

CALIS, CASHL and library consortium trend in China

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## Abstract

### Purpose

This paper aims to provide suggestions and predictions on library consortium development trends in China under new circumstances, as summarised from observations made of CALIS and CASHL.

### Design/methodology/approach

From an overview and comparative analyses of the similar and different characteristics of CALIS and CASHL – two of the most influential library consortia in China – mainly on sources of funds, organisational management, cooperative collection development, collection character, resource sharing and services, this paper summarises the main advantages and disadvantages of the consortia to gain valuable insights.

### Findings

Seven advantages and three disadvantages in CALIS and CASHL are summarised, and from the insights gained, the following suggestions and predictions on library consortium trends in China arise: the cost-reducing and highly effective models of CALIS and CASHL will be promoted; uniformity and standardisation of construction will earn more respect and be realised; library consortia will develop in the digital library direction; the scope of consortia will be broadened; and different library consortia will move toward integration.

### Practical implications

The advantages and disadvantages of the CALIS and CASHL consortia summarised by this paper, and the suggestions of this paper with regard to trends for library consortia in China provide valuable inspiration and reference for decision-makers. Library consortium practices in China will develop and change in the directions suggested by this paper.

### Originality/value

The comparative analysis of the characteristics of the CALIS and CASHL consortia characteristics is original. The summary of the main advantages and disadvantages of the two consortia, together with suggestions and predictions regarding the trends for library consortia in China, provide useful references for researchers, the public and decision-makers in China as well as other countries regarding library consortium experiences and improving and developing consortia.

## Keywords

Library management   China   Purchasing groups

### Citation

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The China Academic Library & Information System (CALIS) project was one of two public service systems in the "211 Project" and was approved by the State Development and Planning Commission of China in 1998 (Zhu, 2003, p. 401). It is a national academic library consortium. Funded primarily by the central government, its mission is to provide document and information services—through the China Education and Research Network (CERNET)—to universities that receive funding from the central government. library trends/summer 2013. CALIS Members in the Eastern and Western Regions CALIS members are distributed throughout twenty-seven provinces, cities, and autonomous regions in China as presented in fig. 1. Library consortium practices in China will develop and change in the directions suggested by this paper. Originality/value. – The comparative analysis of the characteristics of the CALIS and CASHL consortia characteristics is original. The summary of the main advantages and disadvantages of the two consortia, together with suggestions and predictions regarding the trends for library consortia in China, provide useful references for researchers, the public and decision-makers in China as well as other countries regarding library consortium experiences and improving and developing consortia. Keywords: Library Consortia, Library Resource Sharing, China. Introduction. A library consortium is an association of libraries established by formal agreement, usually for the purpose of improving services through resource sharing among its members. In China, a library consortium might take such a name as "alliance," "network," "system," or "association." CASHL is affiliated with CALIS which provides data processing standard and technical support to CASHL. CASHL also has a three-tier structure comprising member libraries as well as national and regional information centers. Currently it has over eighty member libraries, including academic libraries and libraries in the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Social Sciences System. CALIS, CASHL and library consortium trends in China. Article. Oct 2010. Libr Manag. Diqiu Xu. Purpose – This paper aims to provide suggestions and predictions on library consortium development trends in China under new circumstances, as summarised from observations made of CALIS and CASHL. Design/methodology/approach – From an overview and comparative analyses of the similar and different characteristics of CALIS and CASHL – two of the most influential library consortia in China – mainly on sources of funds, organisational management, cooperative collection development, collection character, re China ranks 40, meaning they accept ambiguous situations and are not deterred by them. It may seem like China has a lot of rules and regulations in place to avoid ambiguous or uncertain situations, however they are willing to bend and changes the rules as situations require it. The Chinese language is also very ambiguous; the Chinese characters are hard to interpret or understand if it is not your native language. Long-term/Short-term Orientation (LTO) – The Chinese rank extremely high on long term orientation at 118, meaning they focus on persistence and perseverance, and that they will dedic