

Indian Consortia Models: FORSA Libraries' Experiences

Y. M. Patil

Raman Research Institute, Bangalore 560080, India

Christina Birdie

Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore 560034, India

Nirupama Bawdekar

Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Pune University Campus, Pune 411007, India

Sunita Barve

National Centre for Radioastronomy, Pune University Campus, Pune 411007, India

Nishtha Anilkumar

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad 380009, India

Abstract.

With increases in prices of journals, shrinking library budgets and cuts in subscriptions to journals over the years, there has been a big challenge facing Indian library professionals to cope with the proliferation of electronic information resources. There have been sporadic efforts by different groups of libraries in forming consortia at different levels. The types of consortia identified are generally based on various models evolved in India in a variety of forms depending upon the participants' affiliations and funding sources.

Indian astronomy library professionals have formed a group called Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FORSA), which falls under 'Open Consortia', wherein participants are affiliated to different government departments. This is a model where professionals willingly come forward and actively support consortia formation; thereby everyone benefits. As such, FORSA has realized four consortia, viz. *Nature* Online Consortium; Indian Astrophysics Consortium for physics/astronomy journals of Springer/Kluwer; Consortium for *Scientific American* Online Archive (EBSCO); and Open Consortium for *Lecture Notes in Physics* (Springer), which are discussed briefly.

1. Introduction

One of the most complex issues that library professionals have been facing is how to manage with ever-proliferating electronic resources and rapidly changing information technology. Since the early 1990s, there have been tremendous changes in the area of library cooperation. Resource sharing has been the hallmark of libraries for cooperation, coordination and collaboration between groups