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**
- **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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Flat Fee</th>
<th>Size/Use</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (100 users)</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (400 users)</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (500 users)</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (1000 users)</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 users</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/