



10 reasons to become an EIFL partner country...

1. Access to a wide range of commercial e-resources at a greatly reduced, and in some cases no, cost.
2. Eligibility for grant opportunities to support the development of library services.
3. Free consortia website hosting.
4. Invitation to attend the EIFL General Assembly, an annual learning and knowledge sharing event.
5. Gain expertise in creating and managing an effective and sustainable library consortium.
6. Training, consultation, and participation in important library areas including e-resource negotiations and licensing, open access, copyright, and open source tools.
7. Enhance your professional knowledge and share best practices about emerging trends in information policy and technology
8. Become an effective advocate for libraries and benefit from opportunities to participate internationally in policy making.
9. Gain access to up-to-date information and specialized resources via EIFL's mailing lists and members only website.
10. Raise your institution's visibility by becoming part of a global network.

About EIFL

EIFL is an international not-for-profit organisation working in collaboration with libraries in more than 45 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia and Europe to enable access to knowledge for education, learning, research and sustainable community development.

EIFL's unique approach

EIFL partners with libraries organized in national library consortia in developing and transition countries. Through the power of collaboration, we are able to reach millions of people efficiently.

Can we join EIFL if we do not yet have a country consortium?

Yes. If a group of libraries is in the process of forming a consortium and is seeking EIFL's assistance, that country can provisionally become a member prior to the establishment of the consortium. Through a mutual commitment, EIFL will provide all member services that are available to regular members, and the consortium will demonstrate significant progress toward establishing an operational consortium.

What is a library consortium?

A library consortium is a group of libraries that work together to achieve common goals. Consortia provide library users through their member libraries with cost-effective, essential electronic collections and services. As a proven model in countries around the globe, consortia enable libraries to provide services that they could not provide on their own, and to share expertise and best practice amongst its members.

Benefits of a consortium

- Reduction in the cost of e-resources
- Ability to negotiate favourable terms and conditions of use
- Expansion of services and resources
- Sharing of staff skills and expertise to strengthen library leadership
- Increased effectiveness of advocacy for policy change
- Promotes cost effective, customer driven services

A consortium is able to speak with one voice to vendors, policymakers and funders. Shared resources and jointly planned activities enable member libraries to provide more services, more effectively.

Through smart negotiations and joint purchasing agreements, library consortia can significantly reduce the costs of commercial e-resources and achieve better terms and conditions of use, thereby maximising value for money.

Sharing human resources provides opportunities for staff to develop new skills and to engage in joint advocacy, marketing, service development, technology deployment and fundraising efforts.

Why build 10 library systems when you can build one? Through resource sharing, consortium members work together to build services that efficiently address the needs of their faculty and students.

Learn more: www.eifl.net/consortium-management-resources

Achievements of EIFL and its partner consortia

Negotiating free or discounted access to commercial e-resources

Through direct negotiations with vendors, EIFL saved consortia in partner countries over \$135 million in 2010. For example, savings were over \$9 million in Macedonia, over \$3 million in Kyrgyzstan, and over \$1 million in Cambodia and Ghana each.

Building capacity to ensure successful libraries

The members of the Laos Library and Information Consortium (LALIC) hold regular professional meetings to conduct training and to share best practices in areas such as open access and library technical services. Together, they are able to share knowledge and develop new skills.

Advocating for open access

The Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA) launched an open access institutional repository and as a result of their advocacy efforts, a new law was passed that requires open access to publicly-funded research.

Creating up-to-date library systems

Working in a consortium, libraries can jointly implement complex technology projects. Malawi Library and Information Consortium (MALICO) worked with its consortium members to implement an open source library system (KOHA ILS) by providing a forum for resource and expertise sharing.