

**CONSORTIUM OF MALAYSIAN
LIBRARIES(COMLIB):
A PROPOSAL**

by

Putri Saniah Megat Abd. Rahman

Chief Librarian

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

and

Chairman, Committee on Commercial
Databases

PERDANA Committee on Commercial Databases

● Membership

- University and research libraries



● Terms of reference

- Identify and evaluate databases
- Negotiate prices and services
- To ensure government regulations are complied
- To compile Union List

Platform for Cooperation

- I. Procedures and policies in acquisition and management of commercial databases
 - Collection development policy
 - Guidelines on the management of commercial databases

... Platform for Cooperation

II. Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

- Usability
 - Ease of navigating interface
 - Search options (limits, combining results, truncation, proximity, sorting, browsing, SDI availability)
 - Linking ability (includes open URL-Compliance)
 - Options-- E-mail, print, save
 - Depth of indexing

...Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

● Usability....

- Data accuracy
- Auto-logout availability
- E-mail alerts and user profile

...Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

- **Statistics and reporting**
 - **Usage statistics (by month, database and year), including:**
 - **Number of logins (or sessions)**
 - **Number of turn-aways**
 - **Number of searches**
 - **Available via Excel file, monthly availability, available on password protected server, all of previous and current year data available**
 - **Special software required for data manipulation?**

...Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

- **Content:**
 - **Uniqueness of content**
 - **Overlap with other databases**
 - **Interdisciplinarity**
 - **Fulltext availability**
 - **File format (PDF, PostScript)**
 - **Full text value (includes core journals)**
 - **Embargo**
 - **Cover to cover fulltext?**
 - **Duplication is evident, what is the preferred format for subject areas?**
 - **Availability of archives in CD-ROM or Print formats**

...Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

- Curriculum Needs:
 - Teaching faculty input
 - Growth of programs (recent and planned)
 - Distance Education needs of programs

...Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

- Vendor Criteria:
 - Cost (and recent years' increases)
 - Provision of statistics (preferably COUNTER compliant; see www.projectcounter.org)
 - Training
 - Database response time
 - Support, including:
 - Resolution of problems
 - Response time
 - User Group

...Evaluation and selection of commercial databases

- Value Added Services:
 - Online tutorials
 - Help Services
 - New features, services etc.
 - Trial for specific facilities—example:
Downloading of full text document
 - Course packs

... Platform for Cooperation

III. Negotiation

- Pricing structure –
 - electronic only, print plus electronic, additional subject access, free databases
- Price increase –
 - Multiyear binding, acceptable price increase

... Platform for Cooperation

- Licensing & usage –
 - Single/multisite, institution, FTE, remote users, simultaneous users, unlimited users
- Demonstration & free trial
- Training
- Dynamic – merger, takeover

... Platform for Cooperation

- Contract & agreement – consultation with legal advisors
- Request for quotation and consortium rates

... Platform for Cooperation

IV. Initiatives and Discussions

- Listserv & regular meetings
- Centralised funding from Ministry
- Union list
- Training & promotion
- Sharing of problems and best practices
- Activities for renewal of subscription
 - Comparison of prices and terms of agreement, evaluation of database & vendor
- Monitor usage and evaluation of statistics

... Platform for Cooperation

Databases acquired at consortia rates for universities

<i>Title</i>	<i>No. of Universities</i>	<i>Price per Institution (RM)</i>	<i>Vendor</i>
ACM Digital Library	11	14,925.00	Access Dunia
CSA	3	83,600.00	CSA

... Databases acquired at consortia rates for universities

<i>Title</i>	<i>No. of Universities</i>	<i>Price per Institution (RM)</i>	<i>Vendor</i>
IEL (IEE Electronic Library)	10	254,916.65	United Technology
Springer The Link	11	29,235.00	Acess Dunia

... Databases acquired at consortia rates for universities

<i>Title</i>	<i>No. of Universities</i>	<i>Price per Institution (RM)</i>	<i>Vendor</i>
EiVillage	8	46,907.00	Access Dunia
ITS MARC	6	6,894.00/ workstation	Acess Dunia

... Databases acquired at consortia rates for universities

<i>Title</i>	<i>No. of Universities</i>	<i>Price per Institution (RM)</i>	<i>Vendor</i>
Lecture Notes in Computer Science	5	15,000.00	Access Dunia
Lexis-Nexis	5	90,000.00	Lexis-Nexis

... Databases acquired at consortia rates for universities – **Medical Consortium**

<i>Title</i>	<i>No. of Universities</i>	<i>Price per Institution (RM)</i>	<i>Vendor</i>
LWW	5	133,000.00	IPL (Ovid)

... Platform for Cooperation

Databases acquired using centralised funds from Ministry of Education

<i>Titles</i>	<i>No. of Licenses</i>	<i>Total Price</i>	<i>Vendors</i>
Proquest Education Complete	10	333,784.50	Bell & Howell
Ebscohost Business Source Premier	10	526,625.00	Ebsco Publishing
Science Direct	13	1,098,281.40	Elsevier Science

Subscription of Commercial Databases: Problems and challenges

- Cost
 - Increasing each year
 - RM22 Millions for 450 databases (including about 50 duplicate databases subscribed by individual institutions)
 - Variation in cost (per institution) for similar database
 - Terms of agreement – not standardized
- Monitoring usage statistics
 - Format varies (no. of searches, no. of turn -aways)
 - Difficult to analyze data

... Problems and challenges

- Agreement and licences
 - Terms & conditions
 - Legal requirements
 - Sign individually or as a group
- Centralised funding databases by Ministry of Education
 - Uncertain continuous funding
 - Method of payment-- through consortium (required by some vendors)
 - Limited resource sharing
 - Signing of agreement
 - Criteria of selection of institutions
 - Monitoring of usage
 - Responsibility and ownership

... Problems and challenges

- Evaluation of databases & vendors
- Frequency of meeting—difficult to meet on regular basis
- More effective channel of communication
- Effective implementation of decision
- Vendors influence on:
 - decision making of each institutions
 - Negotiations
- Pressure on the secretariat
- Loose consortium

Examples of Tightly Integrated Consortium

- Washington Research Library Consortium
 - Shared budget covers :
 - Core services in the areas of cooperative collection development
 - A library automation system with an online union catalogue and multiple electronic resources
 - Offsite book storage facility and book delivery services, and
 - A separately staffed service organisation

... Examples of Tightly Integrated Consortium

- OhioLink has a central funding system and a form of governing board decides on policy and expenditure
 - Sharing of electronic access
 - Physical delivery of materials
 - Electronic delivery of journal articles
 - Integrated collection development
 - Union catalogue of holdings information
 - Customer initiated circulation services

National Consortiums Provide Common Strategy

- Recent achievements :
 - Powerful negotiating parties which succeed in adding their own clauses to contracts and no longer sign 'standard' contract texts, e.g. include contentious issues – supply copies to other libraries, course packs
 - Create licensing consortia thus libraries join together to share the burden of time consuming work and on the licensing costs.

.. National Consortiums Provide Common Strategy

- Join forces to hold down escalating journal prices and negotiate better deals e.g. members of a consortia will not pay more than an additional 7.5% to have the electronic access to a journal
- Library consortia have grown from a limited position of resource-sharing to an integrated system-wide resource sharing through electronic access

.. National Consortiums Provide Common Strategy

- Establishment of semiformal entity called the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) – a forum for leaders of consortiums to meet with vendors and discuss topics of mutual concern.

Benefits of Tightly Integrated Consortium

Benefits to libraries

- Comprehensive evaluation of databases
- Stronger bargaining power
- “Group purchasing” to derive lower pricing
- Spread access to electronic products to smaller libraries
- Able to purchase a recently introduced product at a fair price
- Professional development & networking

.. Benefits of Tightly Integrated Consortium

Benefits to publishers & vendors

- Increase market penetration & communication
- Expand sales at a faster rate
- Able to introduce new products to a wider library market
- Simplify the sales process – one contact for marketing, selling, negotiating a price and setting deadlines for decision

Benefits of National Consortium

- Focused or heterogenous membership profile
- Dedicated staff who coordinate programme development but do not really control that programme
- Central funding or may rely on institutional funding or may supplement with foundation or external funding

.. Benefits of National Consortium

- Between libraries & publishers/vendors esp. with technological advancement e.g. linking tools, interfaces, etc. can speed up seamless linking and value added services e.g. electronic document delivery, order on request, one-stop search, subjects clusters, etc.
- Develop institutional strategic alliance to share resources the libraries are bound by established agreements and clear policies with one another

..Benefits of National Consortium

- Resource sharing arrangements – national license, union catalogue, central server, archives, subject specialisations, clearing house
- Provision of resources to patrons who may not have them before, esp. in smaller libraries and distance education learners
- Increase levels of services and convenience for the patrons of larger libraries

..Benefits of National Consortium

- Shift from a peripheral and limited resource sharing to an integrated system-wide and formalised resource sharing of print and digital resources
- Malaysian libraries can cooperate and collaborate to enrich and share resources towards evolving a knowledge-rich society in Malaysia, befitting Vision 2020

Steps towards formation of the National Consortium

- Discuss at PERPUN Meeting
- Submit to the Vice Chancellor of each institution -- to be discussed at Vice Chancellor's Meeting
- Submit to Ministry of Higher Learning
- Submit to METEOR
- Signing of MOU among members of COMLIB

Consortium for PERDANA

- COMLIB(Consortium of Malaysian Libraries)

Mission:

Act as a national consortium to collaborate, enrich and share resources among Malaysian libraries

Functions

- Collective agent for evaluation of products, aggregate interest and promotion of the selected database
- Collective agent to negotiate aggregated contracts that offer libraries products and services at greatly discounted rates
- To evaluate terms of contracts and agreements in the licensing agreement

Functions

- Collective purchasing agent for:
 - achieving the best possible prices of the electronic products
 - to acquire electronic products for the members, mount on a local server provide dial-up from internet access to the entire members
 - to license the products for members and provide gateway to the third party

Functions

- ...Collective purchasing agent
 - provide portal, training and management of electronic databases
 - improve and expand overall resources among members
 - develop and implement resource sharing

Objectives

- To control and reduce information costs by achieving the best possible prices through negotiated group purchases of electronic resources, print and microforms
- To enrich the availability and usage of information and thus affect the information future
- To improve and expand overall resource sharing among members
- To expand the technology infrastructure
- To improve the information infrastructure

Governance

Governing council responsible for the ratification of major decisions

- Establish own company, OR
- METEOR (affiliated member/permanent secretariat)
- PERPUN (permanent secretariat)
- PPM (permanent secretariat in PPM)

Structure

- The Board

- consists of Library Directors/Chief Librarians
 - 3 representatives from 7 universities (METEOR members)
 - 3 representatives from other universities
 - 1 METEOR representative
 - PNM Director General
 - 1 representative from the Ministry of Higher Learning

COMLIB Structure

- Taskforces of working group meet periodically on ad-hoc basis. Examples:
 - Resource sharing Working Group
 - Cataloging Working Group
 - System Working Group
 - Networking and Technical Infrastructure Working Group

COMLIB

•Management : Chief Operating Officer (COO)

- Hired or seconded senior librarian from one of COMLIB members as COO in order to place COMLIB activities on a business-like footing.

- Establish office and website.

- Evaluate products, aggregate interest and promote databases.

- Evaluate terms of contracts and agreements with vendors/suppliers on behalf of COMLIB members.

- Negotiate aggregated contracts and national license

- Manage, evaluate and monitor usage of resources

- Implement resource sharing projects

COMLIB : Staffing

- Appointment of support staff, technical staff and consulting /training staff as operational members
- The staff should be independent of any of the COMLIB member
- They will provide clear and frequent communication with COMLIB members
- They will coordinate the various COMLIB activities with the service providers, e.g. conducting demonstration/ training session for electronic information databases

COMLIB

•Funding

- Develop a membership dues structure which can be a recurring or a one-time funding

- •Launching grant

- Lobbying and requesting from state and federal governments for central funding of e-info resources

- Solicit funding from foundations and corporate sector

- Develop and implement strategies and programs to generate revenue (e.g. from fee and rates for services provided by COMLIB)

COMLIB

- Membership : Proposal
 - Open to all University Libraries, Research Libraries (Public and Private) & other libraries
 - Annual Subscriptions of RM10,000
 - Major Benefit :
 - Access to major databases to be subscribed by COMLIB
 - COMLIB Portal

Funding

- Membership Fees
 - RM 10,000 annually per institution
 - Staff salaries derived from the subscription fees as follows:
 - Executives: RM 5,000 monthly
(RM 60,000 yearly)
 - Staff: RM 1,000 monthly
(RM 12,000 yearly)
 - Total costs RM 72,000 yearly

COMLIB

•Programs & Services to Benefit Members

- Develop strategic plans (mission, goals & priorities)

- Explore and execute programs and services, e.g.

- ✓Virtual Union Catalogue

- ✓Circulation system

- ✓e-resource purchase

- ✓Core “Journal access collections” creations

- ✓Digital library project and funding coordination

COMLIB : Possible Projects

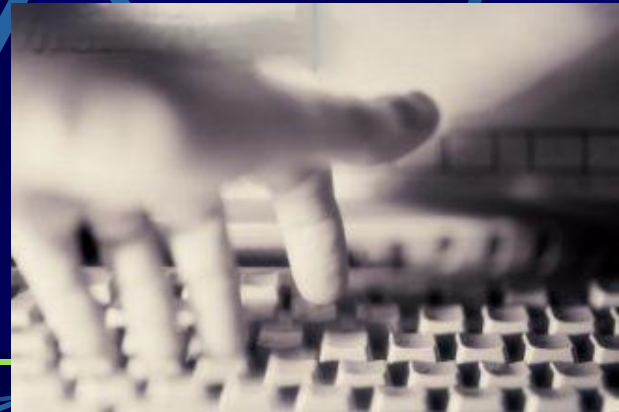
- ✓ Preservation & management of resources and national heritage
- ✓ Educational services
- ✓ Physical cooperative storage facility
- ✓ Technology support services
- ✓ Document delivery service
- ✓ Promote the use of the acquired e-resources
- ✓ Marketing of local e-info resources
- ✓ Smart partnership with local agencies for information packaging to support e-learning, e-commerce, k-economy, etc.



COMLIB

•Technology

- Shared infrastructure and assets
- Shared systems
- Portal management
- Shared server



Conclusion

- As information continues to expand at an exponential rate, and the budget continues to remain uncertain, libraries have a rather powerful tool of management – the national consortium

The current flux in the digital environment can only be manipulated in advantageous and understandable ways by the joining of resources, both fiscal and technical

Conclusion

- A Malaysian Consortium can be an effective platform for resources sharing in the digital area
- Libraries have to collaborate, enrich and share resources and knowledge towards evolving a knowledge-rich society in Malaysia.

... Malaysia Libraries Consortium



**Collaborative solution is our future
COMLIB is the ANSWER**



Thank you