

CONSORTIUM LICENSING OF INTERNET-ACCESSIBLE DATABASES

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CONSORTIUM LICENSING OF INTERNET-ACCESSIBLE LIBRARY DATABASES

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by

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Types of Library Consortia

- **Academic/Research libraries**
 - CSU/UC/SUNY/Community Colleges
 - Dutch & German university libraries
- **Public libraries with community access**
- **Multiple types of libraries in a shared geographic region**
 - GALILEO/PeachNet, JANET

Types of Vendors

- **Indexing & abstracting database vendors**
 - Silver Platter, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
- **Full-text aggregators**
 - Ebsco, IAC, HighWire Press, OCLC
- **Publisher-based resources**
 - Academic Press, Elsevier, Springer, Oxford University Press
- **Combination of the above types is common**

Factors to Consider as a Consortium

- **Establish a single point of contact**
- **Legal entity may need to be formed**
- **Process for deciding priorities**
- **Authority to act quickly on opportunities**
- **Variety of internal cost allocation schemes**
- **Most contracts will require substantial negotiation, often on an annual basis**

Advantages to Consortium

- **Centralized contract negotiation expertise**
- **Significant cost savings are possible with broad participation**
- **Members can afford cooperative resources that are too expensive acting alone**
- **Potential for reducing redundant collections**

Advantages to Vendor

- **Single point of contact**
- **Streamlined accounting & communication**
- **New revenue stream from smaller institutions may offset reduced pricing**
- **Broader market presence**

Disadvantages to Vendor

- **All members may require individual customer support despite single contact**
- **Maintain complex sets of network IP address restrictions**
- **May be required to report institutional usage statistics**
- **Locked into pricing for duration of contract**

Disadvantages to Members

- **Direct vendor support may not be available**
- **May not receive institutional use statistics**
- **Consortium purchasing priorities may not match highest needs of a member**
- **Pricing models are still in flux**
- **Full-text coverage changes constantly**
- **Need to address archival issues**

Vendor Pricing Models

- **Pool of simultaneous ports or connections**
- **Per-member pricing vs. single consortium**
- **Contract may require continuation of print subscriptions**
- **Number of participating members often affects level of discount offered**
- **Pricing models still in flux**
- **Investigate tiered pricing alternatives**

Cost Allocation Factors

- **Vendor may price access one way, but need to divide costs among members differently**
- **One possible model:**
 - **Flat rate for all participants, perhaps 20%**
 - **Size of user population as predictor of use**
 - **Factor in actual use as numbers become available, adjusted on an annual basis**

Example

4 Members	Flat Fee	Size/Use	Totals
A (100 users)	\$500	\$400	\$900
B (400 users)	\$500	\$1,600	\$2,100
C (500 users)	\$500	\$2,000	\$2,500
D (1000 users)	\$500	\$4,000	\$4,500
2,000 users	\$2,000	\$8,000	\$10,000

Practical Suggestions

- **Collect member network information**
- **Establish single contact at each institution**
- **Be prepared to gather subscription data**
- **Set up fund transfer procedures ahead of time**
- **Contact or Join the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC), with over 80 participating consortia**

ICOLC Position Paper

“Statement of Current Perspective and Preferred Practices for the Selection and Purchase of Electronic Information”

- **Recognizes all participants in system of scholarly communication & its transition**
- **Libraries should not bear development costs**
- **Pricing models must reduce per-use costs**
- **Purchase vs. license, archival ramifications**

ICOLC Statement (continued)

- **Encourages flexible packaging by providers to meet diverse consortia**
- **Reaffirms concept of fair use**
- **Provides standard guidelines for contract negotiation and content**

URL:

<http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/statement.html>

For More Information

- International Coalition of Library Consortia
URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia>
- California State University
URL: <http://www.co.calstate.edu/irt/seir/index.html>
- Dutch & German university libraries
URL: <http://cwis.kub.nl/~dbi/english/license/>