

Abstracts.

Presentation Title:

“Resource Sharing in the U.S. Academic Libraries: Trends and Future”

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During the last decades, the Interlibrary Loan Service in the U.S. academic libraries became one of the most popular library services and the demand is growing steadily. The popularity of the service is more meaningful because it is achieved while meeting various challenges.

Due to the Internet and various information resources available to the library users, nowadays our users can find more bibliographic information which were not noticeable before and this fact has increased Interlibrary Loan requests for exotic and hard-to-find materials, including many publications from other countries written in languages other than English. Also the instantaneous nature of various Internet services made our users’ expectations for the ILL service much higher and the turnaround time quicker; they want us to get anything they requested and getting them as soon as possible.

To meet such demand, U.S. academic libraries are trying many different methods, such as Direct Requests, Consortial Resource Sharing Network, Purchase on Demand, Automated Electronic Article Delivery, Desktop Delivery, Scan and Deliver Service for library own items and the use of OpenURL. These methods satisfy users’ expectations and save ILL staffs’ time for processing the normal requests hence the overall turnaround time would be much less. The time saved through this process can be devoted to more time consuming requests and better customer services.