

Electronic Library: Centralized Consortium Purchasing Provides More Information at Less Cost

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In fiscal year 2007, the USACE Library Program brought together 22 Districts to obtain library and research materials through centralized consortium purchasing. As a Knowledge Management (KM) initiative, the USACE Electronic Library significantly lowered costs while increasing efficiency and effectiveness by providing access to electronic subscriptions and research tools to the desktops of over 18,000 scientists, engineers, and other USACE professionals. The USACE Electronic Library consortium produced a cost avoidance of \$600,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$4.2 million in fiscal year 2007.

This is the second year of the consortium, where combinations of



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District contributed \$10,000, which in turn, *allowed access to a \$221,000 electronic library of more than 1,450 electronic journals and 1,000 full text reference books on mission-essential content.*

The journals in the USACE Electronic Library reflect the data call survey of August 2006 that Corporate Information conducted for mission-essential research material. The content includes the engineering journals of the American Society of Civil Engi-

neers; science and engineering texts from the KNOVEL Research Library; and scientific journals related to aquatic and biological sciences from American Fisheries Society, BioOne,



JSTOR, Springer Publishing, Web of Science and others.

The USACE Electronic Library also aligns itself with the business strategy of USACE 2012 by:

- providing an effective investment in research;
- committing to a learning organization;
- reinforcing our dedication to a competent, capable workforce;
- enhancing technical expertise and professionalism;
- aiding Districts with minimum library service;
- reducing redundant expenditures; and
- effectively delivering state-of-the-art information services on an enterprise level at significant cost avoidance.

For further information, please contact USACE Command Librarian, Tim Hays at 978.318.8349 or email, Timothy.P.Hays@usace.army.mil, or USACE Electronic Library Coordinator, Bob Romic at 309.794.5576 or email, Robert.L.Romic@usace.army.mil. 



The USACE Electronic Library consortium will save \$4.2 million in FY 2007.

Districts have formed to purchase library materials and access electronic journals. These services would have been beyond the funding resources of any one individual District. Each