

The challenge of creating the Cyprus Academic Library Consortium (CALC) Impacts and Benefits

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...a little History

- Collaboration strategies and actions in Cyprus initiated by the public libraries sector (in particular the University of Cyprus)
- participation of the Public Universities of Cyprus in the Hellenic Academic Libraries Link (HEAL-Link) Consortium.
 - The University of Cyprus (UCY) officially became a member of HEAL-Link in February of 2000
 - The Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) and the Open University of Cyprus (OUC) also became official members in 2009.
 - In parallel, the three public universities (UCY, CUT, OUC) created CALC with the purpose of subscribing to additional resources and services that could not be covered through the HEAL-Link membership.
- Greece was faced with economic uncertainty and consequently this created many challenges for HEAL-Link.

...a little History

- Cypriot Universities excluded from the current HEAL-Link contracts with the publishers
- Collaboration ended in December of 2012.

How was the CALC created and developed?

Challenges...

- Realization for the necessity of collaboration at a local level between the three public universities (UCY, CUT, OUC).
- maintaining electronic resources and continuing to serve their respective academic communities through “collaboration”.
- The Cyprus Academic Libraries Consortium (CALC) was expanded in 2013 to include the private universities.
- Process of formulating its own agreements with existing and new Publishers begun.

How was the CALC created and developed?

- *“A consortium can be defined as ‘collaborative working’ as ‘joint working by two or more organisations in order to better fulfil their purposes, while remaining as separate organisations’. The different forms of collaborative working all look to achieve mutual advantage in a range of ways - for example, saving funds through sharing costs, delivering improved and integrated services, increasing the power and visibility of separate organisations, achieving a shared aim or sharing knowledge and contacts. Different types of collaboration can last for a fixed length of time or become a permanent arrangement”.*

How was the CALC created and developed?

The Cyprus Academic Libraries Consortium (CALC), is committed to “collaboration” as a way of building relationships around libraries, users and collections to bring added value to services. Its direct customers are member academic libraries and indirect customers include students, academics, and researchers of member institutions (and beyond).

CALC aims to provide a forum for sharing expertise and good practice.



Actions

The main action of the CALC so far is limited only to subscriptions to Electronic Resources (electronic journals, databases, eBooks).

Acting as a single voice on behalf of its members, the Consortium aims to represent the interests of academic and research libraries at both regional and national level. It has built working relationships with several information service organizations and Publishers (of various subject categories), including:

- **Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)**
- **American Chemical Society (ACS)**
- **American Institute of Physics (AIP)**
- **American Physical Society (APS)**
- **American Psychological Association (APA)**
- **Cambridge University Press**
- **ELSEVIER**
- **EMERALD**
- **IEEE**

The criteria of the selection of services and electronic resources (journal packages and databases)

CALC moved to direct contacts, negotiations and final agreements with more than 20 recognized scientific journals and electronic resources Publishers and Suppliers.

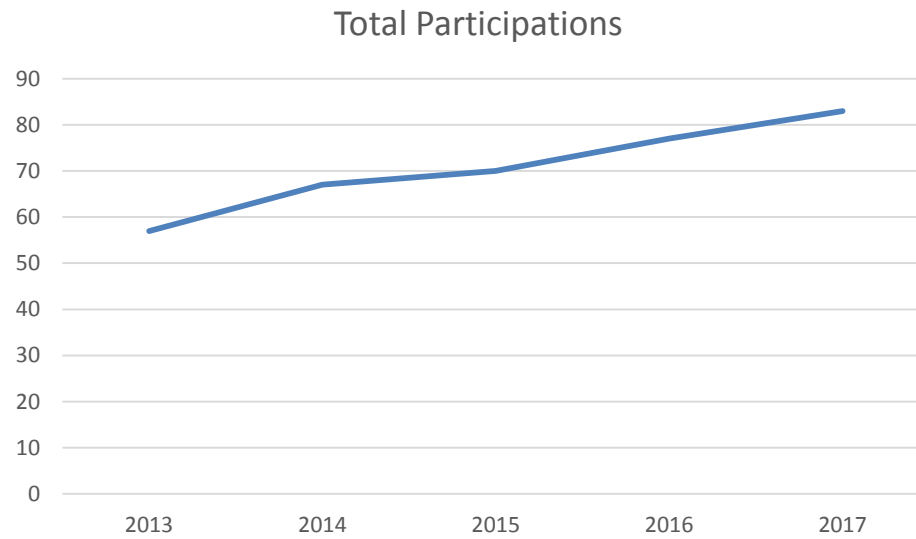
The main criteria for choosing these services were:

- the ability to provide on-line access to electronic content
- abstracts and full-text files of scientific journals in subject areas related to the research and educational needs and directions of CALC members.
- Obtaining depth of coverage and perpetual access
- Obtaining appropriate equipment and software for the development of the ILL service.

The criteria of the selection of services and electronic resources (journal packages and databases)

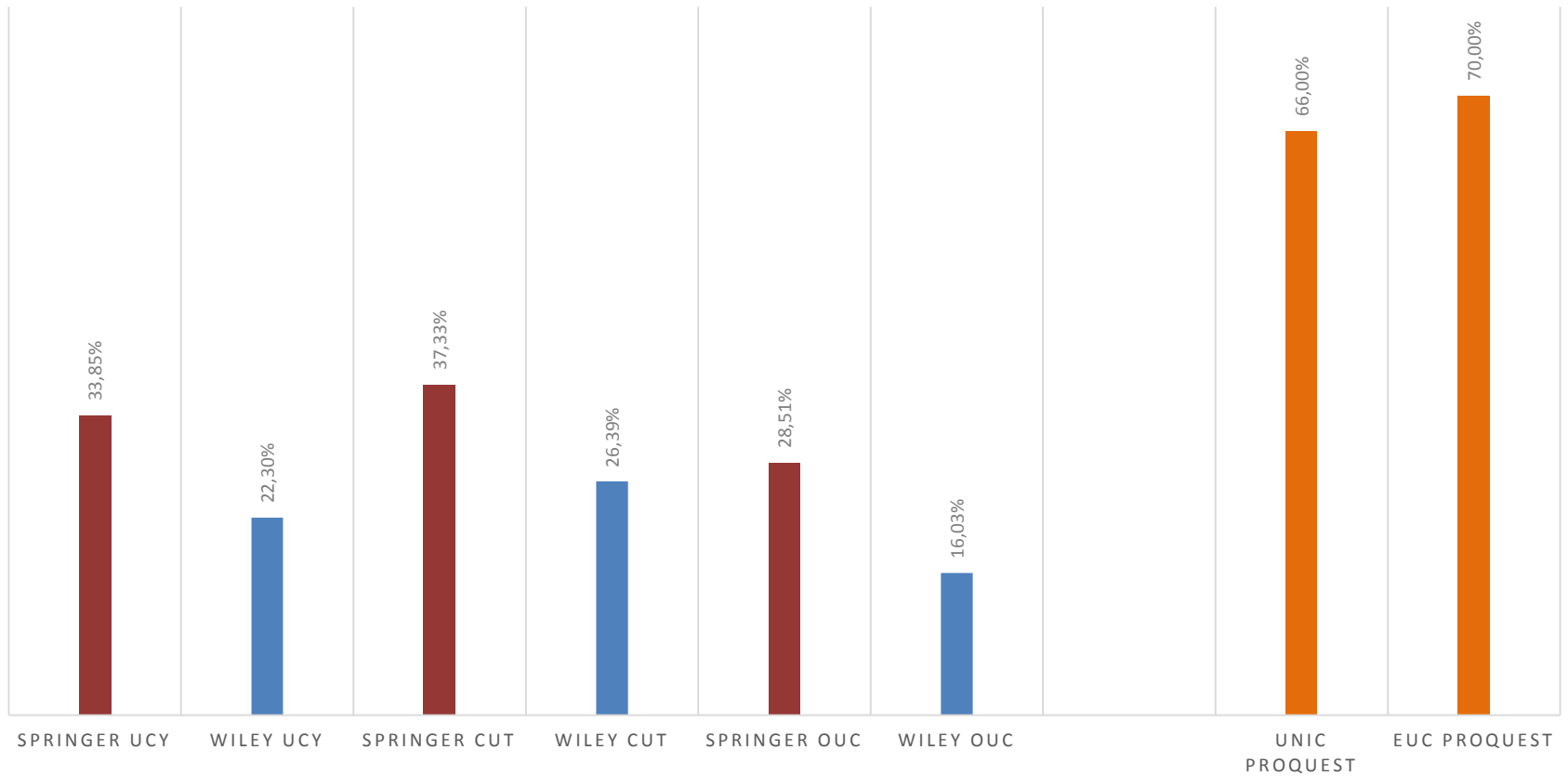
- the common interest of the above institutions in subject categories, as recorded in their research programs and related activities
- the large number of published journals and subscriptions in these subject categories
- the great cost of these journal subscriptions
- the importance of early notification of the academic community on the latest developments in these sciences.

Benefits



Benefits

CASE STUDY OF A WINNING SITUATION



Problems

- Swets Bankruptcy! - Consequences for CALC
- Unpaid Publishers
- Trustee in Bankruptcy – the importance of record keeping and good filing systems
- Good relations and mutual understanding with Publishers

Problems

- CALC participants withdrawing from existing deals with Publishers

Cost Benefit Analysis and Return of Investments

Library	No. of Resources	Consortium Price	Library share	CBA	ROI
UCY	19	1933828	620486	3,11	212
CUT	18	1922087	305679	6,28	529
Neapolis	11	833461	47086	17,7	1670

Table 1: CBA and ROI

Future Actions

- The creation and function of a union catalog of bibliographic records and the development of common cataloguing policies can contribute to the continuous education of library staff and the sharing of expertise.
- The joint implementation of technical infrastructure, e.g. creation of electronic repositories, thematic portals, digitization and archive management etc.
- The systematic monitoring and adoption of international practices and standards in matters relating to the operation of libraries e.g. such as quality issues, copyright issues, and the adoption and use of creative commons licenses or other similar licenses.
- Providing seminars for library users to maximize the use of information resources.
- Provision of consulting services on library related issues.

Conclusion

- **Consortia help and contribute towards the development of libraries**
- **Maintaining good relations and strong collaborations with Publishers help to overcome problems and obstacles.**
- **CALC can go beyond the academic sector and can contribute to the public sector also, e.g. small government research institutions.**
- **Evaluation of usage of the electronic resources.**



ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ!

THANK YOU!