flexible.
6. Advance notification for any actions is required for both library and vendor.
7. Retain the rights to archieve the data for use in perpetuity if condtions are negotiable.

Types of e-resources

e-Resources can be divided into three types:
Electronic Journals
Electronic Books
Other Electronic Resources

Electronic Journals: This policy addresses the selection, acquisition and delivery of electronic journals accessible via the Web. Access may be the result of:
(a) individual electronic-only subscriptions
(b) multi-title electronic packages, Bouquet of journals from publishers
(c) electronic versions bundled with print subscriptions (i.e. where electronic full-text is available only to print subscribers) example Sciencdirect
(d) aggregate products from information providers such as Ebsco, Gale, and ProQuest (the library has no control over the content of these collections)
(e) free access (these are not always catalogued, and may be linked only from a subject web page).

Access: Library maximises access to e-journals by several means:
(a) cataloguing: bibliographic and holdings records and associated hypertext links through websites
(b) Catalogued e-journals are also listed alphabetically by title on Library website
(c) Organizing awareness programmes like Circulars, Pamphlets, Brochures etc,,.
(d) support and training to optimise use

Selection Criteria: Selection decisions rest with Vice-chancelloer/Director/Dean with recommendation of Selection Committee constituted with Faculty/Scientists and Librarins. However Library staff and users may offer suggestions to the appropriate collection. Librarian will consider the following criteria when selecting a new electronic-only title or transferring a subscription from print to electronic or from one electronic version to another:
(a) coverage and the timely availability of material
(b) enhanced contents and additional functionality of electronic as compared with print
(c) convenience for users, e.g. unrestricted access in terms of location and time
(d) reliability of access
(e) full-text availability in PDF and/or HTML or SGML
(f) cost-effectiveness, e.g. subscription savings, lower handling and overhead costs, number of simultaneous users included in licence terms
(g) guaranteed access to a complete file of titles for the years of the subscription
(h) publisher commitment to maintaining web access to a permanent archive of back-issues
(i) availability of usage statistics to enable rational decisions on future title additions or deletions

Duplication: The library will always liaise with academic/research departments in regard to which journal titles should continue to be held in print as well as electronic format, taking into account the Department's views as to whether a specific title is considered a leading journal in the field.

The library will only provide both print and electronic access to a journal if:
(a) electronic access is available only to print subscribers on free or with nominal fee.
(b) the content coverage is not identical to that of the print version, or the text or illustration format of the print and electronic versions is not of the same quality

(c) print versions are needed to enable accurate references to an official or authoritative version.

(d) electronic publication lags behind the print edition

(e) the publisher has no commitment to archiving the electronic version.

If a print subscription is exchanged for an electronic version and it is found that the content coverage, and/or text and illustration format of a particular article, or articles, in the electronic version, differs from the printed version of the journal, then the Library will have to bear the total cost of obtaining a full and accurate copy of the printed version of the article or articles.

Electronic Books

Scope: This policy addresses the selection, acquisition and delivery of electronic books. These include:

(a) individual or collections of electronic-only books, ordered directly from the publisher or through a vendor

(b) electronic versions available with print purchases

(c) electronic books available freely on the web (not always catalogued)

Access: The library maximises access to electronic books by several means:

(a) cataloguing: normal bibliographic records will be created for electronic books. Users will be able to access the full text via a link created through WEB OPAC.

(b) loading and maintaining necessary software within the Library

(c) providing access to software, for the clients of university/institute to download and install

(d) Organizing awareness programmes, like circulars, pamphlets, brochures etc,

(e) support and training to optimise use

Selection Criteria

Emphasis on data has been for high demand and reference material, and for support of flexible learning. Selection decisions rest with Vice-Chancellors/Director with recommendation of Selection Committee constitutes with faculty. Scientists/librarian. However library staff and users may offer suggestions for appropriate collection. Questions relating to price and availability should be directed to the acquisitions department. Collection managers will consider the following criteria when selecting an electronic title, whether new or the equivalent of an existing print title in the collection:

(a) demand

(b) suitability to curricular support

(c) currency and comprehensiveness

(d) cost, e.g. lower handling and overhead costs, number of simultaneous users included in licence terms

(e) enhanced contents and additional functionality

(f) ease of use and convenience for users, e.g. unrestricted access in terms of location and time

(g) reliable, stable and permanent access

(h) appropriateness of format, e.g. file size, supported software clients

(i) availability of usage statistics to enable rational decisions on future title additions or deletions

Duplication

The University/Institute Library may provide both print and electronic access to particular monograph titles if this is justified by demand and preservation requirements.

OTHER ELECTRONIC RESOURSES

Other e-Resources includes CD-ROM/DVDs, Bibliographical, Abstracting, Indexing databases, Statistical, Geographical Information databases, multimedia databases inludes images, movies, documentary films, Audio and vedio databases, Directories, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Animations, etc.,

Scope: Other electronic resources may include Government documents, working papers, conference proceedings, databases, web sites, image files, etc.

Access: Access will be standalone/networked version. These resources should be linked through library web site to access by authorised users out of library premises by adopting supporting software.

Selection criteria

Selection decisions rest with Vice chancellors/Directors/Dean/Managers. Librarians, Library staff and users may offer suggestions for the appropriate collection. Questions relating to price and availability should be directed to the acquisitions department or serials Unit. Librarians will consider the following criteria when selecting an electronic resource, whether new or the equivalent of an existing print document in the collection:

(a) demand

(b) suitability to curricular support

(c) currency and comprehensiveness

(d) enhanced contents and additional functionality

(e) ease of use and convenience for users, e.g. unrestricted access in terms of location and time

(f) reliable, stable and permanent access

(g) appropriateness of format, e.g. file size

Duplication

The University Library will only provide both print and electronic access to a resource if:

(a) electronic access is available only to print subscribers

(b) the content coverage is not identical to that of the print version, or the text or illustration format of the print and electronic versions is not of the same quality

(c) print versions are needed to enable accurate references to an official or authoritative version.

(d) electronic publication lags behind the print edition

(e) the publisher has no commitment to archiving the electronic version.

CONCLUSION

Electronic publishing is a boon for readers of 21st centuary. However it has certain advantages and disadvantages. If each of these disadvantages is overcome with advantages and then product will be 'User Centered' rather the, 'Library Centred' or 'Publisher Centred'. The challenge of this new direction in collection developemnt policy is indeed an opportunity to serve better to the user community effectively, expediously, accuartely by developing a need-based, relevant and varaible cost-effective collection. sometimes without owining it information can be provided through networking to the user to fulfill the meaning S.R. Ranganathan's laws by stating " Web is for user".

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