

# Managing the Collective Collection: *the future of print collections in the networked environment*

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Program Officer  
RLG Programs**

**RLG Collections Summit  
Philadelphia, PA  
12-13 November 2007**

# Rallying at the Eleventh Hour . . .

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**3 problems**

**4 objectives**

**1 strategy  
(and its shortcomings)**

**Where RLG Programs fits**

# three problems

## Prevailing models of library print management are not sustainable

*print acquisitions increasing; net usage decreasing; competition for space and attention*

*process standardization; decision support*

## Limited redundancy in system-wide print holdings is an impediment to collaboration

*uniqueness creates distinctiveness – at a cost*

*effective disclosure; aggregate supply /demand*

## Preservation costs/benefits are inequitably distributed

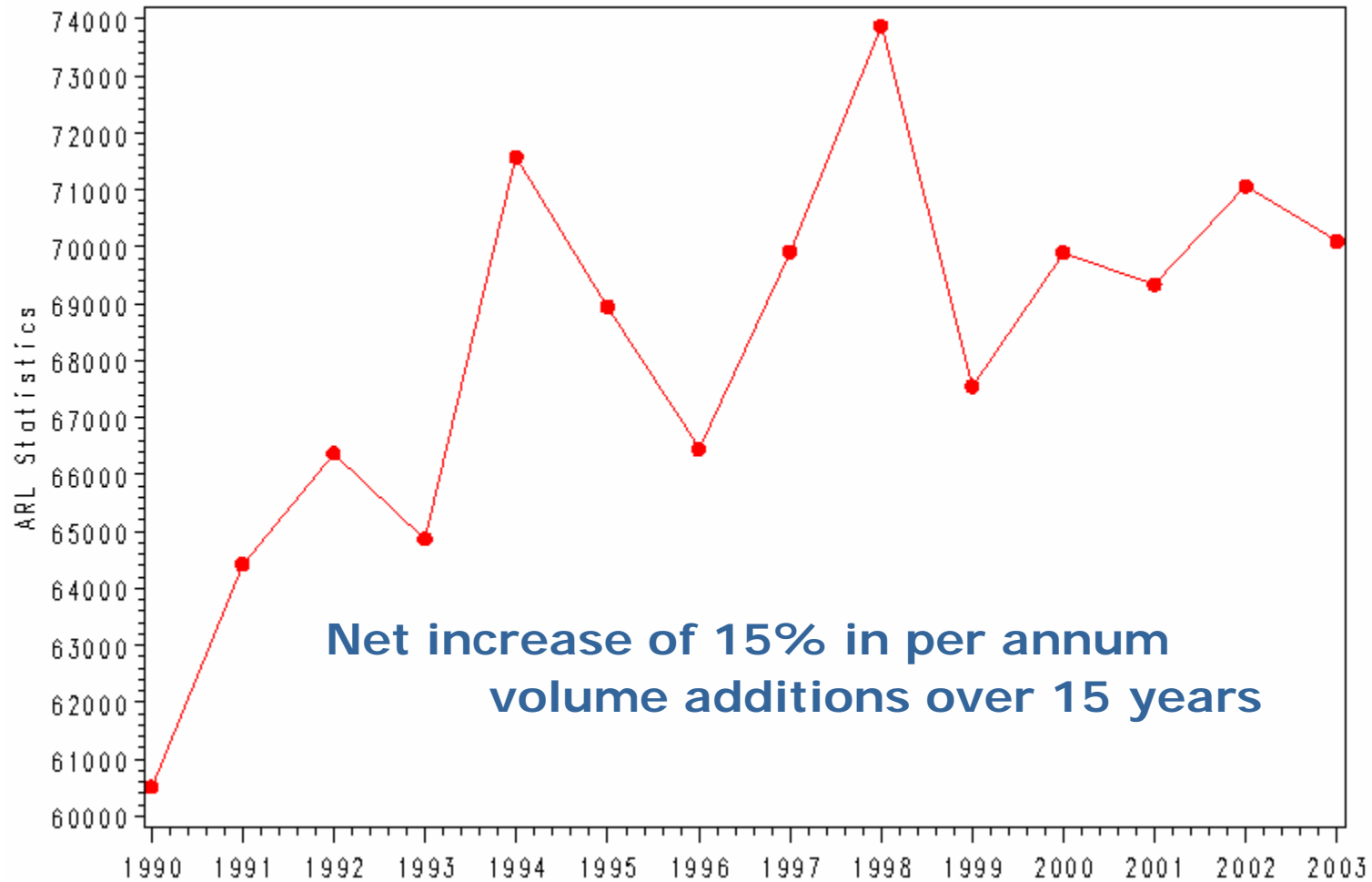
*institutional mandates differ; not all research libraries can or will maintain collections of record*

*model agreements balancing costs/benefits*

# Weighing the evidence

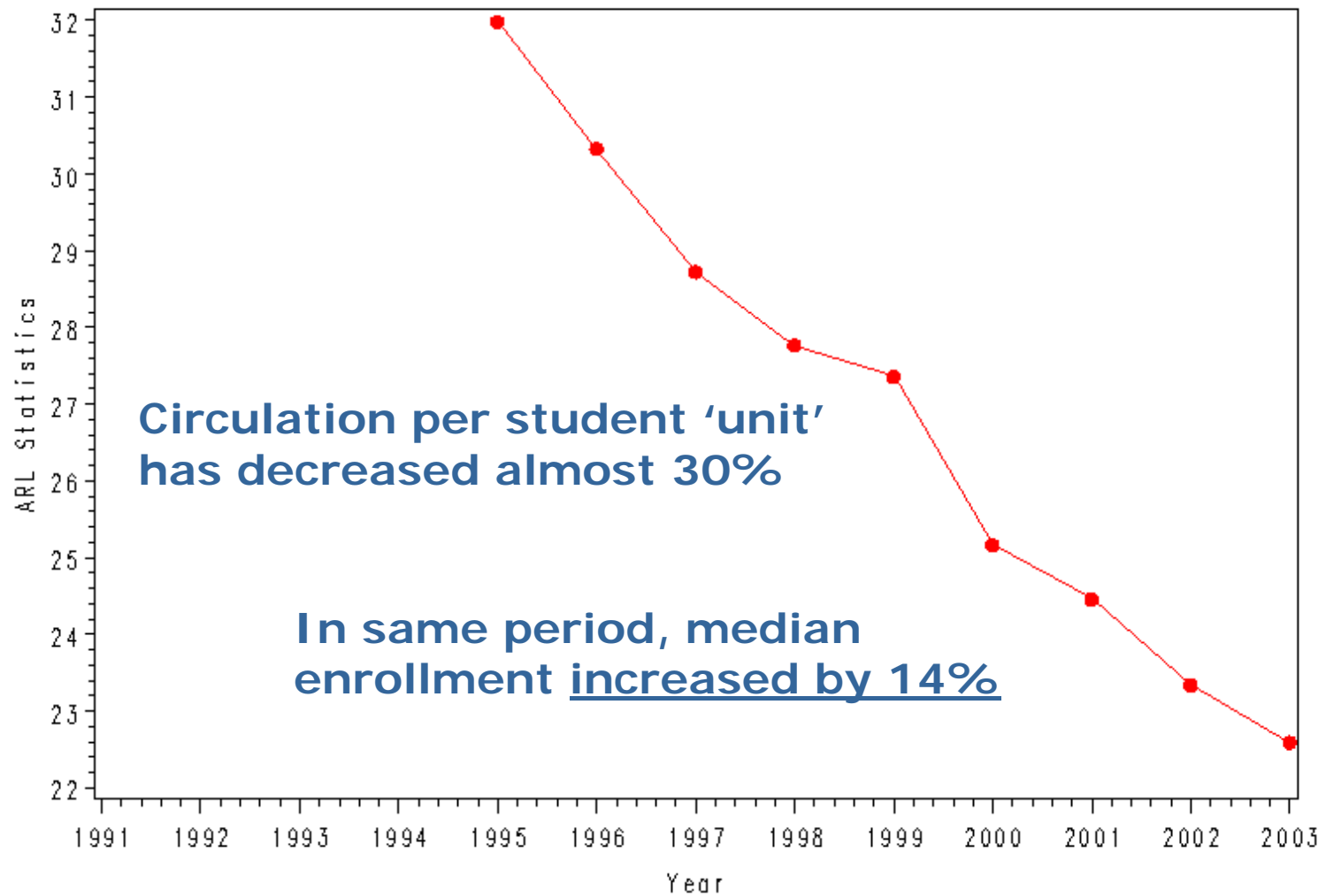
# Physical Inventory is Growing

## Median Volumes Added (gross) Per Annum



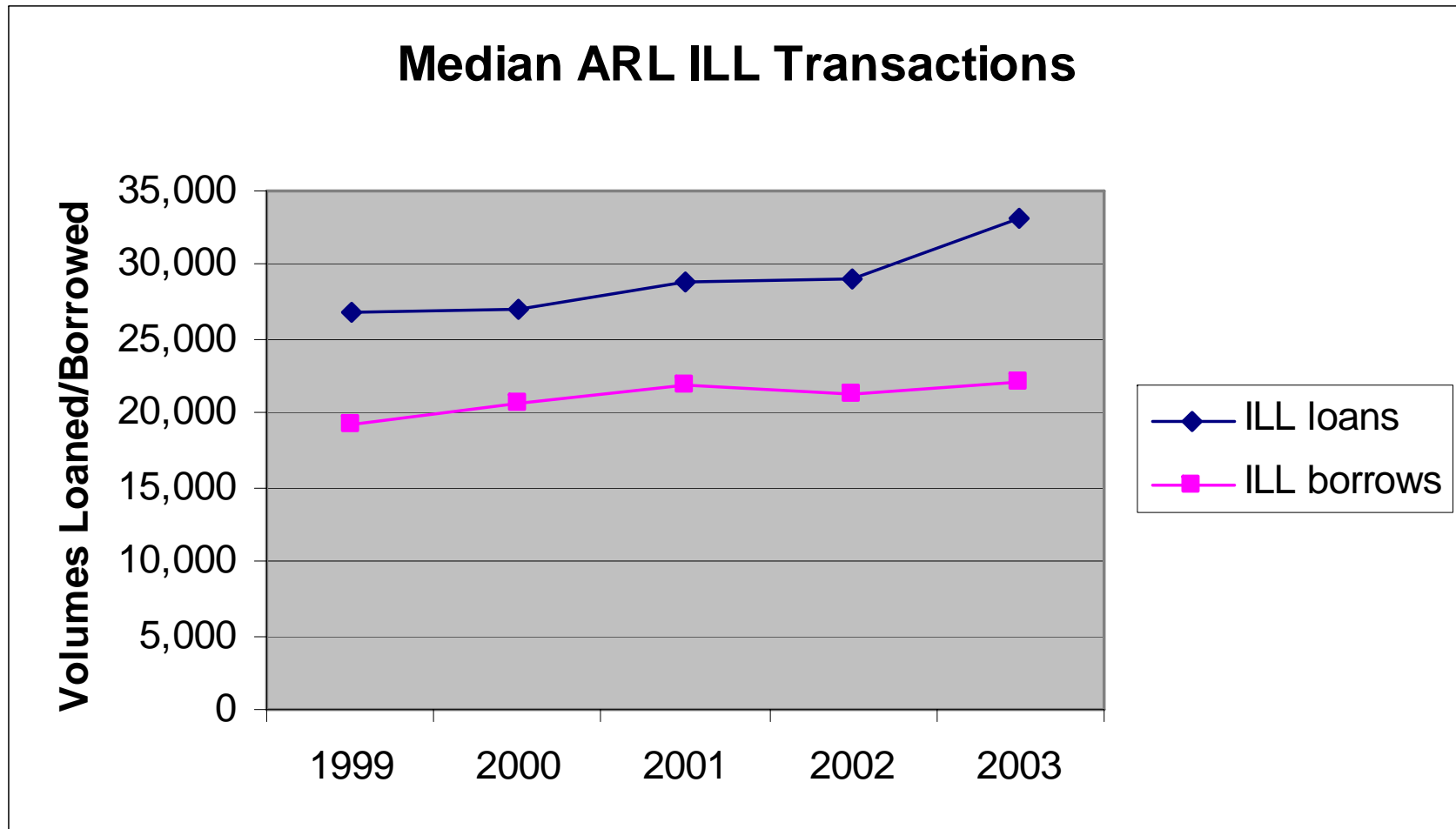
# Reliance on Local Inventory is Declining

## Median Total Circulation / Full-time Enrollment



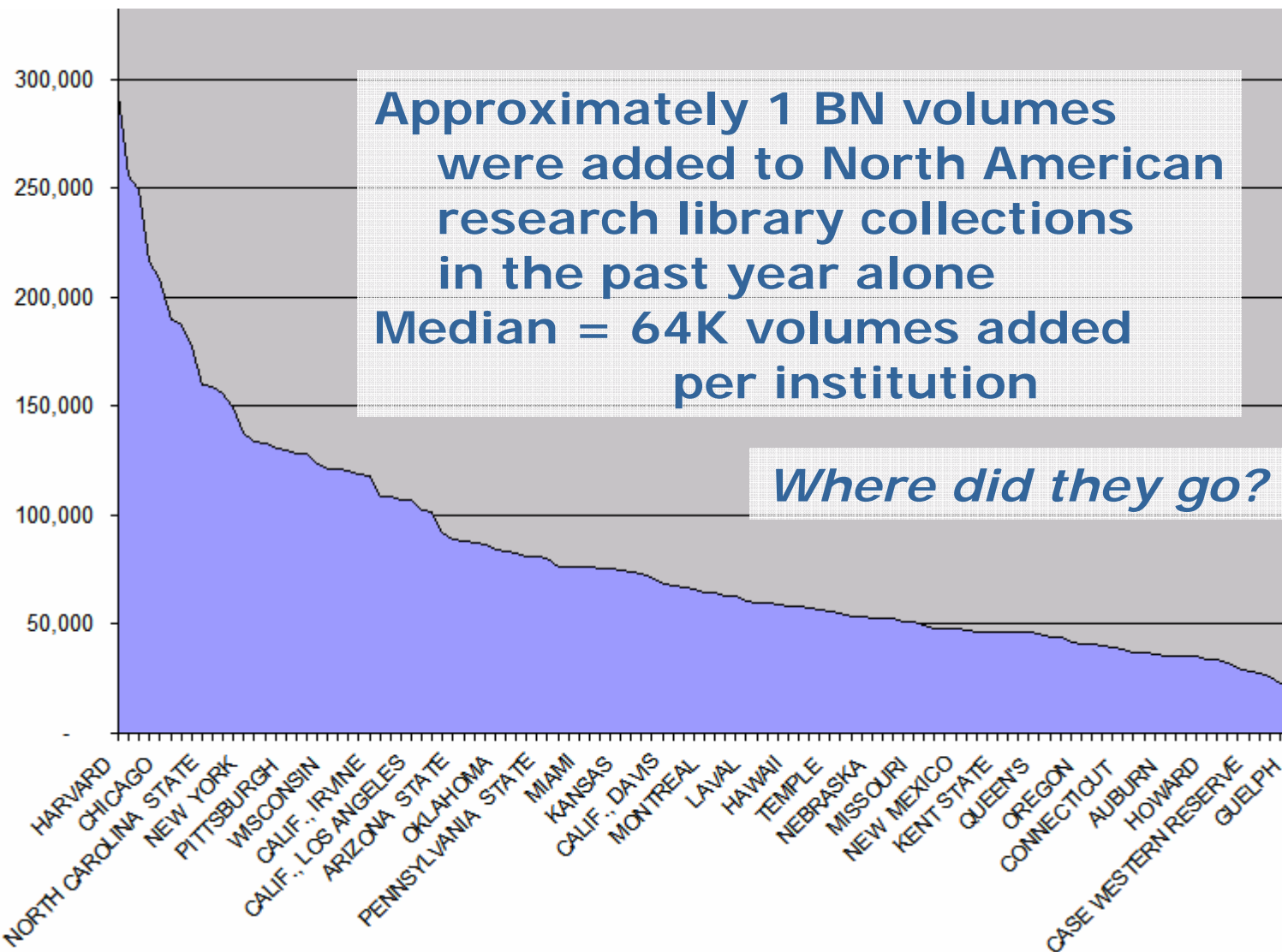


# Reliance on Networked Collection is Growing



# Volumes Added (gross) in 2005-2006

## North American Research Libraries



Derived from ARL 2006 Statistics: Gross Volumes Added

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**No. of facilities**  
**Aggregate capacity**  
**Current occupancy**  
**(vol. equivalents)**

# System-wide library

ions and D

**9 facilities**  
**18.4M vols.**  
**69% full**

**5 facilities**  
**21.2M vols.**  
**41% full**

**5 facilities**  
**5.9M vols.**  
**47% full**

**14 facilities**  
**17M vols.**  
**78% full**

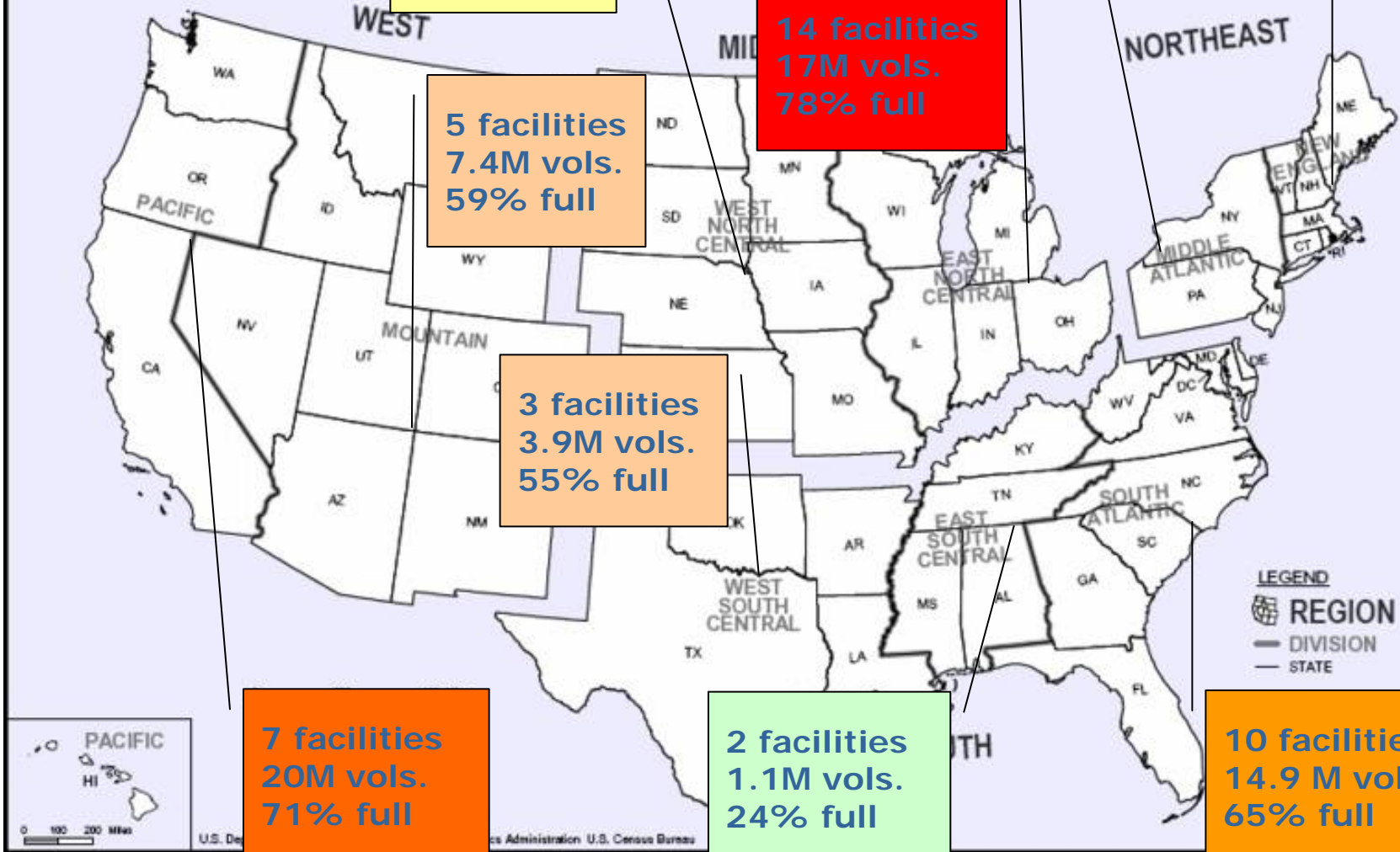
**5 facilities**  
**7.4M vols.**  
**59% full**

**3 facilities**  
**3.9M vols.**  
**55% full**

**7 facilities**  
**20M vols.**  
**71% full**

**2 facilities**  
**1.1M vols.**  
**24% full**

**10 facilities**  
**14.9 M vols.**  
**65% full**



# What RLG Programs is doing

## OCLC Programs & Research Themes



Managing the  
Collective Collection



Renovating Descriptive  
& Organizing Practices



Modeling New Service  
Infrastructure



Architecture  
& Standards



Measurements  
& Behaviors



Supporting  
New Modes  
of Research,  
Teaching &  
Learning



# Data-mining for Collection Management

*Assessing overlap and characterizing uniqueness in system-wide holdings, enabling institutions to make better informed decisions about the disposition of local holdings*

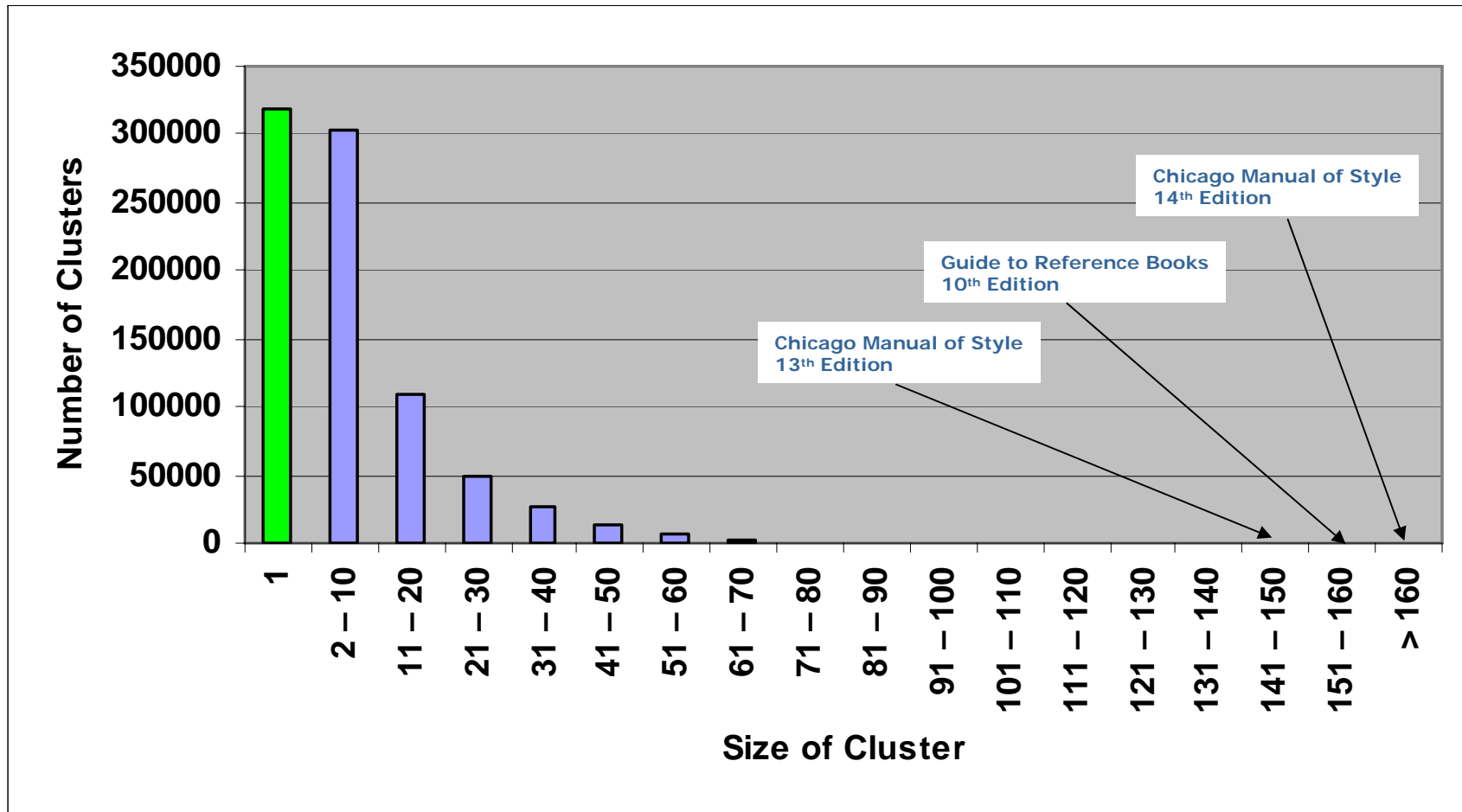
- NYARC Collection Analysis - characterizing aggregate collection of selected art libraries
  - Exploring opportunities for evidence-based collaboration
- [Last copies](#) – characterizing content and distribution of unique book holdings
  - Examining system-wide holdings for shared collection and community profiles
- Experimenting with visualization techniques to increase impact of available evidence base
  - [OCLC WorldMap](#)

Research lead: Lynn Connaway

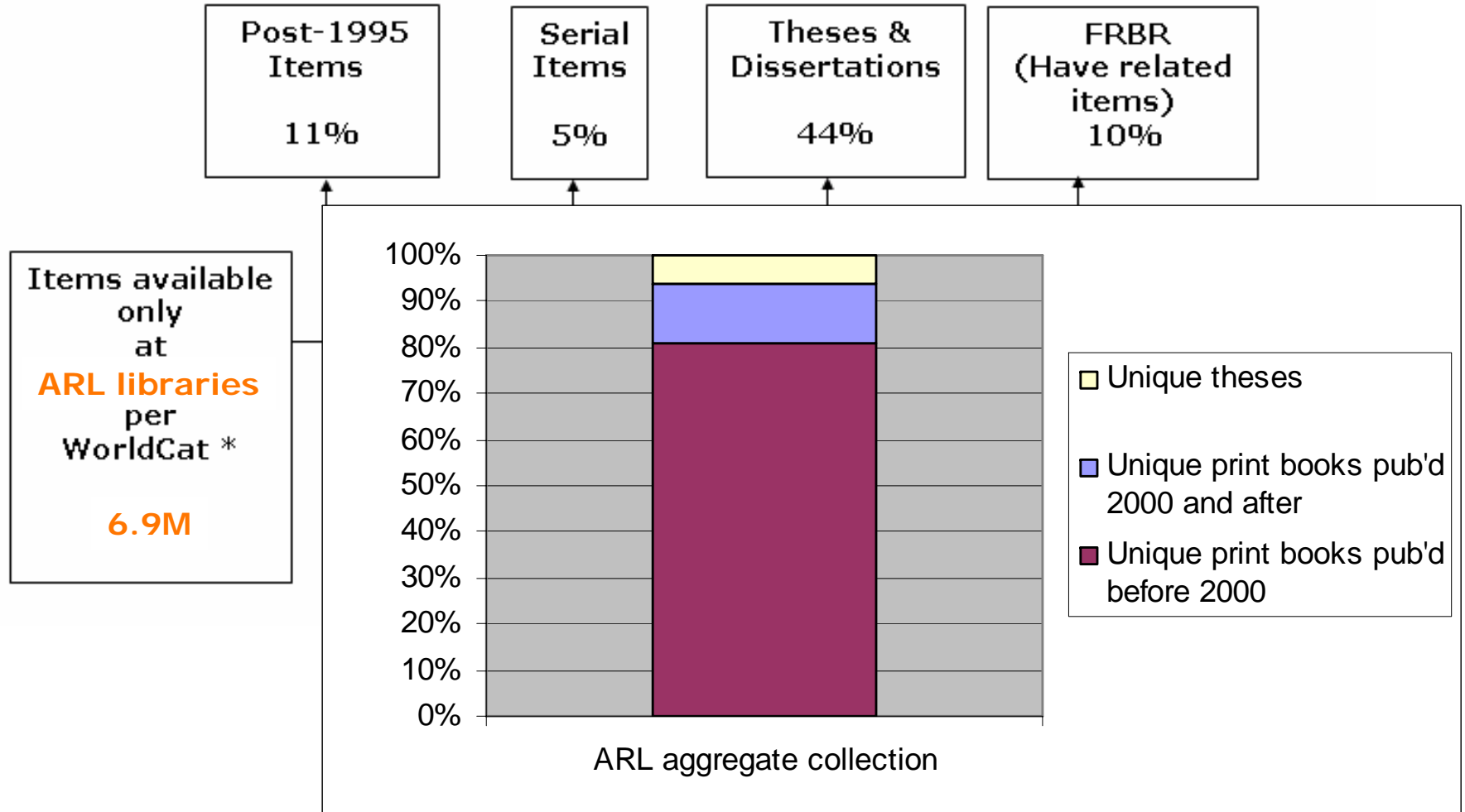
Programs lead: Constance Malpas

# Cluster size: RLG Union Catalog

Indicator of uniqueness of NYARC-4 aggregate collection *vis-à-vis* the rest of the world: how many libraries outside the NYARC-4 hold these titles (in context of RLG Union Catalog)

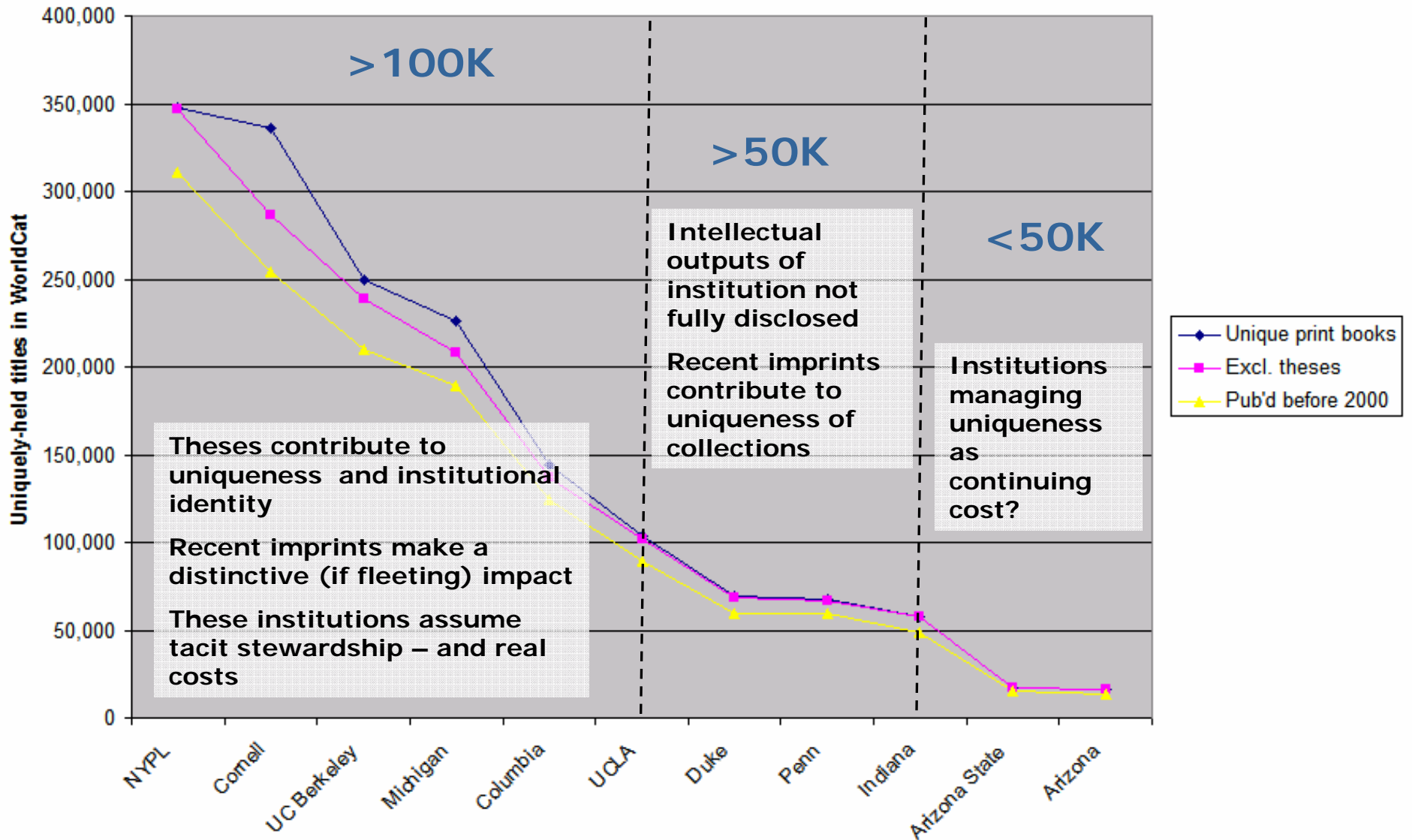


# Identifying last copy monographs





# Characterizing Uniqueness: Who, What, How Much





Charts

United St...

United Ki...

Ireland

Select any of the comparison options below to view the corresponding data chart.

### WorldCat Country Statistics

Holdings by Country of Publication

Published Languages

Published Titles

### Country Statistics

Libraries

**Library Volumes**

Librarians

Library Users

Library Expenditures

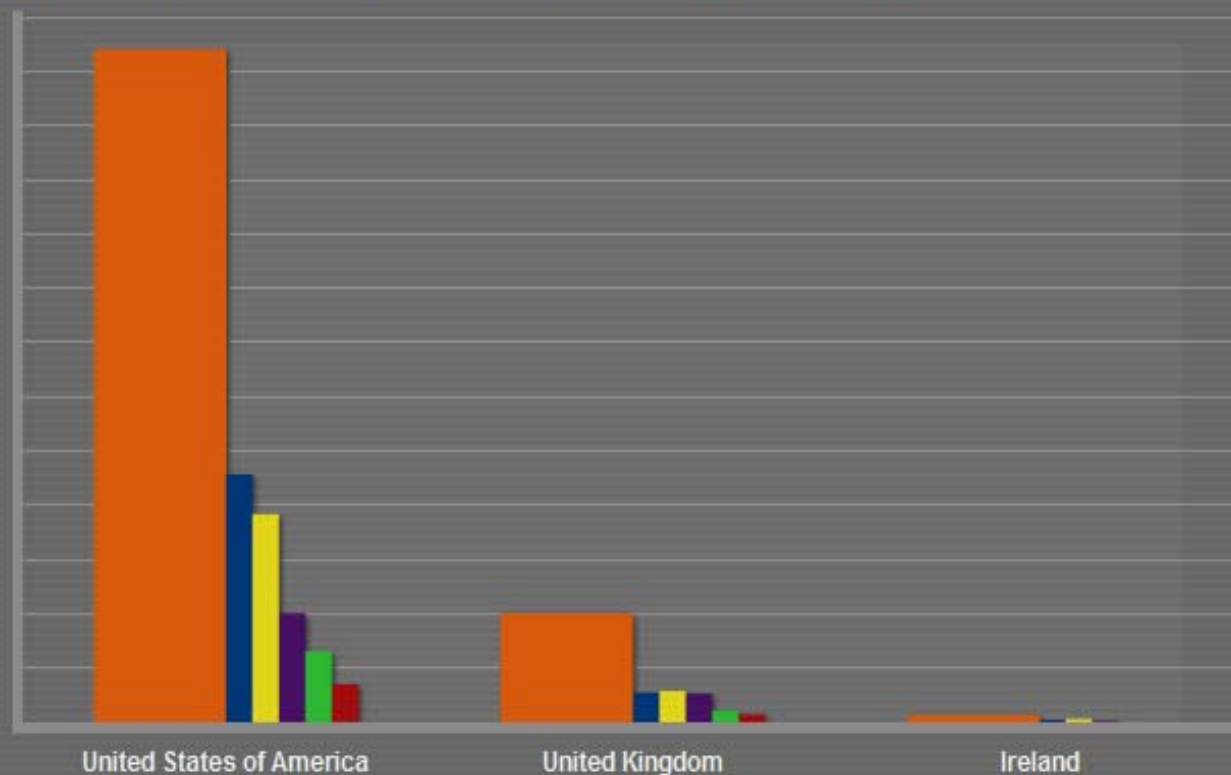
Cultural Institutions

Publishers

## Library Volumes

Number of Library Volumes in each country. The Volume is a count of all single items in a library, including those in a series or set.

**Total** **Academic** **Public** **School** **Special** **National**



Hide Library Type Breakdown



# Shared Print Collections

*Promoting effective disclosure and management of aggregate holdings, moving institutional holdings and services 'into the flow', building library Web scale on a global scale*

- [North American Storage Trust](#) – community engagement
  - Leverage existing network of off-site storage collections to manage system-wide redundancy while reducing local costs
- Collaborative Collection Management Trust – pilot project
  - Explore use of aggregated holdings and circulation data to support local and group decision-making about growth and management of library print collections
- [“Library Offsite Storage and the Future of Library Print Collections”](#) - commissioned white paper by Lizanne Payne
  - Evidence-based assessment of library storage practices in North America with recommendations for future action

Programs lead: Constance Malpas

Product management lead (CCMT): David Millikin



# Mass Digitization

*Exploring the challenges of bringing library content online in an environment where discovery is mediated by large information hubs; understanding the impact of large-scale text aggregations on scholarship and learning*

- Model agreements for public/private partnerships
  - Invitational meeting held in New York, June 2007
  - Explored the costs and benefits of partnering with commercial entities to bring library collections online; pooled expertise on negotiating tactics
  - Final report to appear in D-Lib magazine, November/December 2007
- Large-scale conversion of special collections
  - Standing-room-only [pre-conference](#) at SAA (August 2007), hosted by Newberry Library, focused on how to move more special collections online, more quickly
  - Culminated in "[Shifting Gears](#)" – a recommendation to adopt a digitization mandate driven by access, unleashed from traditional selection and cataloging workflows, and focused on moving content to the Web

Programs lead: Ricky Erway



# Collaborative Collection Management

*Leveraging the networks of trust that we've built over 15 years of collaboration in the resource-sharing community, to move collection-sharing practices 'beyond borrowing'*

- [RLG Collections Summit](#) (November, 2007)  
Host: University of Pennsylvania
- Invitational meeting will explore cultural, technological and organizational obstacles to the cooperative solution of 4 key objectives
  - Retention of last copies
  - Ensuring back-up to online access
  - Expanding coverage, reducing duplication
  - Shared access to low-use collections
- Collections and Access managers from 35 research institutions in North America, the UK and Ireland
- Outcomes: recommended strategies at the local, group, and network levels; concrete next steps and "assignments"

Programs lead: Dennis Massie

## Preservation costs/benefits are inequitably distributed

*Ensure retention of last copies – 5 projects (Constance)*

*Ensure back-up to online access – 8 projects (Martha)*

## Limited redundancy in system-wide print holdings is an impediment to collaboration

*Shared access to low-use collections – 6 projects (Dennis)*

## Prevailing models of library print management are not sustainable

*Expand coverage, reduce cost – 5 projects (Karen)*

**3 problems, 4 objectives, 24 projects and 1.5 days**