



Rethinking Resource Sharing. Inspiring libraries. Empowering people.

www.rethinkingresourcesharing.org

The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative is an ad hoc group that advocates for a complete rethink of the way libraries conduct resource sharing in the context of the global internet revolution and all of the developments that have arisen from that. The group is advocating for a revolution in the way libraries conduct resource sharing.

The group has a number of activities underway, including encouraging libraries to offer user-centric services, developing a tool that enables users to easily identify sources for material while anywhere on the web, promoting the elimination of policies that pose barriers to users' access to information, and redesigning library workflow throughout the entire discovery-to-delivery chain.

Innovation Awards

The group will be giving out three Resource Sharing Innovation Awards in 2008. Each winner will receive a cash award of \$1,000 to recognize innovative changes they made to improve users' access to information through resource sharing in their library, consortium or state.

A Manifesto for Rethinking Resource Sharing - Excerpts

If libraries want to expand and promote information accessibility, and to continue to be valued resources, libraries must improve their information delivery system. Aligning resource sharing workflow, collection policies, and discovery-delivery systems by significantly reducing service barriers and cost, and offering user service options are critical pieces ...

...the user should be able to get what s/he wants on the terms that s/he chooses without undue hurdles... As libraries are making their collections visible on a global scale, so should they provide an international resource delivery system or a service model that combines the strengths of all participant libraries. ...we believe the following principles ... will encourage the sort of resource sharing and delivery that will enhance the role of libraries in the expanding information environment...

1. **Restrictions shall only be imposed as necessary** by individual institutions with the goal that the lowest possible barriers to fulfillment are presented to the user.
2. **Library users shall be given appropriate options** for delivery format, method of delivery, and fulfillment type, including loan, copy, digital copy, and purchase.
3. **Global access to sharable resources shall be encouraged** through formal and informal networking agreements with the goal towards lowest-barrier-to-fulfillment.
4. **Sharable resources shall include those held in cultural institutions of all sorts:** libraries, archives, museums, and the expertise of those employed in such place.
5. **Reference services are a vital component to resource sharing and delivery** and shall be made readily accessible from any initial "can't supply this" response. No material that is findable should be totally unattainable.
6. **Libraries should offer service at a fair price rather than refuse** but should strive to achieve services that are not more expensive than commercial services, e.g. bookshops.
7. **Library registration should be as easy as signing up for commercial web based services.** Everyone can be a library user.

A copy of the complete *Manifesto*, facilitators guide, copies of adaptable presentations, and additional information are available on the Rethinking Resource Sharing website: www.rethinkingresourcesharing.org.