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11-1-2021

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Chaudhuri, Avisek and Rath, Durga Sankar Dr., "Assessing the sufficiency of resources and benefit and willingness to join and share the resources for the regional college library network: a study of college libraries affiliated to Vidyasagar University" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6552. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6552>

Assessing the sufficiency of resources and benefit and willingness to join and share the resources for the regional college library network: a study of college libraries affiliated to Vidyasagar University

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➤ Abstract: -

To enhance the service at the maximum level, maximizing the use of the library resources, Cooperative development of the new services, cost-effectiveness are the main aims and objectives of the networking. The paper's objective is to verify the sufficiency of resources in the college libraries affiliated with Vidyasagar University. The study aims to analyze whether a regional education learning network formed under Vidyasagar University would be beneficial for the users, library staff, and college administrators. The survey method has been adopted to collect the data from 56 general degree colleges under the university. The judgment sampling method has been adopted to collect data from 1988 users' (students, teachers, and research scholars). Also, data have been collected from 38 librarians and 56 administrators (i.e., Principals/T.I.C.) through a structured questionnaire, and after data collection, the data were

analyzed using M.S. excel, and the hypothesis was analyzed through Pearson's χ^2 test. After analyzing the data, the results show that maximum college libraries' resources are sufficient up to moderate level. Most people believe that it will be very beneficial if the resource sharing and education learning network is developed.

Keyword: Resource sharing, College library network, Academic network, Academic consortia, Vidyasagar university college libraries

1. **Introduction:** -

Library Networks play a significant role in present services in any library system. When two or more libraries are connected for the common interest, the networks are formed. The common interest is always the benefit of the users of the participating libraries. Melvil Dewey, in 1886 had first written the terms "Library cooperation" in the issue of the "Library Journal". To enhance the service at the maximum level, maximizing the use of the library resources, Cooperative development of the new services, cost-effectiveness are the main aims and objectives of the networking. Now a day the cost of subscriptions of Journals and E-resources has been increased significantly. It is not possible for an individual library to subscribe/purchase a good number of journals or e-resources for its user. So the library networking, consortium development, resource sharing is essential for the library.

Vidyasagar University is located in the Paschim Medinipur District of West Bengal. This area is the southern part of West Bengal. There are 56 general degree colleges under the university. These 56 colleges are established in the three districts of West Bengal, i.e., Jhargram, Paschim

Medinipur, and Purba Medinipur. The old district was an undivided Midnapore district. From 1st January 2002, it was divided into two districts, i.e., Purba and Paschim Medinipur districts. From 4th April 2017, Jhargram is a separate district from Paschim Medinipur district, and this Jhargram district is the forest region named as "Jangalmahal." (Forest Area) The maximum areas of these three districts are rural. People are mainly doing cultivation here. Among the 56 colleges, 69.6% of the colleges are located in rural areas, 21.4% of colleges are in Semi-urban areas, and 8.9% of the total colleges are located in urban areas. Thirteen colleges are Government College, 42 are Government aided, and one is Privet College under the Vidyasagar University. Maximum students come from the Village or rural area, and 4 colleges are established as a girls' college. One college was established in 1873, which is the oldest among these colleges, and 37.5% of the colleges were established between the years 2006 to 2016. It is found in the study that maximum college libraries are not well equipped and are lacking of modern services. The libraries have no modern I.C.T. facilities and a lack of professional staff.

2. Objective: -

In this study, the main objectives are

- I. To examine the sufficiency of library resources according to the users' (students, faculty member, and research scholar), librarians'/ library professionals' and administrators' (Principals/ Teacher-in-charge) opinions.
- II. To evaluate “is the regional network will be bifacial for the college libraries affiliated to the Vidyasagar University?” according to the users’, librarians’/ library professionals’ and administrators’ opinions.
- III. To know the willingness to join and share their resources for regional library networks among the college libraries affiliated to the Vidyasagar University.

3. Hypothesis: -

Three hypotheses will be tested to attain the objectives of the study.

- A. The resources are not sufficient to fulfill the users' needs in the colleges affiliated with Vidyasagar University.
- B. If a Resource Sharing and Education learning network is formed, is not beneficial to work collaboratively and give access to the user community remotely through online systems of the colleges.
- C. All the college libraries under the colleges agree to share all the resources if an Education Learning Resource Network is formed among the colleges of Vidyasagar University.

4. Methodology: -

The survey method has been adopted. All the 56 general degree colleges were selected to collect the primary data. The whole area is divided into three districts – Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, and Purba Medinipur district. In the Jhargram district, there are six colleges, Paschim Medinipur has twenty-nine colleges, and Purba Medinipur District has twenty-one general degree colleges. Among them, four general degree colleges have affiliation as a research center.

Opinion of users has been collected from 1988 users, i.e., students, teachers, research scholars. For the collection of data, judgment sampling techniques have been used. 20 students', 15 teachers' opinions have been collected from each college, and 7 research scholars' opinions from the colleges with each research center affiliation. 38 librarians' views and 56 administrators' views have been collected. All the opinions and views were collected through a structured questionnaire. They were given options to tick the answer as per their views. Data have been

collected, put into Microsoft Excel for analysis. The hypotheses are tested from the collected and interpreted data using Pearson's χ^2 test, and the conclusion is drawn.

5. Scope of the study: -

The study covers the area of three districts Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur. There are general degree colleges (Govt., Govt. Aided, Self-financing/ Privet), affiliated colleges with B.Ed courses, Special B.Ed colleges, Law colleges, Paramedical Degree colleges, and 5 other colleges with few related courses under Vidyasagar University. This study restricted to the four types of college Govt. General Degree colleges, Govt. Aided General Degree colleges, Self-financing General Degree colleges, and affiliated colleges with B.Ed courses (4 Govt. aided degree colleges of Purba Medinipur District). All 56 colleges of three districts are covered in this study. There are huge mass populations of users (students and teachers, research scholars) in the colleges, and it is impossible to record individuals' opinions. So, in the study, 20 students, 15 teachers/ faculty members, and 7 research scholars' (total 1988 users) opinions have been taken from each college. 38 librarian/ library professionals (18 colleges have no professionals) and 56 administrators views and opinions have been recorded in this study

6. Sufficiency of existing resources: -

To collect the information, we asked the question that to meet the users' needs, the existing resources are sufficient or not, and there are five options –

- a) Not sufficient at all
- b) Sufficient up to a minimum level
- c) Sufficient up to a moderate level

d) Sufficient

e) Rich

Now we analyzed the collected opinions of librarians, Users, Principal/T.I.C.

Table: 1: Opinions of Librarians/Library professionals

	Options	Librarian	%
a	Not sufficient at all	5	13.16
b	Sufficient up to a minimum level	6	15.79
c	Sufficient up to a moderate level	15	39.47
d	Sufficient	7	18.42
e	Rich	5	13.16
	Total	38	100

The librarians or library professionals from the colleges were asked the question about the sufficiency of the resources, 39.47% of them (15) answered that their library resources are sufficient up to the moderate level. 5 out of 38 said that their collection is rich for giving the service to the users. 18.42% of them (7) answered that the library resources are sufficient, and 15.79% of the librarians (6) think that the library collection is sufficient up to the minimum level. 13.16% opined that the library resources are not sufficient to fulfill the users' needs. The following pie chart is shown the data graphically.

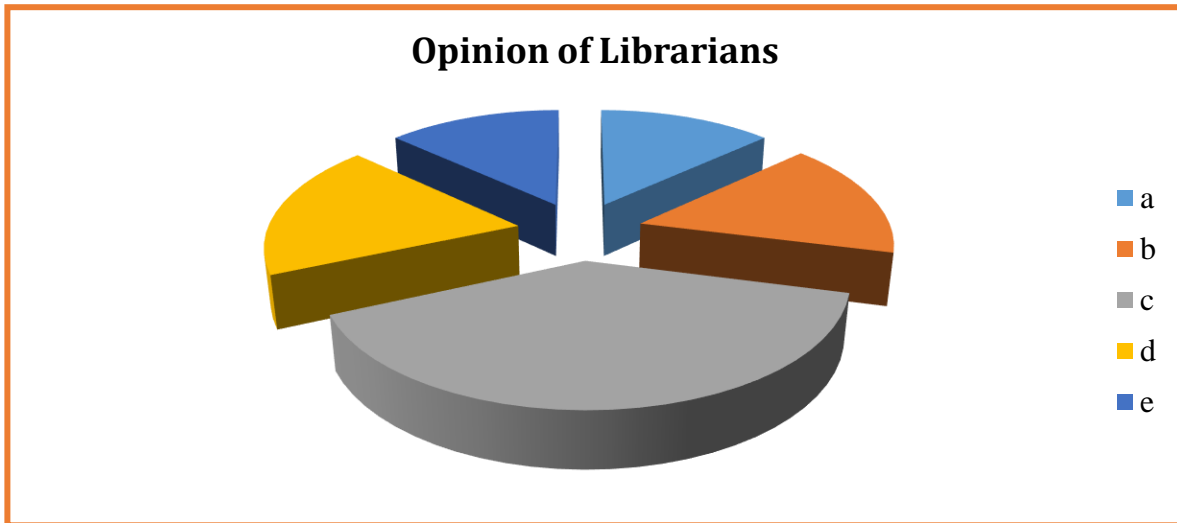


Chart 1: Librarians views on sufficiency of existing resources (Pie Chart)

Table: 2: Views of Users'

	Options	Users	%
a	Not sufficient at all	151	7.60
b	Sufficient up to a minimum level	582	29.28
c	Sufficient up to a moderate level	661	33.25
d	Sufficient	331	16.65
e	Rich	263	13.23
	Total	1988	100

33.25% of the users (661) think that the existing library resources are sufficient up to a moderate level. 7.60% of the users (151) opined that the library resources are not sufficient for the library services. 263 out of 1988 users (13.23%) told that their library collection is rich. 16.65% of users described that their resources are sufficient for their needs. However, 582 users (29.28%) think

that their library resources are sufficient up to the minimum level to meet the users' needs. Users' opinions are presented graphically in the following pie chart.

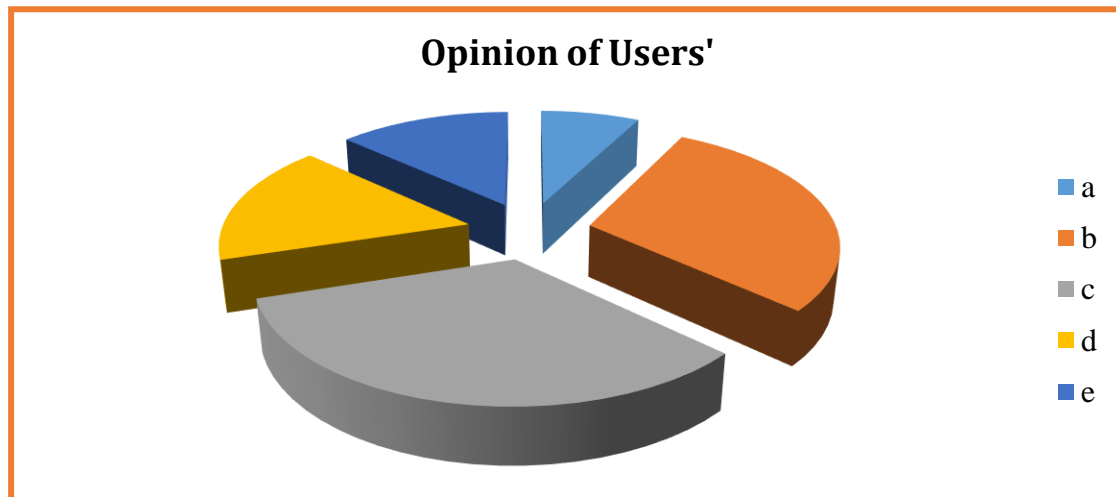


Chart 2: Users views on sufficiency of existing resources

Table 3: Opinion of Principal/T.IC

	Options	Principal / T.I.C	%
a	Not sufficient at all	5	8.93
b	Sufficient up to a minimum level	12	21.43
c	Sufficient up to a moderate level	28	50.00
d	Sufficient	6	10.71
e	Rich	5	8.93
	Total	56	100

We can find from the table that 50% of the Principals/T.I.Cs (28) said that their colleges' resource is sufficient up to a moderate level. 6 of them (10.71%) think that the library resources are sufficient for the users. 5 Principals/T.I.Cs think that the collections of library resources are rich. 8.93% of them describe that the resources are not sufficient for the users' demand. 21.43%

of the College Principals/T.I.C s opined that their library collections/resources are sufficient up to the minimum level to meet the users' needs. Opinions are graphically represented through the following Pie chart.

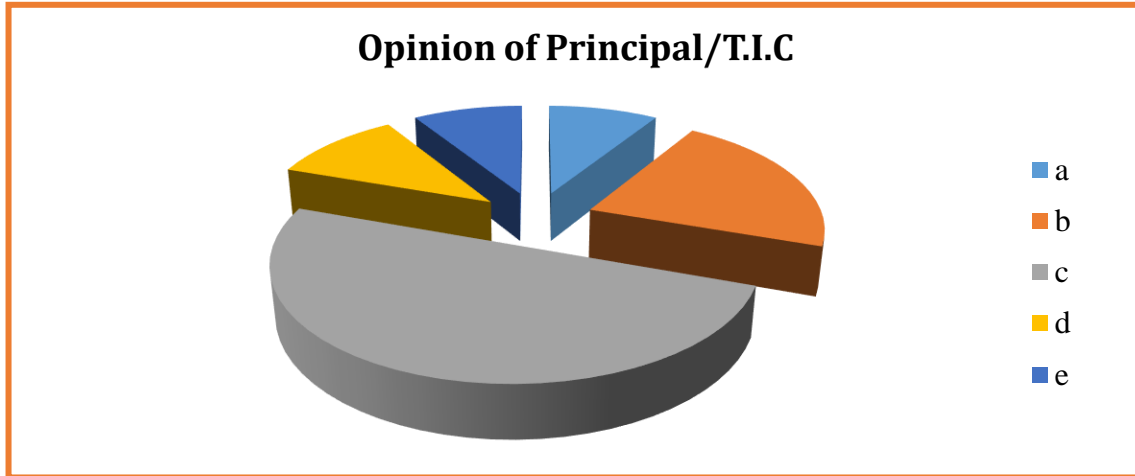


Chart 3: Principal/T. I.C.s' views on sufficiency of existing resources

Table: 4: Consolidated Opinion (Librarian, Users & Principal/T.I.C)

	Options	All Opinion	%
a	Not sufficient at all	161	7.73
b	Sufficient up to a minimum level	600	28.82
c	Sufficient up to a moderate level	704	33.81
d	Sufficient	344	16.52
e	Rich	273	13.11
	Total	2082	100

From the consolidated table, we can see that maximum (33.81%) of people opined that the library resources are sufficient up to moderate level, and 28.82 % believe that the resources are sufficient up to minimum level. 13.11% of the Librarians/Users/Principals or T.I.Cs think that their library resources are a rich collection. 344 of them described that their college library

resources are sufficient. 7.73% of the people (161) informed that the library's collection is not sufficient to fulfill the users' needs. The following column chart represents the consolidated statement.

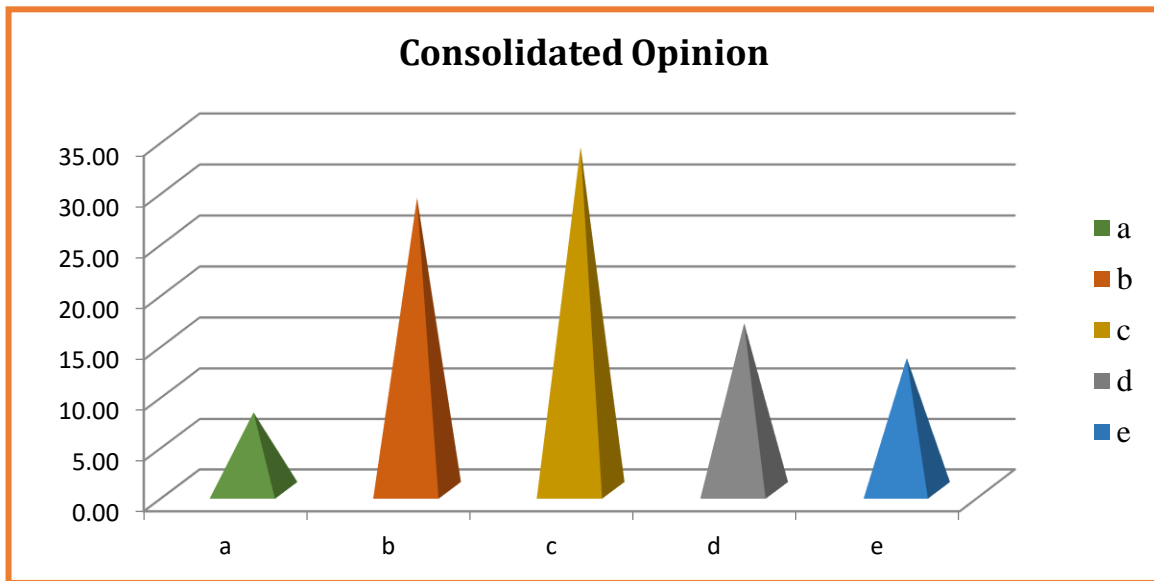


Chart 4: Consolidated opinion on the sufficiency of existing resources

7. Hypothesis Testing: -

It is found in the study that maximum the people has opined that the library resources are sufficient up to moderate level. Users' needs could not be fulfilled with the existing resources.

So now we have to test three hypotheses.

- A. The Library resources are not sufficient to fulfill the users' needs in the colleges affiliated with Vidyasagar University.
- B. If a Resource Sharing and Education learning network formed is not beneficial to work collaboratively and give access to the user community remotely through online systems of the colleges.

C. All the college libraries under the colleges agree to share all the resources if a consortium or Education Learning Resource Network is formed.

The hypothesis has been tested with **Pearson’s χ^2** test. After testing the hypothesis, a conclusion is drawn.

a) H_0 : “The Library resources are not sufficient to fulfill the needs of the users of the colleges affiliated to the Vidyasagar University.”

H_1 : H_0 is not true

		Librarian	Users	Principal / T.I.C	TOTAL
Observed	Not sufficient at all	5	151	5	161
	Sufficient up to a minimum level	6	582	12	600
	Sufficient up to a moderate level	15	661	28	704
	Sufficient	7	331	6	344
	Rich	5	263	5	273
	TOTAL	38	1988	56	2082

Calculation table for Expected Value for Opinion

		Librarian	Users	Principal / T.I.C
Expected	Not sufficient at all	2.94	153.73	4.33
	Sufficient up to a minimum level	10.95	572.91	16.14
	Sufficient up to a moderate level	12.85	672.22	18.94
	Sufficient	6.28	328.47	9.25
	Rich	4.98	260.67	7.34

Calculation of $(O-E)^2 / E$

Observed value	Expected values	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² / E
5	2.94	2.06	4.25	1.45
6	10.95	-4.95	24.51	2.24
15	12.85	2.15	4.63	0.36
7	6.28	0.72	0.52	0.08
5	4.98	0.02	0.00	0.00
151	153.73	-2.73	7.46	0.05
582	572.91	9.09	82.62	0.14
661	672.22	-11.22	125.78	0.19
331	328.47	2.53	6.41	0.02
263	260.67	2.33	5.41	0.02
5	4.33	0.67	0.45	0.10
12	16.14	-4.14	17.13	1.06
28	18.94	9.06	82.16	4.34
6	9.25	-3.25	10.58	1.14
5	7.34	-2.34	5.49	0.75

Calculation of χ^2

χ^2	$\Sigma (O-E)^2 / E$	11.94
df	(3-1)*(5-1)	8

Table value of $\chi^2 = 15.51$ at 0.05 level

From the calculation, the computed χ^2 value is less than the table value of χ^2 at 5% level of significance. So, we can accept the null hypothesis and also conclude that "The Library

resources are not sufficient to fulfill the needs of the users of the colleges affiliated to the Vidyasagar University”.

b) H₀: “If a Resource Sharing and Education learning network formed is not beneficial to work collaboratively and giving access to the user's community remotely through online systems of the colleges.”

H₁: H₀ is not true

	Option	Librarian	Users	Principal / T.I.C	TOTAL
Observed	not helpful	5	10	5	20
	maybe helpful	5	130	6	141
	helpful to some extent	6	366	16	388
	will be helpful	12	690	24	726
	very much helpful	10	792	5	807
	TOTAL	38	1988	56	2082

Calculation table for Expected Value for Opinion

	Option	Librarian	Users	Principal / T.I.C
Expected	not helpful	0.37	19.10	0.54
	maybe helpful	2.57	134.63	3.79
	helpful to some extent	7.08	370.48	10.44
	will be helpful	13.25	693.22	19.53
	very much helpful	14.73	770.56	21.71

Calculation of (O-E) ² / E

Observed value (O)	Expected values (E)	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² / E
5	0.37	4.63	21.48	58.85
5	2.57	2.43	5.89	2.29
6	7.08	-1.08	1.17	0.17
12	13.25	-1.25	1.56	0.12
10	14.73	-4.73	22.36	1.52
10	19.10	-9.10	82.76	4.33
130	134.63	-4.63	21.47	0.16
366	370.48	-4.48	20.09	0.05
690	693.22	-3.22	10.38	0.01
792	770.56	21.44	459.47	0.60
5	0.54	4.46	19.91	37.01
6	3.79	2.21	4.87	1.28
16	10.44	5.56	30.96	2.97
+24	19.53	4.47	20.00	1.02
5	21.71	-16.71	279.09	12.86

χ^2	$\Sigma (O-E)^2 / E$	123.24
Degree of freedom	$(3-1) * (5-1)$	8

Calculation of χ^2

Table value of $\chi^2 = 15.51$ at 0.05 level

From the calculation, the computed χ^2 value is greater than the table value of χ^2 at 5% level of significance. So, we can reject the null hypothesis, and we can conclude that "If a Resource Sharing and Education learning network formed will be very much helpful to work collaboratively and giving access to the users' community remotely through online systems of the colleges."

c) H₀: "All the college libraries under agree to share all the resources if an Education Learning Network is formed."

H₁: H₀ is not true

	Option	Librarian	Principal / T.I.C	TOTAL
Observed	no	5	5	10
	up to minimum level	5	6	11
	up to moderate level	8	7	15
	to some extent	9	20	29
	yes positively	11	18	29
	TOTAL	38	56	94

Calculation table for Expected Value for Opinion

	Option	Librarian	Principal / T.I.C
Expected	no	4.04	5.96
	up to minimum level	4.45	6.55
	up to moderate level	6.06	8.94
	to some extent	11.72	17.28
	yes positively	11.72	17.28

Calculation of (O-E)² / E

Observed value (O)	Expected values (E)	(O-E)	(O-E)²	(O-E)² / E
5	4.04	0.96	0.92	0.23
5	4.45	0.55	0.31	0.07
8	6.06	1.94	3.75	0.62
9	11.72	-2.72	7.42	0.63
11	11.72	-0.72	0.52	0.04
5	5.96	-0.96	0.92	0.15
6	6.55	-0.55	0.31	0.05
7	8.94	-1.94	3.75	0.42

20	17.28	2.72	7.42	0.43
18	17.28	0.72	0.52	0.03

χ^2	$\Sigma (O-E)^2 / E$	2.67
Degree of freedom	$(2-1) * (5-1)$	4

Calculation of χ^2

Table value of $\chi^2 = 9.49$ at 0.05 level.

From the calculation, the computed χ^2 value is less than the table value of χ^2 at 5% level of significance. So, we can accept the null hypothesis and conclude that "All the college libraries agree to share all the resources if an Education Learning Network is formed."

8. Conclusion: -

From the above analysis, we found that maximum users, i.e., students, teachers, research scholars of the colleges, opined that their library resources, both print and electronic, are sufficient up to moderate level. Their need could not be fulfilled by these existing resources of their institution library. They are agreed that modern technology should be adopted and new services launched to fulfill the need of the resources. They opined that it would be very much beneficial if a regional library network were formed under Vidyasagar University. If an education learning network is

developed, they can easily connect the resource and also with the experts of these colleges, which will be helpful to them. The main aim of the network is to remove boundaries for learning and resources. The maximum college authorities agree to share their resources if this network is formed, and they will actively participate. With the help of this network, library users, and library staff both got opportunities to get help from the other college libraries in the same region.

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