

Resource Sharing and Networking among Allama Iqbal Open University [AIOU] Libraries: A Proposed Model

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Introduction

- Allama Iqbal Open University was established in 1974 as a first open university in Asia and second university of the world.
- It provides education through open and distance learning mode which is specifically targeted at working adults.
- This philosophy of AIOU underlies the belief that education should be made available to all, regardless of time, place, age and social economic background.

Introduction

- During the last 38 years, the university has achieved different milestones and now an active member of 17 member mega university club.
- The biggest university in the country with course enrolment of more than 1,121,038, with around 1000 courses being offered.
- The university serves the nation with 36 regional campuses and centers in various parts of the country to coordinate and facilitate decentralized system of education of the university

AIOU Libraries at a glance

- Central Library located at main campus, Islamabad
- 26 Regional & Coordinating Campuses libraries all over Pakistan
- 06 libraries headed by professional staff
- 14 libraries have Para professional staff
- 06 non-professional staff

Literature review as a support

- Kaul (2001) Examined the use of information resource sharing networking in area of environmental studies in developing countries. He also discussed the concept and rationale of information and resource sharing in the modern society and identifies linkages between the information and communication technology, information resource sharing.

Described networking in environmental studies in India and presented a model of building up of Information Sharing System

Literature review as a support

- Ameen (2008) Explored the barriers to collection sharing among the university libraries situated in the major cities of Pakistan. Her study revealed that various technical, procedural, psychological, and behavioral barriers in achieving planned and meaningful collection-sharing programs prevail. She gave valuable suggestions about possibilities and opportunities of Collection Sharing in the emerging paradigm.

Literature review as a support

- Kar and others (1999) Presented in their study some models of resource sharing and briefly highlights of some of the major library networks in India. Like DELNET, CALIBNET, MALIBNET, MYLIBNET, BONET, PUNENET, ADINET, INFLIBNET. They discussed the objectives, services, functions, future prospects and stages of completeness of these library resource sharing networks.

They also briefly mentioned the obstacles to the development of these networks.

Literature review as a support

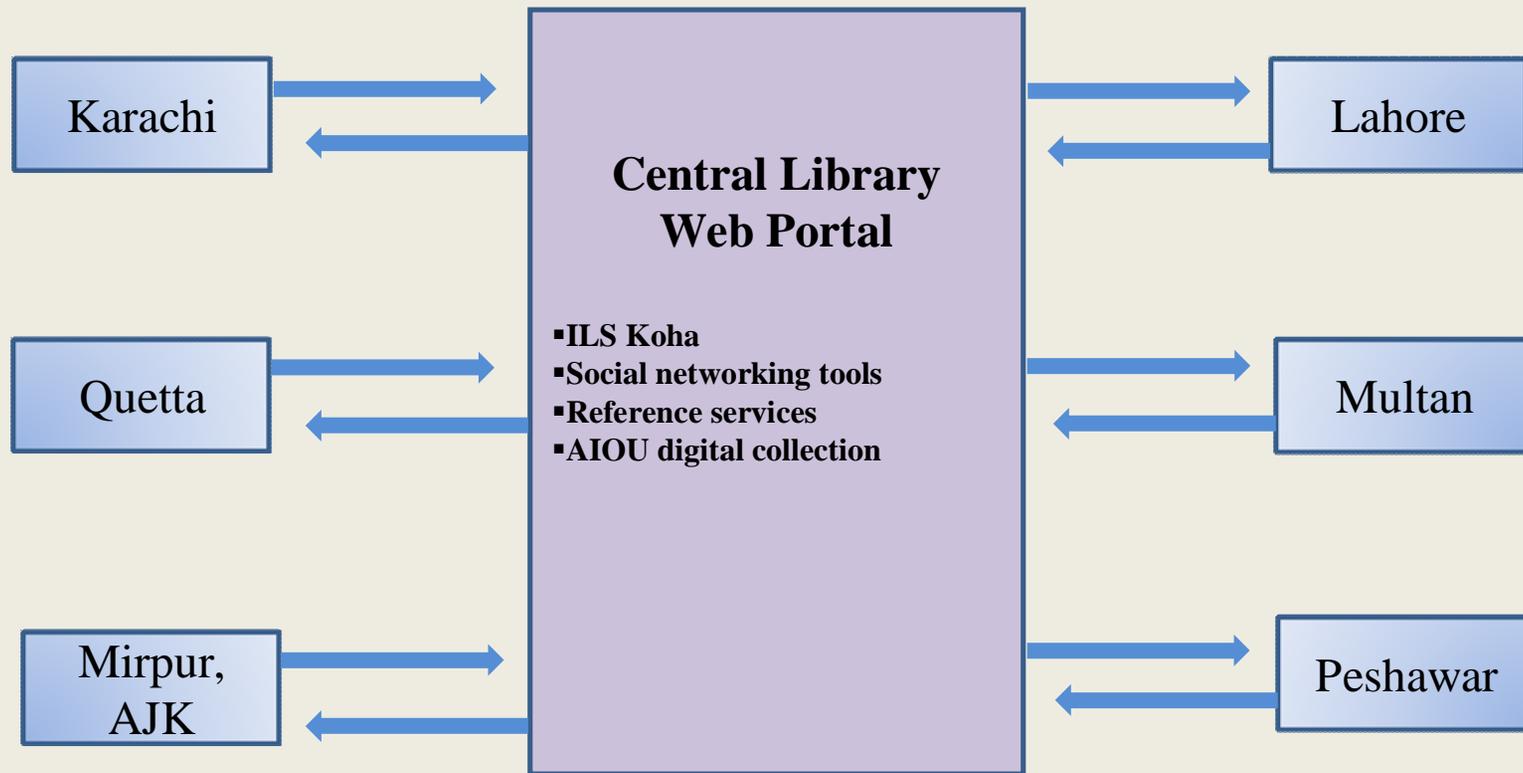
- Vagiswari (1998) gave a brief description of the proposed networking of astronomy libraries in India. These three models are identified to be introduced successively.
- Ali and others (2010) discussed in an article on “Resource Sharing among Law Libraries: An Imperative for Legal Research and the Administration of Justice in Nigeria” need of resource sharing and concluded that the ultimate in resource sharing is when the individual user in a specific library, sitting behind a workstation goes through options which give him access to contents of collections of several libraries, which he can retrieve the electronic versions of the full texts and download or print.

Literature review conclusion

This literature review reveals that most of studies proposed and discussed resource sharing models at the follows levels:

- Within the Organization
- Among in the sister organizations
- Metropolitan
- National
- Regional
- International

Proposed Model for AIOU libraries



Activities at Central Library

- Collection Development
- Technical Processing of Material
- ILS(KOHA) Full Administration
- Digitization of AIOU Publications
- Policies Formulation in respect to library and ILL etc.
- Services Design
- Interactive Reference Services to users and staff
- Administration of Web Portal

Activities at Regional Libraries

- Limited Acquisition rights
- Technical processing of locally acquired material
- Implementation of Policies for AIOU Libraries
- Implementation of ILS
- Delivery of services using portal and digital resources
- Interactive Reference Services to users

Suggestions

- Administrative control of all regional libraries may transferred to Central Library.
- Inter Library Codes may be formulated and approved.
- Social Media Tools may by implemented.
- Web Portal may be designed that support proposed model.
- Regional libraries may be strengthen with professional and skilled human resources, financial resources as well physical resources and collection.

Suggestions

- Central Library may be assigned the task of capacity building of regional libraries staff.
- Directorates of IET and ICT and Center for Instructional Design may be integrated with Central Library to provide instruction design material and other services which are necessary for library portal.

Thanks
