**Indian Speech and Hearing information Consortium (ISHiC)**

**Introduction/Preamble**

The Library and Information Centre (LIC) of the institute houses a rich collection of information resources pertaining to the field of Speech and Hearing and allied areas of Clinical Psychology, Otorhinolaryngology and Special Education. It has both print and electronic formats of documents and caters to the needs of students, research scholars, teachers and practitioners, not only of the institute but also across the country. Library and Information Centre web portal acts as a gateway to a diverse kinds of electronic resources pertaining to the field like E-journals, E-books and online databases. In addition, the LIC has been maintaining an online digital repository of research works carried out in the institute and making them available free of cost to the professional community worldwide.

However, today, only a few Library and Information Centres in the field can afford to make available a wide range of information resources to their user community due to: (a) In adequate funding or stringent budget cut coupled with escalating cost of information resources, (b) Exponential increase in the generation of knowledge and the corresponding increase in the number and type of publications/information products, (c) Overwhelming application of new technology in the processing and distribution of information resulting in the wide availability of varied kinds of electronic information products.

To cop-up with the situation and taking advantage of IT based information retrieval, a national level consortium titled **‘Indian Speech and Hearing information Consortium ( ISHiC )’** is proposed as a system of shared acquisition of electronic information resources by the Speech and Hearing institutions in the country.

**Objectives**

The major objectives of the proposed ‘Indian Speech and Hearing information Consortium’ are the following:

1. To establish a national level co-operative set up among the institutions functioning in the field of Speech and Hearing and allied sciences, in procuring and preserving information resources in electronic format.
2. To enable the member institutions of the consortium to procure costly electronic resources at a substantially lower rate of subscription.
3. To facilitate rapid and efficient access to scholarly content to the professional speech and hearing community across the country.
4. To identify and negotiate with the publishers and vendors in the field, for consortium purchase of information resources.
5. To make the speech and hearing community in the country aware of different types of electronic information resources and impart training in their usage and there by achieving the optimum utilization of the resources.
6. To enhance and enrich access to the full range of resources required to improve the quality of teaching, learning, research and clinical care activities related speech and hearing in the country.

**Justification/Rationale for the proposed project**

There are more than 50 institutions imparting education and training in the field of speech and hearing in the country. The high cost of information resources pertaining to the field has been compelling most of these institutes deprive their professional community of the wealth of information generated worldwide. Though there is a health science information consortium functioning at national level called ‘ERMED’ under the Director General of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, only 20-25% of the information resources pertaining to Speech and Hearing have been covered by it. On the other hand, there are a plethora of electronic information resources pertaining to speech and hearing and allied fields. Under these circumstances, formation of a national level consortium by the stake holders in the field can provide a common platform for procuring and sharing information resources.

**Project Strategy/Project Activities**

The proposed project aims to establish an open consortium of sister institutions functioning both in government and private sector across the country, for cooperative procurement of all the electronic information resources in the field of speech and hearing and allied areas.

**i) Coordination** : The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore will act as a nodal centre coordinating all the activities relating to consortium.

**ii) Participating Institutions**: The consortium membership will be open to both government and private institutions in the field of Speech and Hearing across the country. 15 institutions have already expressed their willingness to participate in the consortium, in a preliminary survey conducted among the institutions.

**iii) Resource Identification:** More than 200 E-journals, 300 E-books and other resources have already been identified which are relevant for incorporate in consortium subscription.

**iv) Resource Subscription Cost:** The prospective private institution members have to meet the subscription cost of resources by themselves and the government or government aided institutions intending to participate in the consortium may approach their parent organization for the financial support required for e-resource subscription.

**v) Governing Committees:** A national level expert committee has already been set up to advice the institute on matters relating to consortium. Other committees like national level steering committee for the governance and management of the consortium, subject expert committee for advising the consortium on matters relating to the identification and selection of electronic resources, will also be formed in due course.

**vi) Design of Web-based Platform:** A web-based platform will be designed for sharing electronic resources among the member institutions.

**vii) Negotiating with Publishers:** The key publishing firms in the field of Speech and Hearing have already been identified and negotiating with them has already been started on consortium-based purchasing.

**Outcome of the Project**

 The major outcomes of the proposed projects are the following:

* Increased availability of electronic information resources to the professional community in the participating institutions.
* Access to costly information resources at discounted rates.
* Access to different types of resources on a single platform.
* Better terms of agreement with the publishers

**Budget Estimation**

The activities of the consortium having financial implications, are given below:

1. **E-Resource Subscription**

Subscription of various types of electronic resources such as E-journals, E-books and bibliographic databases in the field incurs annual recurring expenses and this may be borne by each of the participating institution based upon the number of resource it subscribes.

1. **Design and Development of Web-based Platform**

A powerful web-based platform has to be designed for the successful operation of the consortium related activities especially accessing various subscribed information resources of the consortium by the users spread across the participating institutes.

1. **Salary /Remuneration/Honorarium**

The project requires the recruitment of one consortium consultant, one software engineer and one information scientist. An experienced person in the field of library consortium may be appointed on a part-time basis as the consortium consultant, who can analyse and advice on matters relating to effective management of consortium. The software engineer is needed for the design, development and maintenance of web-based platform of the consortium. The information scientist is needed for resource identification, content management and organization and looking after the overall activities of the consortium.

1. **Training / Workshops/Orientation Programs**

Training and workshops will be conducted for different target groups such as the heads of speech and hearing institutions, user community and librarians on various aspects such as awareness of consortium benefits, effective utilization of resources, search strategies and ways of promoting the usage.

**Financial Outlay**

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| **Sl.No** | **Particulars** | **Annual Expenditure in (`)** |
|  1 | E-resource Subscription | 300.00 |
|  2 | Staff salary/Remuneration/Honorarium * Consortium Consultant (Part-time)

Software Engineer (Contract basis) * Information Scientist (Contract basis)
* Honorarium for various committee members

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| 3 | EquipmentsComputer SoftwareComputer Hardware | 15.0015.00 |
| 4  | Training and workshops | 07.00 |
| 5 | Furniture  | 02.00 |
| 6 | Special  Consumables | 00**.**50 |
|  **Total**  | **347.2** |