

RLG Programs : Past, Present and Future

**Research & New Technologies
Interest Group
Members Council
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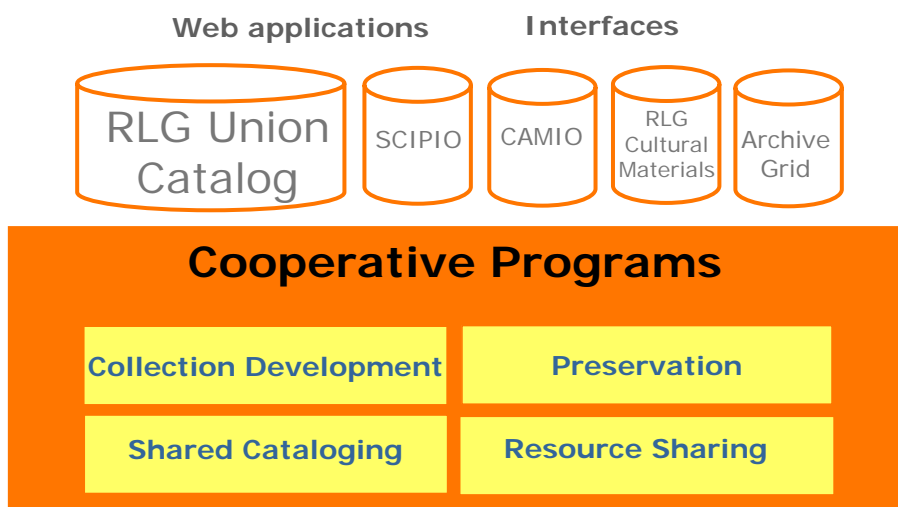
RLG Basics

- 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

Mixed Environment: Services and Programs



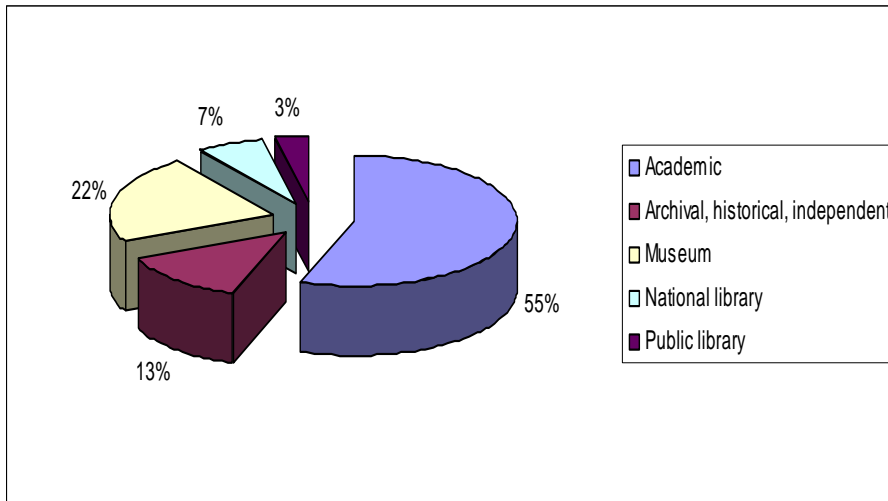
RLG Services

- 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
 - SCIO – 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

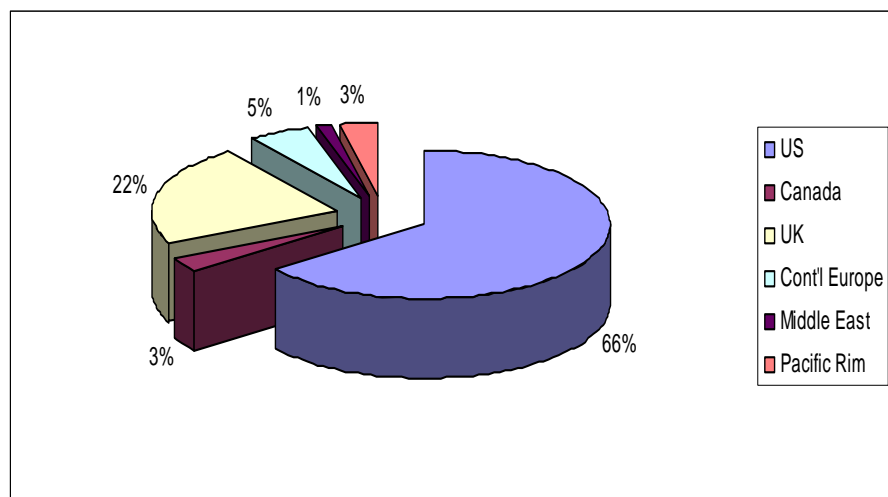
- Founders: NYPL, Harvard, Columbia, Yale
- Early years (1975-1984):
 - US university libraries
 - Major US museum libraries, archives, historical societies
- Middle years (1985-1994):
 - More US university libraries
 - Law libraries, East Asian and Jewish Studies collections at US universities
 - UK 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



MC Research & New Technologies Interest Group: 2007-02-06

Geographics – 150 Members



MC Research & New Technologies Interest Group: 2007-02-06

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

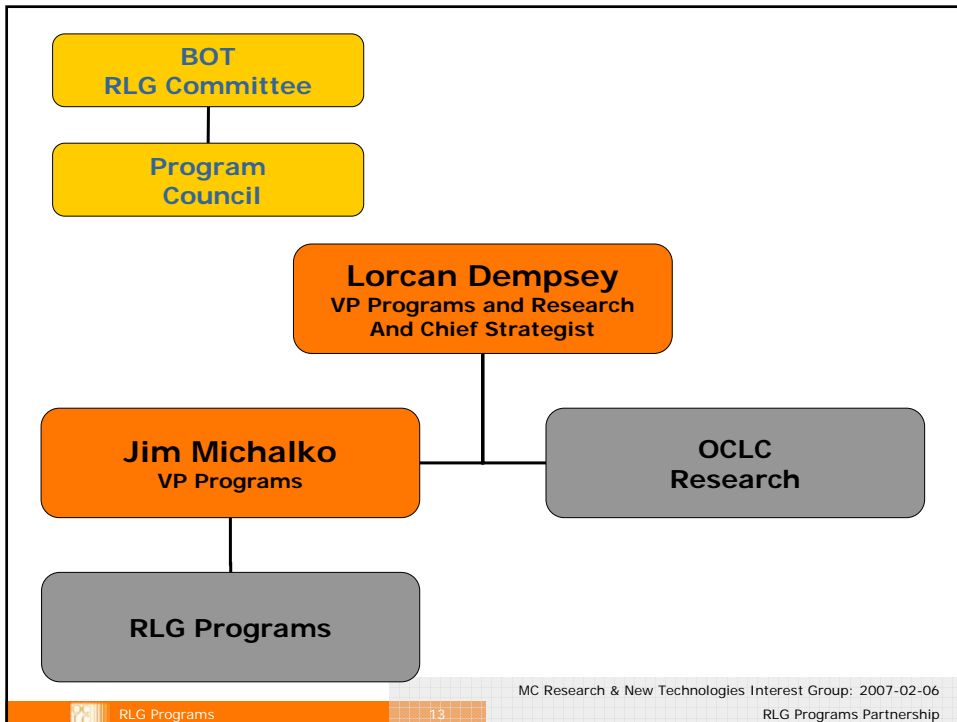
- Shared cataloging
 - Chinese Rare Books, Art sales catalogs
 - Archival collection description - MARC
 - Early original scripts development and deployment
- Shared collection management
 - Conspectus (1984)
- Preservation
 - National standards for microfilm production
 - Funded microfilming grants
 - 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

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RLG Programs Partnership

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

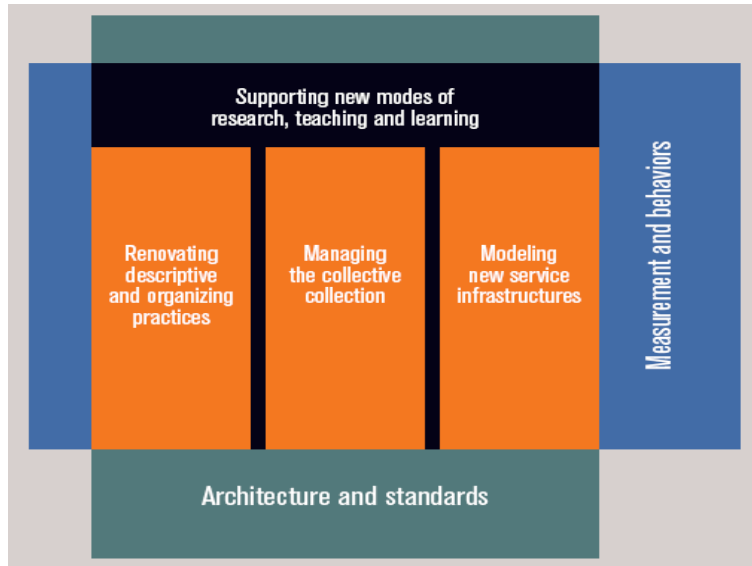
Identify shared problem
Convene experts
Build community
Create consensus
Agree on best practices



Develop and deploy
Transfer technology
Mobilize network solutions

Perform research
Develop architecture & standards
Build prototypes

RLG Programs Work Areas (2007)



RLG Programs – work areas

- **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
 - R. Johnson "In Google's Broad Wake: Taking Responsibility for Shaping the Global Digital Library" *ARL Bimonthly Report*, no. 250 (Feb. 2007)
- 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

- Mission and agenda:
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=362
- Organization and communication:
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=387
- Partners:
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=382
- RLG Program Council:
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=21000
- RLG Committee (BOT):
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=21001
- Partner Updates:
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=21002

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/>