Collective Collections: Right-scaling Cooperative Stewardship

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Establishing a body of evidence

Growing recognition that institutional print management models are unsustainable

Intra-regional duplication is low; inter-regional duplication is high; “scale matters”

Benefits & trade-offs of operationalizing shared collections at group or regional scale

Exploring characteristics of European collective collections; structural contrasts with US

Significant share of institutional inventory is duplicated in digital and print repositories

Growing trend toward coordinated management at a variety of scales

Web-scale discovery redefines collection boundaries; growing need for coordination capacity
Increased reliance on data driven decision-making
Current context

- Financial (relative purchasing power) and opportunity-cost pressures on traditional owned/purchased collections model

- Increased reliance on direct consortial borrowing, hosted management systems, consortial licensing and demand-driven acquisitions: “more groupiness”

- Network discovery has reconfigured boundaries of collection: from what is owned to what is available
RIGHT-SCALING STEWARDSHIP
Institutional inventory viewed in context of group, regional, global collections

What is the optimal scale for shared management?

- **Empirical approach:** aggregate across existing library units
- **Counterfactual approach:** mega-regions
North American print book resource:
45.7 million distinct publications
889.5 million total library holdings
Can existing mega-regions reduce friction in scaling shared print management?

Will these corridors of trade compete with consortium or national-scale efforts?

Have they already affected the contours of institutional collections?
In practice:

• Existing consortial partnerships are the most expedient path to shared stewardship arrangements

• Peer institutions prefer to work together (despite potential advantages of multi-type partnerships)

• Geographic proximity is important to managing personal relationships and fulfillment services
Many North American consortia mobilizing around ‘group-scale’ shared print programs

Figure: North American Mega-regions and shared print activity. OCLC Research, 2013.
Regional Impacts of Consortial Print Stewardship

SCELC-scale shared print program could preserve **47%** of regional collection

CIC-scale shared print program could preserve **58%** of regional collection

ASERL-scale shared print program could preserve **67%** of regional resource

Figure: Regional impacts of consortial print stewardship. OCLC Research, 2014.
Libraries: 13
Print books*: 12.4M

Average duplication:
In-group: 3 holdings
... 
Scarce: <4 holdings
Group: 76%
...

Libraries: 124
Print books*: 35.4M

Average duplication:
In-group: 7 holdings
Globally: 31 holdings
Scarce: <5 holdings
Group: 73%
System-wide: 51%

Libraries: 32*
Print books*: 20.9M

Average duplication:
In-group: 2 holdings
Globally: 33 holdings
Scarce: <5 holdings
In group: 88%
System-wide: 56%

*Print book publication or title (deduplicated OCLC control numbers)
Scarcity is common – why?

• Research libraries collect a greater share of historical literature; intrinsic supply constraints

• Regionally and nationally, cataloguing practices can vary widely; clustering and de-duplication gets harder
  – Monographic series
  – Language of cataloguing
  – Sparse and ‘stub’ records for hard-to-catalogue titles

• Institutional decisions about what to represent in union catalogues
  – Rare books and special collections
  – Grey literature, technical reports
SUCCESS FACTORS
Shared Print: Key Performance Indicators

**Success**
Operational and strategic goals are met; local burden of print management is reduced, while a broader range of materials is preserved and made available.

**Sustainability**
Shared management reduces costs and creates enough surplus benefit to ensure continued contribution and participation.

**Scalability**
Models are extensible; as adoption curve grows, additional participants can be added to maximize economies of scope and scale.
Key factors for success, sustainability, scale

• System-wide view of aggregate resource
  operational success relies on measuring, managing and monitoring risk

• Robust trust networks
  single greatest constraint on success and scale of shared management?

• Scalable infrastructure
  discovery/delivery logistics that reduce cost and friction
GERMANY
National context factors

- Sondersammelgebiete (SSG) – has it produced the desired result of comprehensive coverage?
- Regional networks (BVB etc) – does cataloguing vary systematically from one network to the next?
- Small scale feasibility study with OCLC Research currently underway to determine if collective collection analysis is possible with current data, resources
Thanks for your attention.

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