European University Institute **Library**

2001 Fiesole Retreat

Session Two

Consortia, Alliances and Partnerships

Moderator: Tommaso Giordano

Fiesole Collection Development Retreats

Casalini libri *Digital Division*

Library Consortia: Why?

- Increase in purchasing power (licence negotiations)

- Influence national/international policy agendas (copyright, &c.)

- Sharing resources (infrastructure, collections, human resources)

- Content description and metadata

- Digitalisation and archiving

- Electronic publishing, learning programmes

Which Model?

The most popular:

> *The consortium as a buying club*

Short term tangible outcomes:

- Library side
    better economic/access conditions

- Vendor side
    larger audience

    increase in total revenues

Criticisms

- "The consortia start with the view that some or all of it's member want to buy a product, regardless of costs, quality, or pricing history"

- "They handle the journal that will appeal to the greatest number of the libraries in the group"

- "They may fail to purchase high quality, low-cost titles from small publishers"

From
Margaret Landesman and Johann Van Reenen
'Creating Congruence'
The Journal of Electronic Publishing, 6 (2000), 2 December

The Long Term

- Will consortia enable libraries to control the ownership and access of research outputs?

- Will consortia effectively support libraries to be real players in the scholarly communication environment?

- In which way can consortia contribute to a new system of scholarly communication?   ctd….

The Long Term (ctd.)

- How will libraries, publishers and intermediaries develop a new collaborative model for future scholarly communications systems?

- How can libraries, authors and publishers contribute to a new communication model based on the quality and pluralism of cultural information?

- And…………...

Fiesole 2001

European University Institute Library

Consortia in Italy:

Recent Initiatives by University Libraries

Tommaso Giordano

2001 Fiesole Retreat

The University Context
Challenges / Developments

- Significant restructuring of the national educational system

- New organizational models: cost efficiency oriented

- Important changes in teaching programmes and curricula

- Enrollment decrease & competition between Universities

- Decrease of national funding

University Libraries

- 70 Universities (including large-scale campuses)

- Combined total library acquisition budget

  - (circa 100 ml Euro per year)

- Significant investments in IT

- Technological challenge as an opportunity to redesign library organization

Critical Factors

- Absence of strong tradition in library cooperation
- Insufficient central (national) support in library cooperation programs
- Fragmentation

    - departmental libraries

    - duplication

    - no central library authority

- Difficulties in achieving economies of scale

Library Consortia Initiatives (I)

- License negotiation

  CIPE   <http://www.iue.it/LIB/cipeweb1.html>

- License negotiation / storage / interface

  CILEA, Milan   <http://www.cilea.it>

  CASPUR, Rome   <http://www.caspur.it>

Library Consortia Initiatives (II)

- Content description

  ESSPER, Varese (TOC's of Italian journals)

  <http://www.biblio.liuc.it:8080/biblio/essper/default.htm>

- Content production

  CIBIT, Pisa (Biblioteca Telematica Italiana)

  <http://cibit.humnet.unipi.it>

Italian National Forum on Electronic Resources

Osservatorio italiano sulla cooperazione per le risorse informative elettroniche

- Promote library cooperation for digital resources
- Information & awareness, reference linkage point
- Monitoring and coordinating consortia initiatives
- Lobbying for central funding support

<http://www.uniroma1.it/infer>

New Trends and Developments

From competition to collaboration

Convergence between consortia

Common negotiation stance by consortia (CILEA, CASPUR, CIPE) with publishers/distributors

Outlook

- Development of an important initiative:

  La Biblioteca Digitale Italiana

- Towards a framework for greater national cooperation between libraries, publishers and distributors

For further information :

T. Giordano. "Digital Resources Sharing and Library consortia in Italy", *Information Technology and Libraries*, 19, 2, June 2000

http://www.lita.org/ital/1902_digital.html