Calomera chloris

often coexist. However, they are spared from direct competition in two ways. First, species occupy different microhabitats (e.g., soils with different moisture levels, textures, salinity, and vegetation/plant cover). Secondly, many species have different times of emergence and peak populations. The combination of these two types of segregation provides for nearly complete separation among most species, and considerably reduces the competition. Selection of the breeding, or larval, habitat is critical and is made by the adult female during oviposition. Because the larvae are relatively immobile and the habitat requirements are more circumscribed than that of adults the availability of larval habitat is often the limiting factor that controls their population. When an area of larval habitat becomes endangered or disappears, so does the species it supports. Studies have also shown the predatory potential of tiger beetles on the pests of agricultural crops like paddy indicating potential role as biocontrol agents.

There are over 2600 species of tiger beetles worldwide, 220 in India (with 114 or 51.8% endemics). In the protected areas of Shivalik Landscape, about 20 species of tiger beetles were recorded from five different protected areas of Himachal Pradesh with a mean altitude of 350 m to 1200 m above msl viz., Pong Wetland Sanctuary, Naina Devi Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahan Reserve Forest, Renuka Wetland Sanctuary and Simbalbara Wildlife Sanctuary. The various species include *Calochroa bicolor, Calochroa flavomaculata, Calomera angulata, Calomera plumigera, Calomera chloris, Cosmodela intermedia, Cylindera spinolae, Cylindra bigemina, Cylindra grammophora, Cylindra subtilesignata, Cylindra venosa, Heptodonta pulchella, Ifasina viduata, Jansenia chloropleura, Jansenia crassipalpis, Lophyra striolata, Myriochila melancholica, Myriochila undulate, Neocollyris saphyrina, Neocollyris bonellii*. These species showed a high degree of habitat specialisation and were found in one or few microhabitats owing to their climate and trophic characteristics. These in turn form the prime character for a bioindicator taxon and for which tiger beetles are well known. Therefore, monitoring these species in future will necessarily give precise idea about changes in microclimatic conditions, if the anthropogenic disturbance increases. Tiger beetles also provide a background for identifying centers of species richness and abundance within the protected areas as their spatial abundance correlates with other vertebrate taxon such as birds and invertebrate taxon such as butterflies. Tiger beetles are thus excellent candidates for bioindicators in long-term monitoring of forest ecosystems, ecosystem health and its application measurement in a variety of landscapes. ***Contact: uniyalvp@wii.gov.in***

Acquisition of e-Resources: A Consortium-based approach for MoEF Libraries

- M.S. Rana

Introduction: In the era of digital libraries, web-based electronic databases have become important resources for education and research. Such databases provide functionality and ease of use as compared to print products. There has been a gradual trend towards an increase in use of electronic resources in general and electronic journals in particular. So, libraries are retaining limited print-based resources, and are shifting to electronic media so that they can adapt to in the new digital information environment. E-journals are becoming increasingly in demand as these offer a variety of benefits to libraries and end users such as - allows remote access; can be used simultaneously by more than one user; accessible at a 24x7x365 formula; and save physical storage space.

Electronic Journals: E-journals have opened up many exciting opportunities and potential in education and research. As defined by David Pulinge and Brain Shakel, 'e-Journals are those whose text material are directly entered by file transfer from, a computer or by other transfer mechanism in a machine readable form, whose editorial processes are facilitated by computer and whose articles are available in electronic form to the reader'. In other words, e-journals are produced and stored its contents in electronic form, and published and distributed nationally and internationally through Internet. The evolutionary process of e-journals has three distinct phases: an introductory phase when electronic journals were first introduced (1990-1993); an evolving phase during which the majority of scientific journals are available in electronic format (from the late 1990's to the present); and an advance phase where searching capabilities and advanced features are integrated in a complete system. Presently, the scientific e-journals are in transition to the third phase. The studies on the usage of e-journals have shown that there has been gradual reduction in the use of printed journals as most of the users prefer to use the electronic format more. The other reason for increase in the acceptance and frequency of use of e-journals is because the traditional print of scientific journals is not easily available.

Bundling of e-journals and Role of Consortia: Libraries are facing the challenges of shrinking budgets, literature explosion, varied demands of user, increasing cost of maintenance of collection, storage space and trained manpower, and the challenges posed by the advances in the field of information technology. Moreover, according to (Association of Research Libraries) ARL surveys, the bundling of scholarly journals and the marketing practices of the largest commercial publishers are a source of concern within the library community for a variety of reasons. One of the main concerns is as library budgets are locked into large bundles, cancellation pressure of unbundled titles increases and funds to acquire new journals outside of bundles are squeezed

out. A key feature of journal bundling is strict limits on a library's ability to cancel titles. Moreover, the size of the largest bundles has been growing. In the recent years, several of the largest publishers have merged: Academic with Elsevier, and Kluwer, Academic with Springer. The consequence of these mergers is that a short list of publisher bundles account for substantial and growing proportions of library budgets. Most of the largest commercial publishers have been offering bundles for many years. Wiley, Elsevier and Springer bundles have achieved over 70% market penetration, while Blackwell's bundles are held by 60% of research libraries. Taylor and Francis, a relatively newcomer to journal bundling has achieved á 21% market share. The ARL surveys have also shown that consortia play a significant role in journal bundle acquisition. The majority of research libraries' e-bundles (81% of contracts) are acquired through consortia. A substantial number of bundles (35%) were defined using pooled list of consortial subscriptions. A relatively small percentage of bundles (10%) were defined by single institution's historic holdings. (1)

The above challenges have forced librarians to work together for alternate strategies towards collection enrichment and sharing of resources. Consortium based library subscription to e-journals has been picking up good momentum in India.

Library consortia initiatives in India: The initiatives of The National Information System for Science & Technology (NISSAT) is forming Calcutta Library Network (CALIBNET) in 1986 and Developing Library Network (DELNET) in 1988 and Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) in 1988 by University Grants Commission (UGC) were the major steps taken in India towards networking the resource sharing. Moreover, recent development of e-resources has opened up avenues to see more direct benefits of resource sharing in terms of money and scientific literature. Some important consortia pertaining to e-resources are:

FORSA (Forum for resource sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics) launched in 1981 to facilitate access to e-journals and e-books; INDEST (The Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology) was set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), GOI in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to join hands with leading Engineering and Technological Institutions in India and share the benefits in terms of lower subscription rates and better terms of agreement with the publisher; IIM Consortium formed in 2000 to ensure among the IIMs optimum utilization and enhancement of the resources and to minimize the expenditure by consortia based subscription to the commonly subscribed database and journals; MCIT Library Consortium (The Ministry of Communication and Technology library consortium of Dept. of Information Technology (DIT), Department of Telecommunications (DOT), Dept. of Post (DOP) and Telecom Regulatory Authority India (TRAI) to provide information resources in electronic formats round the clock; UGC Infonet, e-journals consortium set up by UGC in 2003 to promote the use of electronic databases and full text access to journals by the academic community in the country for their research activities.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) consortium facilitates to its 40 laboratories across the country. The major objective of the CSIR consortium is to strengthen CSIR library resources by pooling, sharing and providing electronic access to scholars and scientists of CSIR laboratories and to promote the culture of electronic access. CSIR has entered into contract with M/S Elsevier Science and other leading publishers to subscribe more than 4500 e-journals which are accessible to all its laboratories.

Proposal for Consortium for MoEF Libraries: The Consortium approach is a win-win situation for both libraries and publishers in terms of the decreased cost of electronic access to e-journals and increased volume of sales for publishers. Users are the ultimate beneficiaries of such initiative. The libraries under the MoEF are not having sufficient budget to subscribe to e-journals on their own.

Objectives: The broad objectives of the proposed MoEF Library consortium would be:-

a. To promote inter-institutional cooperation by sharing online information resources.
b. To develop comprehensive information base on Environmental Conservation and other related subject areas.
c. To promote web-based information resources to support education and research.
d. To develop strategies for cooperative subscription to e-resources to the best possible price for MoEF libraries.

The Benefits: The proposed MoEF consortium would provide huge benefits to the member institutes in terms of accessibility of the number of e-resources and development of inter-organizational cooperation by sharing information resources. Some of the benefits of the proposed library consortium are as follows:

a. Subscription to electronic resources through consortium would increase access to a large number of electronic resources across institutions at discounted rates of subscription with favorable terms and condition.
b. Access to international and national databases/e-journals would enhance the research productivity and quality in education and training.
c. On-line culture would reduce the pressure of space requirement for storing and managing the print-based library.

Activities: The following are the scope of activities of the proposed consortium:-

a. It will act as nodal agency for increasing the cooperation among participating institutes.
b. It will integrate and coordinate all activities related to subscription of e-resources.

c. It will identify the information needs of users through user surveys.

d. It will compile a union catalogue of information resources about the holding of various libraries.

e. It will organize the meetings/ seminars of stakeholders to improve the functioning of consortium; to identify new resources; and to evaluate the existing resources.

f. It will act as a national repository of all e-resources on the subject.

Methodology: The following methodology may be adopted for the Consortium of MoEF Libraries-

a. The consortium may be initiated by conducting a Two-day workshop of both librarians and users from member institutes. The workshop will help to access the feasibility of consortium in terms of existing information resources and required infrastructure like - PC population, Campus-wide connectivity and bandwidth availability in the member institutes.

b. The workshop will also help in identifying a team of members who will prepare a comprehensive proposal including proper nomenclature of consortia, coverage of subject areas, infrastructure requirements, memorandum of understanding and funding strategies for sustainability.

c. In a consortia-based subscription to e-resources, the selection of e-resources requires careful planning and professional approach. Thus, the representative of target users from each institute may be involved in the selection process for e-resources.

d. For making optimal use of e-resources by the users, a real time document delivery process may be developed to achieve maximum benefits from the consortia-based subscription.

e. Finally, a well-designed feedback online mechanism may be helpful in measuring the effectiveness of consortia.

Conclusion: A consortia-based approach for MoEF Libraries would be an apt solution to provide access to e-resources, which probably is the only way to satisfy increasing requirements of the users. The proposed consortia should not be restricted to buying access to e-resources. But, it should get actively involved in developing a national digital library.

Reference:

(1)Hahn, Karla (2006): The State of the large publishers bundle: Findings from an ARL member survey. ARL (245).

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Welcome Guests

- B.Sc. students and professors form Jagannath Barooah College, Jorhat, Assam, October 6, 2006.
- B. Sc. (Hons.) Botany students from Zakir Husain College, University of Delhi, New Delhi October 20, 2006.
- B. Sc Forestry students and faculty members from College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur October 25, 2006.
- Students of Final Year Botany from Carmel College of Arts, Science & Commerce for Women & faculty members, Nuvem, Goa, October 30, 2006.
- Members of Forest Development Agency, Pattan, Lahaul Forest Division, Kullu Forest Circle, Himachal Pradesh, October 30, 2006.
- B. Sc. Forestry students form Bangalore College of Forestry, University of Agricultural Sciences, Ponnampet, Kodagu, November 3, 2006.
- IFS Officers of 1981-1984 batches, who participated in the Advance Forest Management Course at IGNFA, Dehradun, November 8, 2006.
- Students accompanied by their teachers from Lovedale Academy, Clement Town, Dehradun, Nov. 14, 2006.
- IFS Officers of 1986-1988 batch, who participated in the Advance Forest Management Course at IGNFA, Dehradun, November 21, 2006.
- Students from the Institute of Forestry, Nepal, November 21, 2006.
- Students from Forestry Training Centre, Sundranagar (H.P.), November 27, 2006.
- Students from Dept of Zoology, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, November 29, 2006.
- Students from Carman School, Shyampur, Premnagar, Dehradun, November 29, 2006.
- B.Sc. Forestry students from Institute of Forestry, Pokhra (Nepal), December 1, 2006.
- B.Sc. students from College of Fisheries, Sairgaon (Maharashtra), December 6, 2006.
- Participants of Seraj Forest Division, Banjar Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, December 7, 2006.
- B.V.Sc. students from college of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Jabalpur (M.P.), December 8, 2006.
- Students from Delhi College of Engineering, Bawana Road, Delhi, December 11, 2006.
- Group of in-service SFS Officers of the General Refresher Course at SFS College, Dehradun, December 13, 2006.