RLG Basics

- Founded in 1974; incorporated in 1975
- A self-selected peer group of research libraries with a shared commitment to collective action
- Early collaborative programs in collection development, technical processing, resource sharing, preservation
- Within 5 years, archives and museum libraries sought out RLG to be their home
- Over time, RLG built services to support resource discovery and use in multi-type research institutions:
  - RLG Union Catalog
  - Unique databases to showcase primary source collections
Characteristics

- **Services**
  - Built from member and other contributions

- **Membership (now Partnership)**
  - Institutions paid an annual fee to affiliate
  - Growth was intentionally bounded
  - Created a venue for collective action

- **Programs**
  - Collaborative endeavors
  - Participation limited to membership
  - Facilitated by small number of staff
  - Often seeded by grant monies

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Mixed Environment: Services and Programs

**Web applications**
- RLG Union Catalog
- SCIPIO
- CAMIO
- RLG Cultural Materials
- Archive Grid

**Interfaces**

**Cooperative Programs**

- Collection Development
- Preservation
- Shared Cataloging
- Resource Sharing
RLG Services

- RLG Union Catalog:
  - 100+ million MARC descriptions in 400+ languages
  - 750,000+ collection descriptions
- Eureka interface:
  - 14 subject-based journal article indexes
  - ESTC – Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalog
  - SCIPIO – Art Sales Catalogs
  - Hand press Book Database (CERL)
- Digital and Innovative Services:
  - RLG Cultural Materials
  - RedLightGreen
  - CAMIO – art images
  - ArchiveGrid – archival and special collections descriptions

RLG Members: Growth 1974-2006

- Founders: NYPL, Harvard, Columbia, Yale
- Early years (1975-1984):
  - US university libraries
  - Major US museum libraries, archives, historical societies
- Middle years (1985-1994):
  - More US university libraries
  - Law libraries, East Asian and Jewish Studies collections at US universities
  - UK and Ireland universities and national libraries
- Mature years (1995-2006):
  - More UK universities
  - European, Middle East and Pacific Rim national and university libraries
Demographics – 150 Members

- 55% Academic
- 22% Archival, historical, independent
- 13% Museum
- 7% National library
- 3% Public library

Geographics – 150 Members

- 66% US
- 5% Canada
- 3% UK
- 3% Cont'l Europe
- 5% Middle East
- 1% Pacific Rim
What do we mean by “Program”?

- An organized set of activities designed in response to expressed needs within the research library, archives and/or museum community
- An opportunity to work with staff from member institutions to
  - Achieve consensus on best practice
  - Advance collective thinking around specific challenges
  - Recommend and take community action

RLG Programs: Past Examples

- Shared cataloging
  - Chinese Rare Books, Art sales catalogs
  - Archival collection description - MARC
  - Early original scripts development and deployment
- Shared collection management
  - Conspectus (1984)
- Preservation
  - National standards for microfilm production
  - Funded microfilming grants
  - PREMIS
- Resource sharing
  - Protocols and standards
  - Ariel software
  - ILL Manager software
Anatomy of a Program Initiative - Past

- Identification of a shared challenge
- Working group formed to analyze the problem set
- Working group to recommend solutions
- Community invited to comment
- Synthesis of community input
- Events and publications - communications
- Adoption of best practice by community

July 1, 2006

- Two mature organizations combined
  - Similar missions
    - OCLC – supporting needs of libraries
    - RLG – supporting needs of research libraries, archives, museums
  - Not-for-profit and international
  - Operating online services
  - Harnessing technology for benefit of community
  - Committed, overlapping memberships

- Twin objectives
  - Eliminating redundancies in service infrastructures
  - Amplify staff effort for community benefit
Oversight and direction

- RLG Committee of the Board of Trustees
  - **Account, regulate, assess**
    - Charter established; role clarified
    - Two meetings – September and April
    - Attend annual meeting of Partners

- Program Council
  - **Advise, represent and amplify**
    - Charter established; role clarified
    - Two meetings – September and January
    - Attend annual meeting of Partners
**What’s changed: RLG Services**

- RLG services are being transitioned to OCLC
- A few services are being withdrawn
- RLG Union Catalog records are being loaded into WorldCat

**What’s changed: RLG Partnership**

- To avoid confusion, members are now *partners*
- A few institutions withdrew from affiliation
- Four institutions joined as new partners
- Partners may also choose to be OCLC members

**What’s Changed: RLG Programs Formed**

Increased capacity to support research, focused experimentation and innovation

- Sharper focus
  - Separation of RLG programs from RLG services
- Expanded resources
  - OCLC Research – specialists in knowledge organization, terminologies, data mining and user behaviors
  - RLG Programs – specialists in collaboration around preservation, resource sharing, digital libraries, special collections in libraries, archives, museums
- New opportunities to deliver value to the community
RLG Partners Today

- RLG Programs provides a framework for collaboration, problem-solving, and the development of new practices, standards, products, and services
- Libraries, museums, archives with
  - Deep, rich research collections
  - Mandate to make collections accessible
  - Commitment to exploit technology
  - Commitment to contribute to ‘commons’
  - Commitment to collaboration
  - Capability to contribute (collections, expertise, infrastructure)
- New Partners in 2006-2007
  - UCLA
  - University of Washington
  - Oregon State University
  - University of Alberta

Anatomy of a Program Initiative - Present

- Identification of a shared challenge
- Working group formed to analyze the problem set
- Working group recommends solutions
- Community invited to comment
- Synthesis of community input
- Events and publications - communications
- Adoption of best practice by community
Anatomy of a Program Initiative - Present

- Identification of a shared challenge
- Research into the nature & extent of the challenge
- Working group formed to analyze the problem set
- Synthesis of research and analyses
- Working group recommends solutions
- Community invited to comment
- Synthesis of community responses
- Prototype a service or build a testbed
- Beta test the service, assess the testbed outcomes
- Transfer the solution into a product group (or elsewhere)
- Events, publications, service launch - communications
- Adoption of best practice solution or service by community

OCLC Programs & Research: Engage and Advance

- Identify shared problem
- Convene experts
- Build community
- Create consensus
- Agree on best practices

- Develop and deploy technology
- Mobilize network solutions

- Perform research
- Develop architecture & standards
- Build prototypes
RLG Programs Work Areas (2007)

- Renovating descriptive and organizing practices
  - Objective: Change the economics of metadata at research institutions

- Managing the collective collection
  - Objective: To understand, prepare for, and help advance libraries, archives and museums in more profoundly cooperative models of acquiring, managing and disclosing collections

- Modeling new service architectures
  - Objective: Help libraries, archives, and museums achieve a common understanding of the processes for which they should be responsible
Collective Collection: Mass Digitization

- DLF panel and survey identified top community concerns
  - Need for a common framework to guide selection and conversion decisions
  - Guidance on preservation of outputs
  - Improved understanding of user expectations

- Mass digitization partnerships
  - Rights and responsibilities of research institutions

- Tools to support partners
  - eContent synchronization – Registry of Digital Masters
  - Rights management – evaluative tools for selection and access

Collective Collection: Shared Print

- Exploring the value proposition of collaborative collection management
  - Opportunity costs of duplicative print holdings
  - Efficiencies of shared collection development

- Policy frameworks for shared print collections
  - Model agreements, workflows, vocabulary
  - Data requirements for collection analysis tools

- Implementing new models for resource sharing
  - SHARES Executive Group - testbed
Discovery to Delivery in New Contexts

- Invitational symposium, March 15-16, 2007
- Map the “discovery to delivery” (D2D) traverse
- Identify strategic positions and roles for research institutions in the new environment
- Catalysts:
  - Roy Tennant, California Digital Library
  - John P. Wilkin, University of Michigan
  - Genevieve Clavel, Swiss National Library
  - Cyril Oberlander, University of Virginia

Learn more on the RLG web site

Reminder

Meeting resources, including agenda, presentations, minutes and Key Issues Report will be available on the Research and New Technologies Interest Group Web site:

http://www.oclc.org/research/memberscouncil/