

Sharing library resources in technology-enhanced and technology-starved times: A Case of Selected Southern African Library Consortiums

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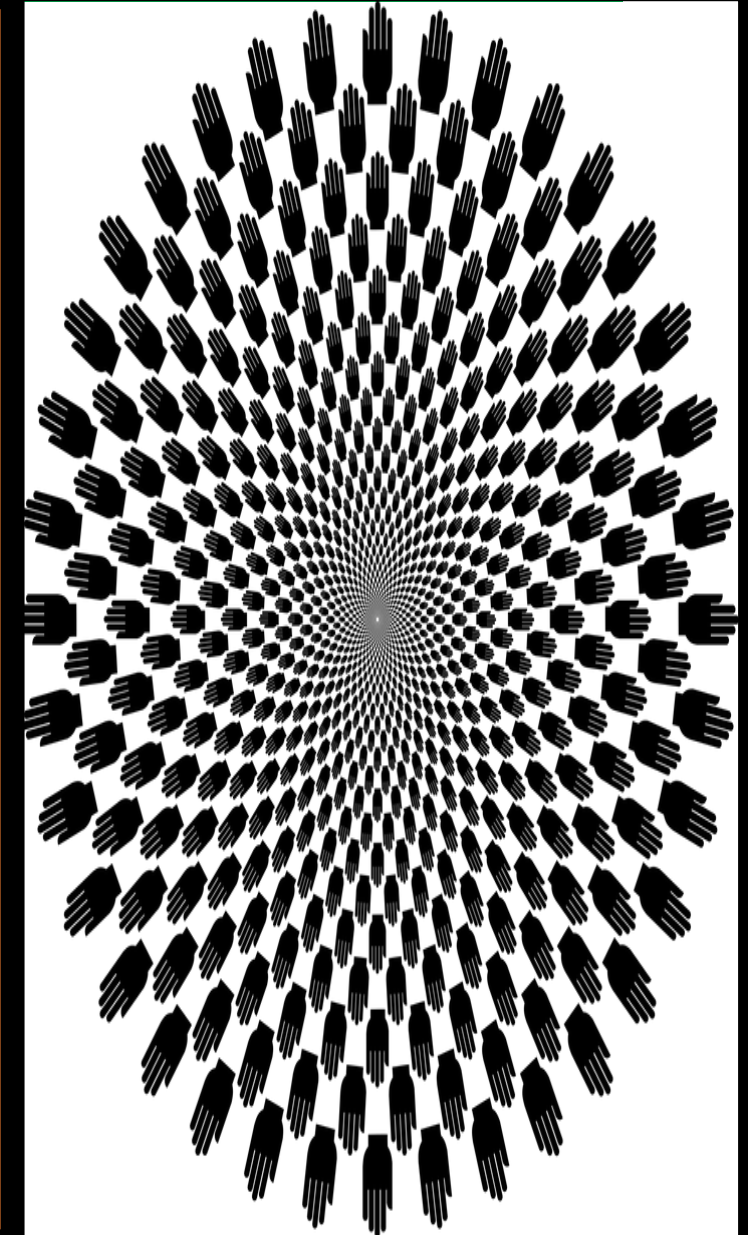
Introduction and background to the study

- Rapid development in digital technologies has extended resource sharing and networking among libraries to provide relevant services to users irrespective of space and time (Diseiye, et.al,.2024).
- Shared cataloguing, inter-library loan, document delivery, off-site shelving facilities, joint licensing of electronic content serve as examples of cooperation
- Academic libraries are shifting from collection development to connection building and management (Machimbidza, & Mutula, 2020).
- Cooperative strategies to overcome numerous challenges such as growing costs of library resources and underfunding (Chisita, 2017).



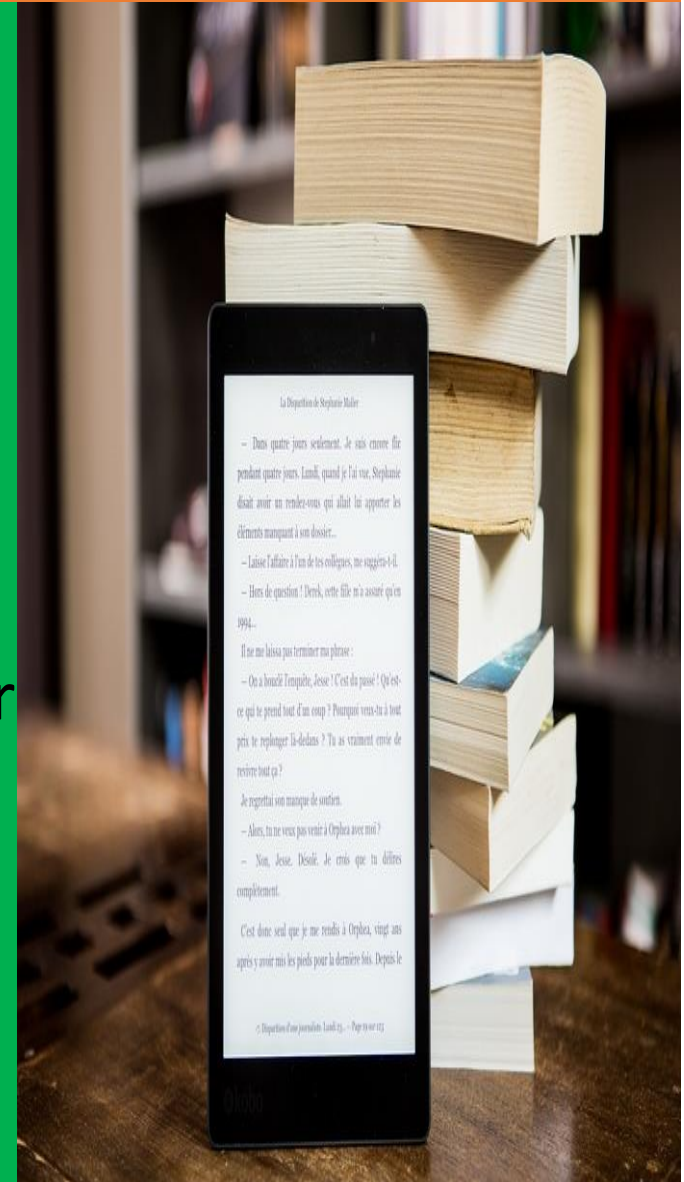
Libraries and politics of ebook pushing

- ebook pricing enables publishers to maintain control over the market and revenue stream making it prohibitive for libraries
- Previously, ebook lending worked comparable to print lending i.e. the one book/one user model, in which each ebook could be loaned to one individual at a time (Sisto, 2022).
- **One Copy/One User (OCOU)** model is a digital purchasing model
- **One Copy/One User (OCOU)** model enable libraries to ensure long-term access to popular titles without worrying about expiration dates
- From 2011, publishers started to license eBooks and such resources were licensed for a maximum of 26 loans.



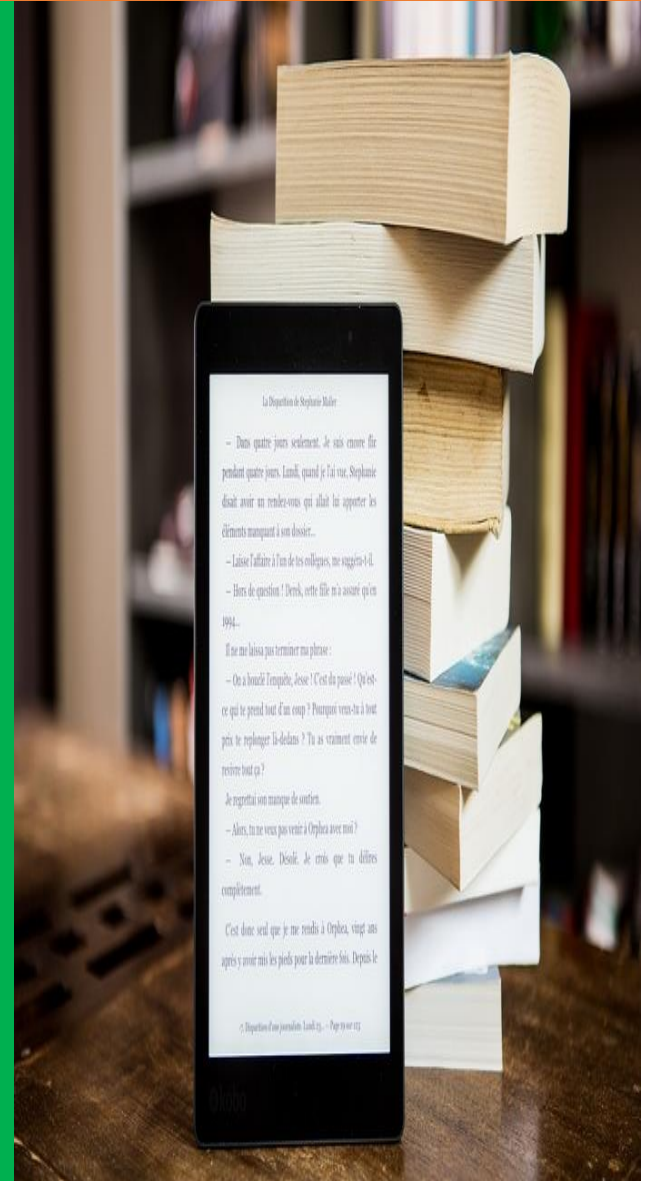
Other examples of Ebook purchasing models

- **Perpetual Licensing**- Libraries purchase the ebook once for indefinite ownership.
- **Metered Licensing**- eBook for a set period or a specific number of checkouts but license expires when limit is reached .
- **Subscription Licensing**- model enables libraries to pay a recurring fee to access a collection of eBooks for a certain period (Very expensive).
- **One Copy/One User (OCOU)**- Restricted to one user at a time, similar to physical books. (While ensuring access it leads to waitlists for popular titles)
- **Pricing Models**- Publishers may set different prices based on factors like the title's popularity, length, and demand.



Examples of Ebook purchasing models

- **Pay-per-circ-** libraries only pay for books once they've been borrowed by patrons, and then the library pays for each loan.
 - Model is economical for titles with low circulation; but can be very expensive if a title becomes suddenly in demand.
 - Open Access (OA) subscription model is more ideal for Africa because its cost effective, stimulates local research and fosters collaboration.



Factors spurring library cooperation

- Budgetary constraints/ shrinking budgets - cost of books and other information sources has become costly
- Accountability pressures, changes in the pedagogy, and growing client expectations (Hickman, 2017) among universities
- The need to create *esprit de corps* and to enjoy social intercourse with one another
- Desire to strengthen joint workmanship and stir member libraries to work toward common goals
- Information explosion
- Academic libraries develop compact cooperation with fellow university libraries and other types of libraries to meet the required information needs of diverse users
- Desire to meet the demands of clients for faster and more reliable services through cooperation, and partnerships (Kumar, Sharma, & Lal, 2024).



Context of library consortia: Zimbabwe & South Africa

- Library consortia has gained ground in South Africa and Zimbabwe with the former existing at a national level, while the latter is confined to academic and special research libraries
- Historically Zimbabwe and South Africa's development has been shaped by exogenous factors including colonialism and imperialism and the struggle for independence.
- South Africa was colonized by the Dutch when Vasco daGama in (1652) and later the British in 1795 and 1806,
- Zimbabwe was colonized by the British through the British South African Police(BSAP) in 1890.
- This explains the differences in the development of education and libraries in both countries.
- Libraries in both countries have their roots in the colonisation process which resulted in the development of a colonial library to provide for the educational, informational, recreational and cultural needs of the colonisers (Mudimbé, 1993).
- The colonial history gives the discourse a contextual background necessary to unpack the key motifs of the article.



Consortia development in South Africa

- The consortium for nationwide access was formed in 1999 by representatives of several regional academic library associations, all of which were at that time subcommittees of regional academic consortiums.
- Coalition of South African Library Consortia (COSALC) established in 1999 (Meijer, 2019).
- Through its structures, the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI) was created to address the urgent need to enhance access to online scholarly information (Halland, 2019).
- SASLI's role was to identify needs, negotiate prices and terms and conditions of licenses with publishers, coordinate access to and training of electronic information, and handle any other issues (Halland, 2019).
- 2006 saw the Annual General Meeting of COSALC making a unanimous decision to rename the organization as the South African National Library and information Consortium (SANLIC) (Halland, 2019).



CREDITS FOR SANLIC

- SANLiC regulates and rationalizes library operations to prevent duplication (SANLiC, 2024)
- Members of the consortium's committees share their expertise with newcomers to the world of online resources (Chisita, 2017).
- Of 62 549 research and review articles assessed by SANLiC (2020), approximately 33% were open access, while the remainder were enclosed behind paywalls.
- Negotiating collective licenses with publishers and aggregators for scholarly reading and publishing services for member institutions(SANLIC, 2024
- Member institutions benefit from the bargaining power of the consortium
- Membership is drawn from research and academic institutions, including other types of libraries can benefit the collective purchasing power of the consortium to access electronic resources (SANLiC,2024)
- By lowering subscription costs for member libraries helps to expand collections (Strydom, et.al, 2022).



Zimbabwe University Library Consortium (ZULC)

- Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC) -formed in 2001 in response to the worldwide movement for electronic journals consortiums (Machimbidza, & Mutula, 2020).
- ZULC is the most vibrant and well developed with proper systems of governance , resources and web presence
- CARLC has not been so effective in positioning itself in the realm of cooperation and collaboration (Chisita, 2017).
- ZULC was launched against a backdrop of low budgets and rising living costs (ZULC Minutes, 2002).
- ZULC has enhanced cooperation and collaboration, pay for e-resources collectively on behalf of members through the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications' Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (INASP- PERI) (Ojedokun & Lumande, 2009).



ZULC & its successes

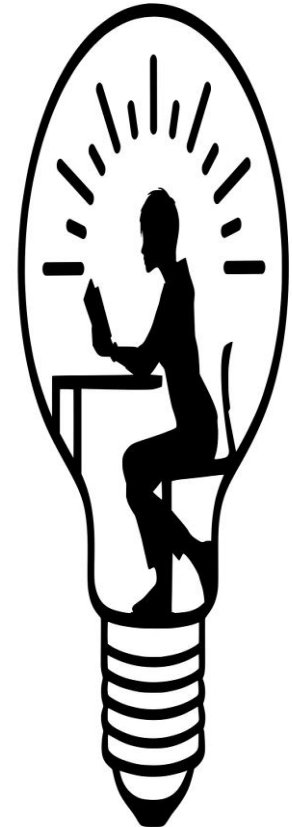
- The provision of access to affordable e-resource subscriptions to support quality research.
- Provision of training to build capacity within member institutions i.e. Information Literacy, Library Marketing and Advocacy, Negotiation and Licensing,
- Serving as a network for sharing knowledge and experiences i.e more established organizations are able to offer advice to those still growing.
- Transformative agreement to support researchers and scholars withy (APC)
- Promoting Open Scholarship to support teaching, learning and research



Research Objectives

The following objectives will guide the study:

- Examine the state of library cooperation and collaboration in selected libraries in South Africa and Zimbabwe ;
- How can library consortia get better deals from publishers?
- Analyze the challenges and opportunities for library cooperation in South Africa and Zimbabwe; and
- Recommend a library consortium model for library cooperation.



Research problem

- ❖ Although Zimbabwe and South Africa have developed vibrant library consortiums, wider access to services remains a challenge because of the digital divide and resource scarcity in other underfunded libraries
- ❖ In both countries, there exists a gap between academic libraries that are fairly funded and resourced in terms of digital infrastructure and public, community and school libraries that haven't yet taken a leap forward in digital transformation.
- ❖ There is need for an inclusive nationwide consortium to facilitate nation –wide access to information



Research Methodology

- The study will employ a qualitative approach based on a narrative review.
- Narrative reviews should be regarded as scholarly summaries sideways with clarification and assessment (Greenhalgh, Thorne, & Malterud, 2018) .
- Narrative reviews can be used by variety of methodologies and should be viewed as systematic since they can be undertaken in a methodical way, contingent to purpose, method and context.
- Narrative reviews are not weak cousins of systematic reviews, but rather conceptually harmonizing forms of intellectualism (Greenhalgh, Thorne, & Malterud, 2018).
- Procedures of narrative reviews resonate with subjectivist and interpretivist research paradigms Sukhera, (2022) .



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- Such paradigms stress that reality is subjective and ever in state of constant flux (Sukhera, 2022).
- Narrative review was chosen because it allowed the researchers to describe what is acknowledged regarding shareability of library resource in South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- Narrative reviews are useful for discovering topics that are under-researched as well as for new intuitions or ways of discerning regarding acute energetically researched fields (Sukhera, 2022).

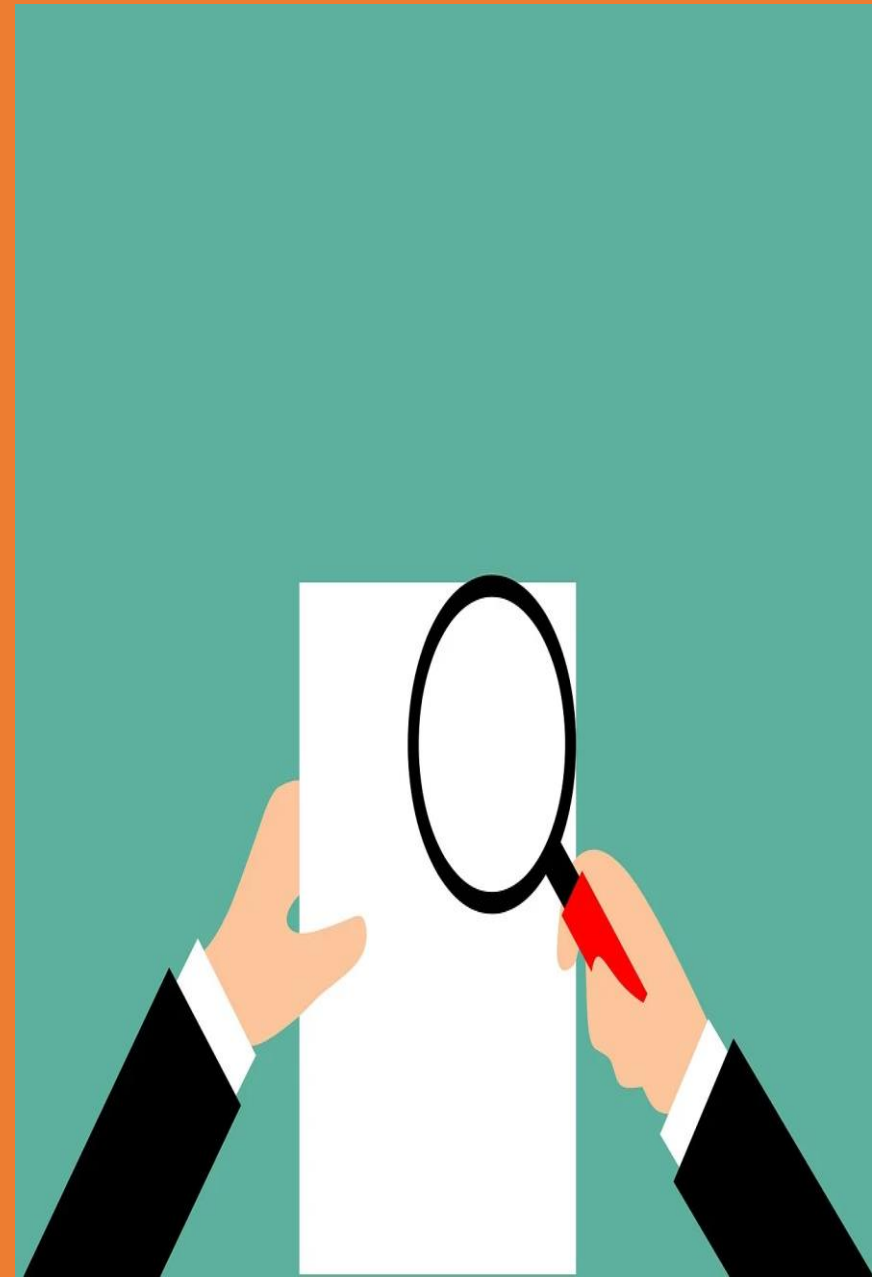


Inclusion and exclusion criterion

- The inclusion/exclusion criteria for literature selection was supportive in guiding the narrative review (Green, Johnson, , & Adams, 2001)
- The elimination criteria was acknowledged according to the objective of the study, (Green, Johnson, , & Adams, 2001).
- Articles selected were published in English focusing on the crucial areas, namely, library consortia, cooperation and collaboration
- The relevancy of the articles was a determining factor for the inclusion criterion.

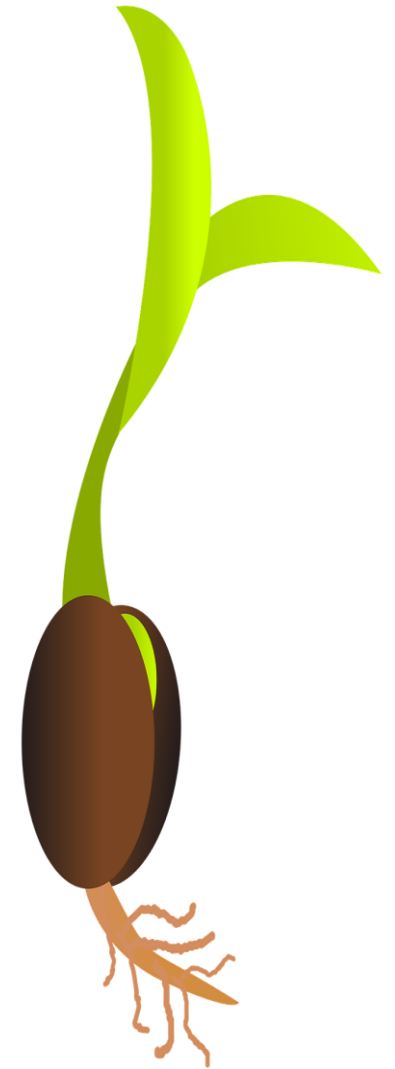
The following category of articles were excluded:

- one times article in press;
- book reviews;
- erratum; and
- retracted works



Brief Historical overview of Library of consortia

- Ancient library of Alexandria exchanged copies with the Athens library, but there is scanty evidence regarding full-scale sharing (Aman, 1989, 84).
- The 19th. century -cooperation between American and European higher education libraries (Wolf and Bloss,2000) .
- Library cooperation in Europe began to gain momentum in the 17th century due an initiative of philosophers and writers who were also librarians, for example, Gotthold Ephraim
- The foundation of cooperative collection development to the early 1800s as evidenced by international exchange programmes initiated by European universities and the cooperative collection development initiatives of the mid-20th century(Wolf and Bloss 2000:1).
- Lessing (1729-1781) from the Herzog August *Bibliothek* in Wolfenbüttel began an exchange programme with other libraries and proposed a consortia acquisition scheme with the University of Göttingen.
- A union catalog was suggested by Goethe, who oversaw the libraries of Weimar and Jena, as part of his role as a government official in Weimar (Wormann, 1968, p. 340-341).



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- Joint acquisition of library materials became a key issue of ALA and this was essential in ensuring standardization of library systems and resources (Krajewski, 2023).
- Library cooperation has existed as evidenced by the production of shared catalogues during 16th century, the publication of analytic cards by American Library Association (ALA) as shared cataloguing programme in 1898, the sharing of resources via interlibrary lending code devised by ALA and the initiation of cooperative acquisition project by the Library of Congress in 1945.
- Cooperation among libraries is not new because it has been around since the 1880s at least (Johnson, 2018).
- The formation of the ALA in (1876) marked a significant development characterized by heightened focus on cooperation among libraries (Nesta, 2019) .
- This period marked the development of the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme (DDC) and hence the need for cooperation

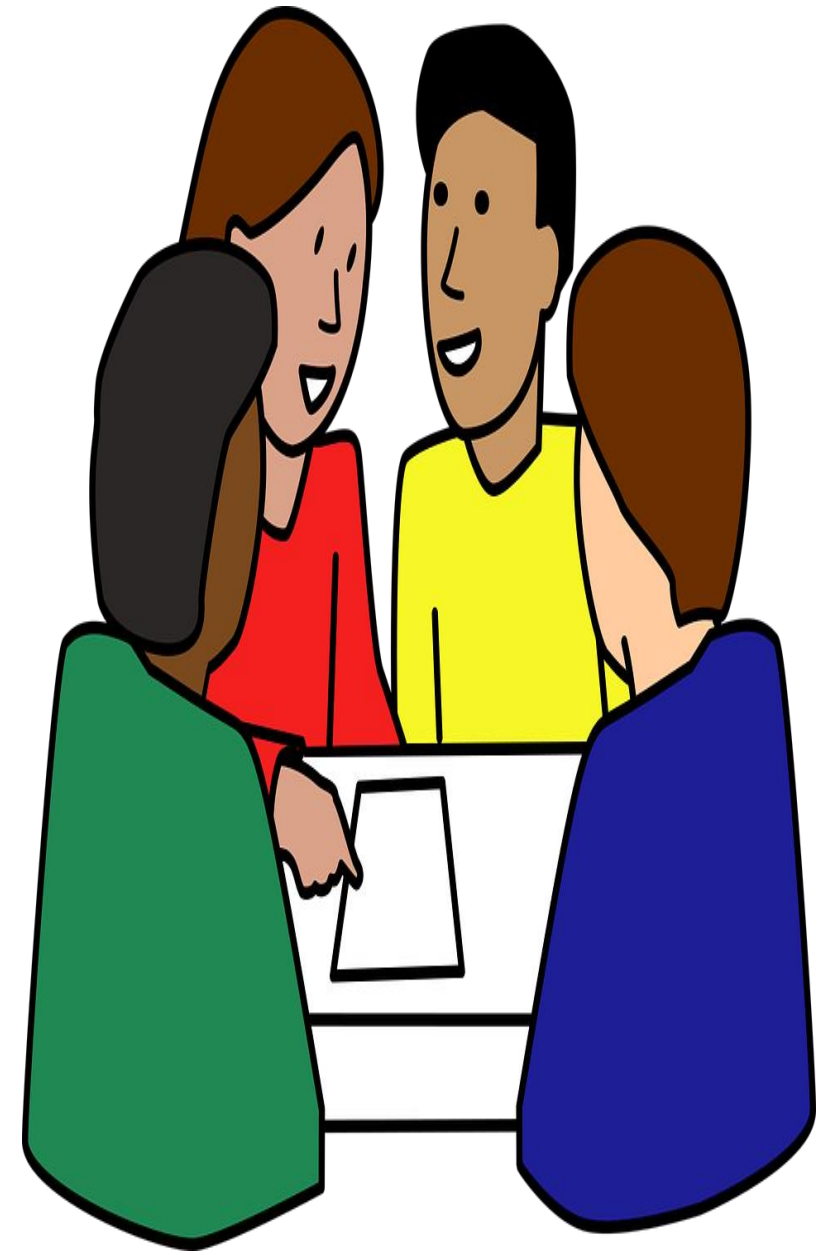
Selected case of library consortia development

- India's library cooperation and collaborative - 2nd half of the twentieth century when the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) was established in 1952(Pal, 2016).
- Establishment of numerous library networks during the 1980s and 1990s for the purpose of collaboration and resource sharing, including:
 - ❖ the Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET) (1986),
 - ❖ the Developing Library Network (DELNET),(1988),
 - ❖ the Madras Library Network (MALIBNET) (1993), and
 - ❖ INFLIBNET (1991), among others
- The development of library consortia in India were spurred by
 - a) the ability to share resources without sacrificing the individuality of each member, cooperative research and development that uses ICTs to enhance services and make them more cost effective, staff development,
 - b) cost reduction,
 - c) provision of interlibrary searches and ease of access to electronic resources.
 - d) New Model



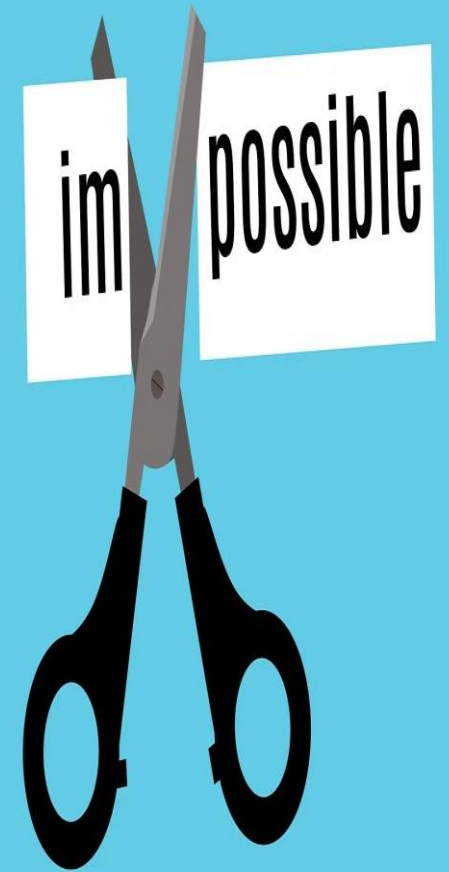
Findings and discussion

- Library consortia and resource sharing in South Africa and Zimbabwe has gained solid ground as evidenced by successes of SANLiC and ZULC (Chikonzo, 2016; Chisita, 2017; Strydom, et.al, 2022; Halland , 2019; Sisto, 2022;Nowakowsky, & Voy, 2023).
- The library and information science landscape has been transformed through innovative projects, including:
 - ❖ cooperative collection development,
 - ❖ continuous professional development,
 - ❖ enhanced networking,
 - ❖ library automation,
 - ❖ Provision of system support,
 - ❖ interlibrary lending,
 - ❖ retro-conversion, consulting, and cooperative purchasing (Hasan,2024).



Challenges encountered by Library Consortia

- rapid seismic technological changes in the information landscape, (Pinfield, Cox, & Rutter, 2017),
- fiscal constraints,
- the growing and dynamic and diverse needs of users,
- the need for transparency & accountability (Chikonzo, 2016.; Atkinson, 2019),
- Respond to changes in pedagogy, and growing expectations from students (Hickman, 2017).
- Aligning library consortia with emerging technologies to enhance operations and processes (Neal, 2010; Chisita, & Chiparausha, 2019; Borrego, Anglada, & Abadal, 2021; SANLiC, 2024).



Challenges encountered by Library Consortia

- Adapting strategies to evolve and respond to the challenges and opportunities of the digital era and AI i.e. use of **data analytics tools for generating evidence**
- Broadening scope of strategic partnerships i.e. **commercial and non-commercial Internet Service Providers (ISPs)** e.g. NRENs for affordable internet access
- Collection development should transition from a "**print logic**" based on information scarcity toward the "**network logic**,"
- Library consortiums should develop a **new collection development model based on today's funding and digital realities and opportunities**
- Adaption of consortia partnerships for **shared software, hardware & networking costs**
- **Consortia should continue to coordinate activity and resources across their membership to achieve set goals.**



Recommendations and Conclusions

- Adapting data-driven decision making through AI data analytics
- Adapting shared economy principles for equal access
- Conducting workshops on Metaliteracy / AI literacy
- Exploring shared cloud storage
- Promoting Open Access and use of Digital Global Public Goods(DGPG) e.g. open software, open Scholarship,
- Collaborative projects i.e. shared repositories
Advocating for agreeable& flexible pricing models for subscriptions
- Shared Digital licenses for digital content
- Promoting nation-wide access to information i.e. the Indian model “**One Nation One Subscription**” (ONOS) for nationwide access to high-impact scholarly research articles and journal publications.

