

Impact  
Factor  
2.147

ISSN 2349-638x

Reviewed International Journal



**AAYUSHI  
INTERNATIONAL  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
RESEARCH JOURNAL  
(AIIRJ)**

Monthly Publish Journal

VOL-III

ISSUE-  
III

Mar.

2016

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## **Networking & consortia in Digital Learning Environment**

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### **What is a Network?**

A network consists of two or more computers that are linked in order to share resources (such as printers and CDs), exchange files, or allow electronic communications. The computers on a network may be linked through cables, telephone lines, radio waves, satellites, or infrared light beams.

### **Two very common types of networks include:**

- Local Area Network (LAN)
- Wide Area Network (WAN)

You may also see references to a Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN), a Wireless LAN (WLAN), or a Wireless WAN (WWAN).

### **Local Area Network**

A Local Area Network (LAN) is a network that is confined to a relatively small area. It is generally limited to a geographic area such as a writing lab, school, or building.

### **Wide Area Network**

Wide Area Networks (WANs) connect networks in larger geographic areas, such as Florida, the United States, or the world. Dedicated transoceanic cabling or satellite uplinks may be used to connect this type of global network.

### **Advantages of Computer Networking**

#### **1. Easy Communication and Speed**

It is very easy to communicate through a network. People can communicate efficiently using a network with a group of people. They can enjoy the benefit of emails, instant messaging, telephony, video conferencing, chat rooms, etc.

#### **2. Ability to Share Files, Data and Information**

This is one of the major advantages of networking computers. People can find and share information and data because of networking. This is beneficial for large organizations to maintain their data in an organized manner and facilitate access for desired people

### **3. Information sharing**

The depth of knowledge and experience from a group of people can be staggering. Networking will provide many opportunities to ask questions and receive feedback. Discussing other points of view really expands your knowledge base, and allows to see things from a broader perspective. Learning from other's "best practices" saves time, energy and resources.

### **4. Connections**

When opportunity "knocks" you want to be in a position to take advantage of it. Many times there is a need for information-sharing, joint ventures, partnerships, and even needs for services. Having a wide network of individuals to contact may be the difference in seizing the moment or missing it completely

### **Definition of Consortia**

A Consortium could be described as a group of organizations who come together to fulfill a combined objective that usefully requires co-operation and the sharing of resources. And need to have a clear mutual goal in order to ensure their success. The aim should be to deliver "more than the sum of the individual parts". A library Consortium formation can be local, regional, state, national and inter institutional level.

A **library consortium** is a group of **libraries** who partner to coordinate activities, share resources, and combine expertise. The International Coalition of **Library Consortia** is an informal discussion group of such **consortia**. **Library consortia** offer significant advantages to increasingly strapped **libraries**.

### **Advantages Of Consortia**

Some of the important advantages of the proposed library consortium are as follows:

- i. Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost;
- ii. Optimum utilization of funds.
- iii. Facilities to build up digital libraries
- iv. Helpful to provide better library services like CAS and SDI
- v. Cost Sharing for Technical and training support
- vi. Electronic Journals demand neither library space nor shelving costs nor can they be stolen from the library
- vii. The consortium have been offered better terms of licenses for use, archival access and preservation of subscribed electronic resources, which would not have been possible for any single institution; and
- viii. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ix. Economy in maintain

### **What is digital learning**

Digital Learning is "learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and/or pace."

- **Time:** Learning is no longer restricted to the school day or the school year. The Internet and a proliferation of Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anytime.
- **Place:** Learning is no longer restricted within the walls of a classroom. The Internet and a proliferation of Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anywhere and everywhere.
- **Path:** Learning is no longer restricted to the pedagogy used by the teacher. Interactive and adaptive software allows students to learn in their own style, making learning personal and engaging. New learning technologies provide realtime data that gives teachers the information they need to adjust instruction to meet the unique needs of each student.
- **Pace:** Learning is no longer restricted to the pace of an entire classroom of students. Interactive and adaptive software allows students to learn at their own pace, spending more or less time on lessons or subjects to achieve the same level of learning.

Digital learning is more than just providing students with a laptop. Digital learning requires a combination of technology, digital content and instruction.

- **Technology:** Technology is the mechanism that delivers content. It facilitates how students receive content. It includes Internet access and hardware, which can be any Internet access device – from a desktop to a laptop to an iPad to a smartphone. Technology is the tool, not the instruction.
- **Digital Content:** Digital content is the high quality academic material which is delivered through technology. It is what students learn. It ranges from new engaging, interactive and adaptive software to classic literature to video lectures to games. It isn't simply a PDF of text or a PowerPoint presentation.
- **Instruction:** Educators are essential to digital learning. Technology may change the role of the teacher but it will never eliminate the need for a teacher. With digital learning, teachers will be able to provide the personalized guidance and assistance to ensure students learn and stay on track – throughout the year and year after year – to graduate from high school. Teachers may be the guide on the side, not the sage on the stage.

## Networking & consortia in Digital Learning Environment

In digital learning environment. It is very easy to communicate through a network. People can communicate efficiently using a network with a group of people. They can enjoy the benefit of emails, instant messaging, telephony, video conferencing, chat rooms, etc. People can find and share information and data because of networking. This is beneficial for large organizations to maintain their data in an organized manner and facilitate access for desired people.

Digital learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and/or pace.

- Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anytime.

- Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anywhere and everywhere.

Consortia is also provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost; A **library consortium** is a group of **libraries** who partner to coordinate activities, share resources, and combine expertise. The International Coalition of **Library Consortia** is an informal discussion group of such **consortia**. **Library consortia** offer significant advantages to increasingly strapped **libraries**.

Digital learning is more than just providing students with a laptop. Digital learning requires a combination of technology, digital content and instruction.. In digital learning environment. **Networking and consortia play very important roal.**

### Conclusion

Library consortia, providing for physical and electronic delivery of materials, and integrating the collection-development process are all distinct and crucial steps in moving toward the twenty-first century library. It is the case; clearly identified landmarks represent important goals and milestones for measuring our common progress on a journey through a new and unfamiliar landscape. Consortia are tools, which will aid in exploiting the features of the e-resources as well as in effecting savings. Digital learning environment.

- Networking will provide many opportunities to ask questions and receive feedback. Discussing other points of view really expands your knowledge base ,and allows to see things from a broader perspective. Learning from other's"best practices "saves time,energy and resources. Digital Learning environment Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anytime and save time..

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Library Consortia: benefits and

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