The conundrum of resource sharing in Zimbabwe: Case of academic libraries

By

Collence Takaingenhamo Chisita (Dr)

&

Madeliene Fombad (Prof)

BEYOND THE PAYWALL

FREE

resource sharing in a disruptive ecosystem

From Tradition to modernity

☐ **Proliferation of digital technologies& resource sharing**

☐ **Socio-economic & technological factors**

☐ **Growth of digital libraries in Africa**

☐ **Resource sharing as a viable option in the 4IR**

☐ **Sharing data, collections, infrastructure, expertise , storage space**

☐ **Reciprocity, responsibility& sharing**

EMBRACING THE BAOBAB TREE

Library consortia & Resource sharing

- ❑ **Sharing the burden of purchasing & processing the materials;**
- ❑ **Sharing services & human expertise;**
- ❑ **Extending the accessibility of resources;**
- ❑ **Reducing costs & promote the exploitation of resources;**
- ❑ **Avoid duplication and save money;**
- ❑ **Widen access to resources**

Statement of the problem

- **Library consortia& interinstitutional cooperation**
- **Lack of consortium for nation –wide access to scholarship**
- **Growing gaps between existing consortia**
- **The importance of consortial licenses**
- **Proposed model for consortial purchases**
- **Consortium subscription & a universal licence agreement**
- **Proposed Resource-sharing model independent from the fetters of institutional silos**

Research Questions

The study will be guided by the following research questions:

❑ What is the status of resource sharing among academic libraries in Zimbabwe?

❑ What are the barriers that undermine resource sharing?

❑ What is the role of library consortia in resource sharing among libraries?

❑ How can resource sharing among academic libraries be enhanced?

Research Methodology

- **Multimethod approach**
- **A purposive sample of 32 participants drawn from 10 academic librarians in Zimbabwe's ten provinces was used to collect the information.**
- **Participants were drawn from the College & Research Libraries Consortium (CARLC) & Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC).**
- **Data was collected using structured interviews and literature review**

The Main Themes

Thematic analysis (TA) was used to analyse the qualitative data

- **Status of resource sharing;**
- **factors affecting resource sharing;**
- **Role of library consortia in resource sharing; and**
- **Strategy to enhance resource sharing among academic libraries in Zimbabwe.**

Open Access

- Open Access initiative as a response to the restrictive access to knowledge in scholarly and scientific journals imposed by profit-driven commercial publishing
- Library consortium on the forefront in promoting open access
- Adaptation of Open Access as a policies at Institutional /National levels

Literature review

❑ **The role of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) & the Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL.Net)**

❑ **Open Society Institute of Southern Africa (OSISA) supported the establishment of the first library consortium**

❑ **Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI, 2002–2013)& Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems (SRKS) (2013–2018)**

❑ **Providing an opportunity to optimise digital technologies for wider access**

What is the status of resource sharing among academic libraries in Zimbabwe ?

❑ **ILL, e-resource sharing, conferences, workshops and workplace learning.**

❑ **ILL still play a central role for libraries despite the advent of digital technologies**

❑ **"ILL has been the cornerstone of resource sharing…. the advent of digital technologies, we share resources through the consortia"**

❑ **"our resource sharing model has changed …we share resources to access e-resources for the benefit of our students and researchers"**
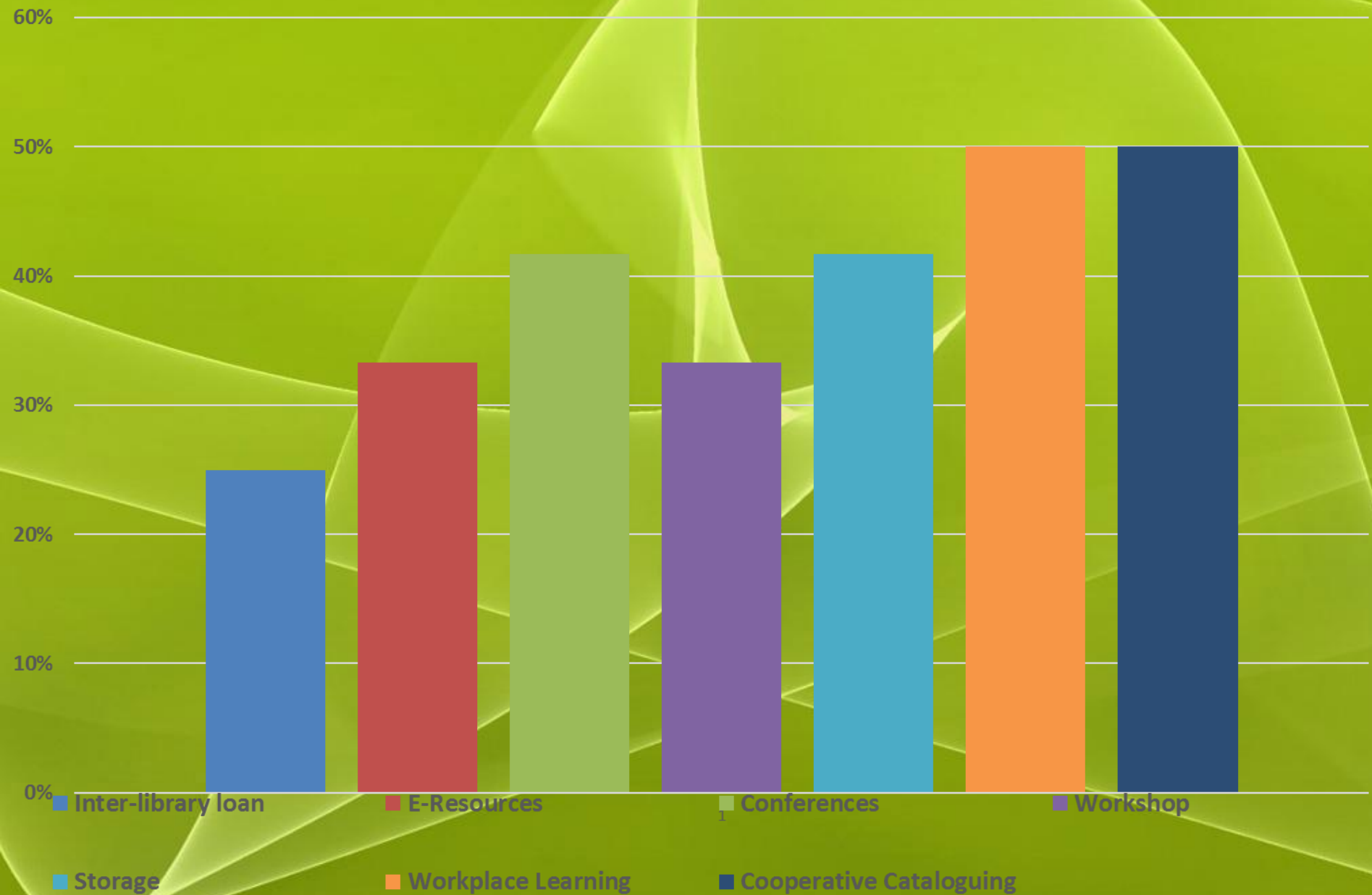
❑ **ILL as an informal arrangements**

Cont'd

☐ **Other potential areas for resource sharing, eg shared storage & cataloguing not yet been exploited because of a lack of adequate resources**

☐ **libraries worked together to develop ISO-ILL interoperable systems thus making it possible to share resources across national borders.**

☐ **Possibility of academic library consortia deploying shared discovery &delivery platforms for shared cataloguing**

CARLC: resource sharing

❑ILL constitute a (25%, n=3) of resource-sharing activities among CARLC members

❑ILL has been carried over as a tradition since the establishment of libraries in the 1890's.

❑ ILL are infrequent &librarians respond to requests as they come.

❑CARLC's ICT infrastructure is being developed to support e-resource sharing programme.

Cont'd

- CARCL participant "our institutions need to learn from ZULC on how best to develop capacity for sharing electronic resources..."

- Costs of internet connectivity cited as an inhibitor

- NREN option being considered

- Zimbabwe Academic Research Network (ZARNET) & Zimbabwe Research and Education Network (ZIMREN).

EIFLNET E-RESOURCE PACKAGE FOR ZULC

Resource	Description
ASTM	Collection of ASTM's industry-leading standards, 1,700 technical e-books, 8 journals and assorted research information.
Cambridge Journals Online	An extensive peer-reviewed publishing list comprising 45,000 print titles covering academic research, over 24,000 e-book titles and more than 300 research journals in a wide range of subject areas.
EBSCO	EBSCO is a global aggregator of full-text journals, bibliographic databases, magazines and other resources, providing quality database products and services.
JSTOR	This is a digital library of more than 2,000 academic journals, 20,000 books, and 2 million primary source objects.
Oxford University Press	Oxford publishes over 4,600 new books each year. It provides access to online information to libraries, institutions, and individuals worldwide.
SAGE	SAGE publishes more than 1,100 journals. It has an expanding range of online databases.

Eiflnet licensed resources for ZULC

- ❑ **EIFLNET partnership has paid off dividends.**
- ❑ **Wider access to scholarly databases**
- ❑ **The promotion of OA awareness on national and institutional level regarding**
- ❑ **EIFL supported the first OA ETD**
- ❑ **Currently, 19 universities have ETD**
- ❑ **CARLC still to develop IRs & ETDs**
- ❑ **Adaption of VPN link will widen access to e-electronic resources beyond the university**

INASP access to online research dashboard (*adapted from INASP, 2019*)

Overcoming silos

- ❑ lack of technological complexity
- ❑ geographical and economic barriers,
- ❑ legal imperatives,
- ❑ restrictions in lending library materials,
- ❑ poor internet connectivity,
- ❑ Bureaucracy& retrogressive policies,
- ❑ inadequate ICT infrastructure & silo mentality.
- ❑ Adopting silo –busting strategies emphasising the benefits of cooperation
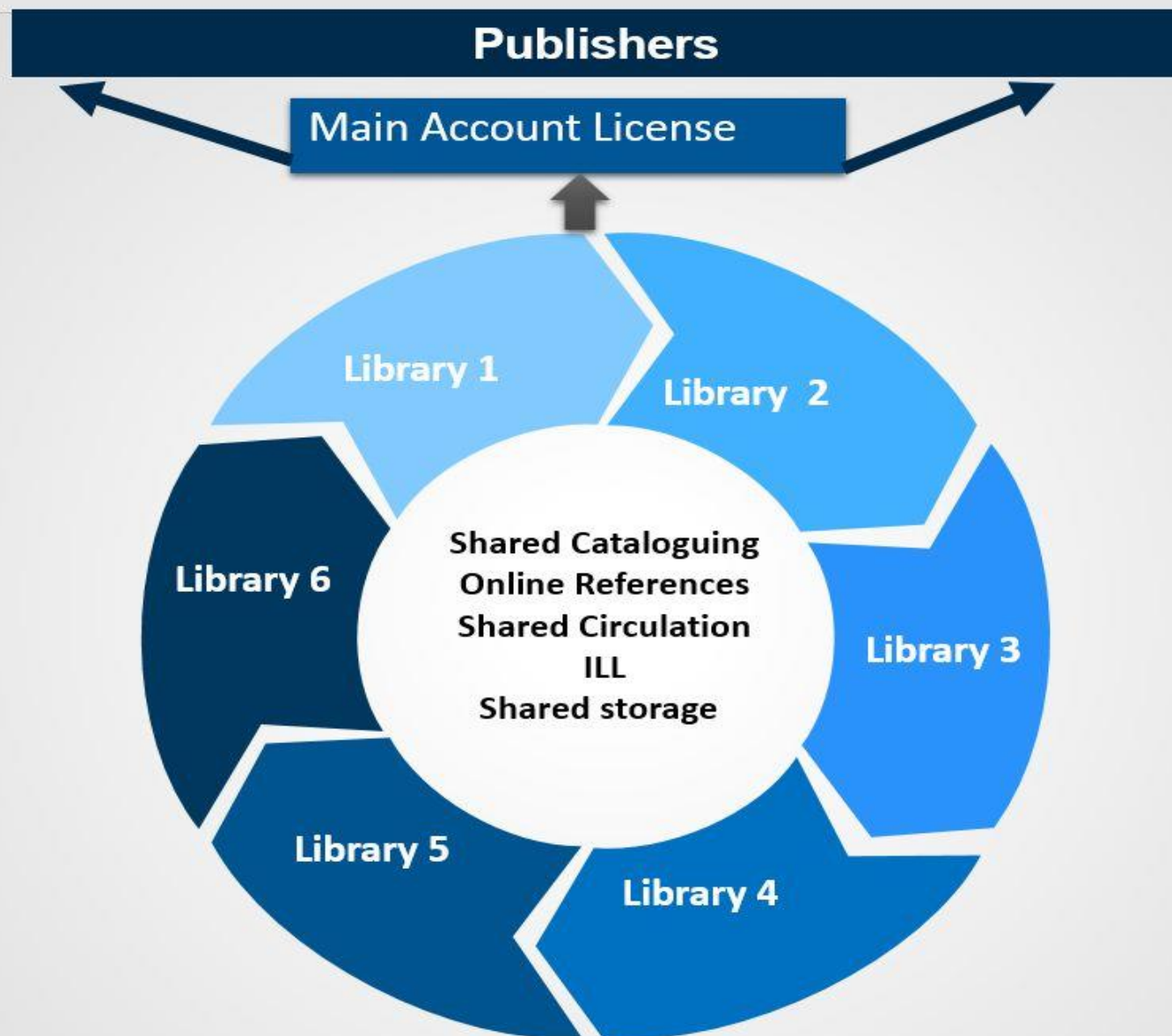
What is the role of library consortia?

- ❑ **The consortium as a special vehicle for sharing multi-format resources**

- ❑ **Promoting   access to e-resources**

- ❑ **Cooperative processing of resources acquired through a purchasing license**

- ❑ **Going beyond just sharing costs for e-resources but sharing other resources**

- ❑ **Developing a network for sharing print and e-resources to widen access**

- ❑ **Encouraging members to develop IRs &ETDs Developing interoperable systems to enhance resource sharing**

Enhancing resource sharing through the CPM

- ❑ **Growing demand for information**

- ❑ **Licence negotiations between publishers and consortia rather than with individual libraries**

- ❑ **An increase in the volumes of digital scholarly communication**

- ❑ **Need to bust institutional silos**

- ❑ **Ability to provide for the diverse needs of academic libraries**

- ❑ **Model's ability to promote equal access to scholarship**

- ❑ **Opportunity for cross-resource sharing**

Proposed model for resource sharing among academic libraries in **Zimbabwe**

Cont'd

- ❑ **Model places member libraries on the same level**
- ❑ **Egalitarian access to scholarship.**
- ❑ **Model builds on the strengths of all members to build capacity for self-sustenance and bargaining power in negotiating a licence to scholarship.**
- ❑ **Serves as a bulwark against the paywall**
- ❑ **Single subscription with cross-resource sharing Economics of scale**
- ❑ **Maximising/ optimising access &use**
- ❑ **Resource sharing to overcome PAYWALL**

Conclusion

- ❑ **The model envisages collaboration with NRENs**
- ❑ **Parabiotic relations among members**
- ❑ **Opportunity to customise model**
- ❑ **Elimination of replication of effort in collection development.**
- ❑ **Nomination of a resource endowed library to undertake the technical processes of acquiring resource on behalf of the members.**
- ❑ **Rethinking new strategies to overcome institutional insularity and paralysis.**
- ❑ **Collaboration for the survival and sustenance of libraries, scholarship and inclusivity**

"There is no way we can succeed in the **eradication of poverty** if the developing world is not part of **knowledge creation, its dissemination and utilisation to promote innovation.** Higher Education is a critical factor in making this possible and must be part of any **development strategy**" Doctor Mamphela Ramphele(2000)