

# Paper 5 RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING INITIATIVES IN INDIA: A HISTORICAL STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WEST BENGAL

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Due to uncontrolled proliferation of publications in various formats along with financial crunch have compelled the libraries to opt for alternative measures like resource sharing, collaborative procurement, etc. to survive and to satisfy its patrons. India is not an exception to this rule. This paper deals with the historical development of the initiatives taken by the Government to ensure resource sharing and networking in the country and at the same time tries to assess the current situation of the Universities and Research Institutes in West Bengal. Usage of modern tools and technique by the institutes has been studied to find out the success of online resource sharing and essential services. Moreover, best practices and Government policies for the coming days have been studied in this paper. This study is mainly focused on the online Resource Sharing and Networking, Inter Library Loan and collaboration initiatives in the country along with the other initiatives to provide digital resources or study materials irrespective of educational standards to foster lifelong education.

**KEYWORDS:** Resource sharing, Library networking, Library best practices, Consortia, Educational institutes in West Bengal

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