



Moving towards e-journals: the policy and practice of Consortial acquisition

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- **Where we were before Consortium**

- **Italian Consortia**

- **Where we are after joining the Consortium**

Where we were before Consortium

Vallisneri Library: paper only era

1998:

686 current print journals subscriptions absorbed about
80% of the Library acquisition costs.

Major problems to cope with:

- shrinking stack space
- increasing costs in maintaining paper collections
- redundancy of print copies in libraries of the same university

Where we were before Consortium

first approach to e-journals

1999:

Vallisnery Library started to manage electronic versions of print journals available by publishers with no surcharge. This included mainly the following commercial offers:

- free online
- free online with subscription to the paper version
- free online only for years previous to the current year

n. 89 e-journals available through our local catalogue



Where we were before Consortium

access to the electronic resources

- homepage of the journal
- publisher catalogue
- vendor/aggregator catalogue and services

Where we were before Consortium

problems to cope with

- **Publishers' commercial offers** were abundant and variable
- **Terms and conditions** of licences use were heterogeneous
- **Services** offered to the library users were not homogeneous. Coexistence of multiple local catalogues



Where we were before

Consortium

problems to cope with

Conditio sine qua non:

to maintain print subscriptions to access the electronic version

On the other hand

- cuts to economic supports to the library
- increase of US dollar value
- rise in subscription prices

would have pushed us towards a massive print journal
cancellation.

Where we were: alternative solution

- To move towards Consortia

Consortia

Consortia alliances for acquisition of digital resources:

**launching of the digital information market
diminishing of traditional financial resources**

forced

the more reactive Italian University library systems to implement competitive strategies.

Italian Consortia

- **CILEA (Milan)** consists of 9 Universities of the Lombardia region + other institutions outside the consortium
- **CASPUR (Rome)** consists of 6 universities in central and southern Italy
- **CIPE (Inter-Universitary Electronic-Periodicals Co-operation)**

University of Padua is member of CIPE

Italian Consortia

CIPE Project

- **founded in 1999**
- **consists of 12 universities in the central-northern Italy**

Italian Consortia

CIPE Project

CIPE promoters, stakeholders and members belong to the library systems of the associated universities.

CIPE universities account for approximately 30% of the national spending in the sector.

Italian Consortia

CIPE Project

CIPE avails itself of a professional advice for negotiating:

- licenses directly with publishers and producers
- conditions of access to e-journals
- conditions for archive maintenance

Italian Consortia

CIPE Project

Acquisition policy, contractual strategies and negotiations are decided upon jointly by the institutional representatives of the member-university library systems, who participate in all negotiations.

Italian Consortia

CIPE Project

CIPE is based on a model of joint participation formalized in an agreement which also defines the administrative and operational procedures.

Italian Consortia

CIPE Project

CIPE primary objectives are:

- rationalisation of expenses (shared collection policy)
- shared activities (analysis and study, negotiation etc.)
- sharing of resources and development of services

Consortia

Consortia problems:

- long-term preservation of electronic data
- delegating the workload among the various Consortium members
- cooperation with other Consortia (Interconsortial acquisition)



Where we are after joining the Consortium

Vallisneri Library: advantages from Consortial cooperation

1998:

686 print journal subscriptions

1999:

**89 e-journals available through
Vallisneri Library local
catalogue**

2002:

**43 print journals subscriptions
cancelled.**

**3401 e-journals available through
the collective catalogue of the
University of Padua (1513 of the
biomedical area).**

Where we are after joining the Consortium

Benefits for CIPE individual libraries:

- **more favourable licensing terms**
- **legal advice and support to negotiations**
- **access to e-journals through a collective catalogue (Consortium acquisition, library subscription, free titles)**
- **services improvement**



Where we are after joining the Consortium

Benefits for CIPE individual libraries:

- wider range of titles
- control over inflationary costs
- optimization of management costs

Where we are after joining the Consortium

Problems for individual libraries

- **lack of autonomy**
- **hardware and software investment**
- **new skills in managing electronic resources (IT, problem solving, educational)**
- **personal interactions**
- **marketing library services**



Thank you

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