Resource Sharing and Networking in Libraries of Pakistan: The difficult beginnings

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Introduction

- The main aim/objective of library is to satisfy its clientele [No library is able to satisfy all needs]

- This gave rise to the concept of Library Cooperation

- The concept is known as Resource Sharing

- Library Cooperation remained confined to inter-library loan

- Even inter-library loan was not being practiced widely
Introduction

- The Resource sharing and networking between libraries has a long history and as old as libraries themselves.

- The Library of Alexandria shared its collection with the Pergamum library in 200 B.C.

- The Library of Congress began lending books to other libraries in 1902.

- In 1919 the American Library Association adopted the first United States Interlibrary Loan Code.

- Pakistan in 1955, L. C. Key was appointed as a library consultant.
Introduction

- The East Pakistan Library Association and the British Council organized a seminar on Inter-Library Cooperation in March 1967. (F.G.B. Hutchings, President BLA)

- Ameen (2008) stated:

  1963–1972: 07 cooperation

  1947–1997: 07 resource sharing & 05 cooperation
What Literature Speaks?

- Decade 1961 – 1970
  06 attempts have been made
    02 practical
    04 descriptive

- Decade 1971 – 1980
  02 attempts have been made (descriptive)

- Decade 1981 – 1990
  05 attempts have been made
    01 practical
    04 descriptive
What Literature Speaks?

- Decade 1991 – 2000
  09 attempts have been made
  01 practical
  07 descriptive
  01 mailing group (PAKLAG)

- Decade 2001 – 2010
  20 attempts have been made
  02 practical
  16 descriptive
  02 mailing group (LIBCOP & Librarianwelfare)
## What Literature Speaks?

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Recommendations

- Efforts should be made for practical implementation of Resource sharing concept in all kinds of libraries in Pakistan

- Focused activity should be initiated in cooperation with HEC (PERN, DL)

- Legislation for resource sharing among libraries should be formulated and implemented at national level

- Libraries on their own plan and implement continuous capacity building program especially in ICT
Recommendations

- contribution of mailing groups and list serve should be enhanced for resource sharing efforts. Moderators of the groups can play important role in this regard

- Library and Information Schools should compel their students to develop small scale resource sharing projects

- Realistic models of resource sharing needs to formulate as result of research and development
Recommendations

- It is revealed that the efforts initiated by Government and supported found successful so that Government support in shape of funding, policy making etc is necessary for resource sharing in libraries.

- Experts should formulate theoretical as well as practical foundation for resource sharing in libraries.

- Library professional organization such as PLA and other professional mailing group should initiate the debate and prepare the environment of resource sharing, setting aside their professional jealousy.
Conclusion

"Everything is difficult before it becomes EASY"

Unknown
Thanks