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

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RLG Programs

RLG Collections Summit
Philadelphia, PA
12-13 November 2007
Rallying at the Eleventh Hour . . .

“To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations…”

Woodrow Wilson, on signing the Armistice Agreement, November 1918

. . . it’s not too late to act, but lasting change will rely on strategic alliances and durable, shared commitments.
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

Net increase of 15% in per annum volume additions over 15 years
Reliance on Local Inventory is Declining

Median Total Circulation / Full-time Enrollment

Circulation per student ‘unit’ has decreased almost 30%

In same period, median enrollment increased by 14%
Reliance on Networked Collection is Growing

Median ARL ILL Transactions

- Volumes Loaned/Borrowed
- ILL loans
- ILL borrows

- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003

0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000 30,000 35,000

RLG Collections Summit 12-13 November 2007
Managing the Collective Collection
Volumes Added (gross) in 2005-2006
North American Research Libraries

Approximately 1 BN volumes were added to North American research library collections in the past year alone. Median = 64K volumes added per institution.

Where did they go?

Derived from ARL 2006 Statistics: Gross Volumes Added
What RLG Programs is doing
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)

![Cluster size chart]

- **Chicago Manual of Style 14th Edition**
- **Chicago Manual of Style 13th Edition**
Identifying last copy monographs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-1995 Items</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serial Items</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theses &amp; Dissertations</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRBR (Have related items)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items available only at ARL libraries per WorldCat: 6.9M

ARL aggregate collection

- Unique theses
- Unique print books pub'd 2000 and after
- Unique print books pub'd before 2000
Characterizing Uniqueness: Who, What, How Much

Theses contribute to uniqueness and institutional identity
Recent imprints make a distinctive (if fleeting) impact
These institutions assume tacit stewardship – and real costs

Intellectual outputs of institution not fully disclosed
Recent imprints contribute to uniqueness of collections
Institutions managing uniqueness as continuing cost?
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**

![Library Volumes Chart](chart.png)

- **United States of America**
- **United Kingdom**
- **Ireland**

[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
- 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