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Statewide Collection Development

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Let us imagine that you and your brothers and sisters, all of whom live within twenty miles of one another, decide to buy vacation homes, planning to exchange keys with one another so that everyone in the family can enjoy them. Think how disappointed you would be if you did not consult with one another and each sibling bought a house at the coast. Obviously it would have been better had you talked to one another first, so that you could buy a house overlooking the Pacific Ocean, your older sister could buy a cabin on Mt. Hood, your older brother a fishing cabin on the McKenzie River, your little sister a condo in the marina in downtown Portland, and your baby brother a place in the beautiful hills near Ashland. After the closing papers were signed, then all you would have to do is learn to share!

For similar reasons, consultation and sharing are important for librarians engaged in collection development. In fact, librarians have been considering the merits of cooperative collection development for some time. We already know about sharing, and we are getting better all the time.

The Statewide Collection Development Steering Committee, an advisory committee to the state librarian, is meant to foster effective cooperation among libraries within Oregon. Cooperative collection development is one of the basics of resource-sharing; it increases access to information and allows us to use limited library resources as effectively as possible.

Committee members from different sizes and types of libraries have investigated cooperative collection development. The committee has considered such matters as local collection assessment, collaborative development of collections based on assessments, shared bibliographic access to collections, and the need for responsive delivery systems ensuring timely transfer of information.

The committee is dedicated to informing librarians about cooperative collection development issues and concerns. Committee members Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Maureen Sloan, and Jan Fortier spoke and led a panel discussion of cooperative collection development at Online Northwest in February 1993.

The committee surveyed libraries in Oregon and created the Oregoniana Directory, which lists library collections of materials related to Oregon. The list was compiled and distributed in 1993 and is now available on the OrPAC from the Oregon State Library.

The committee was awarded an LSCA grant to hire a consultant to assist in the formulation of a collection development plan for the state of Oregon. It appointed Barbara McFadden Allen, who was networking consultant and coordinator of the Illinois Cooperative Collection Development Project at that time. The Illinois Project involves approximately 2,700 libraries.

McFadden Allen spoke on April 2, 1993, at the OLA conference. She said the basis of cooperative collection development projects are strong local collections. She also discussed the kinds of cooperative efforts that can result in successful programs, using the Illinois Project as an example. After her presentation, the audience divided into three groups to brainstorm three questions: What benefits do we expect to receive from cooperative collection development? What are the largest obstacles? What activities would be good for cooperative agreements?

In developing a plan for Oregon, McFadden Allen sought input and cooperation from librarians in all types of Oregon libraries.

A Cooperative Collection Development Leadership Retreat was held on June 6 and 7, 1993, at Silver Creek Falls Conference Center. Participants included members of the Statewide Cooperative Development Committee and a number of Oregon library leaders.

During the retreat, participants worked to define cooperative collection development, to create a statement of purpose for the statewide effort, and to write goals and objectives for the statewide program.

McFadden Allen used these concepts to develop a draft plan over the summer of 1993, and a first draft was submitted to the committee in September, 1993. The plan was reviewed by the committee, revised and then distributed widely and discussed at regional meetings in the fall. A final draft was developed and approved. This draft has since been distributed to libraries throughout the state and is also available on the OrPAC.

The plan is intended to be a starting document. It is not intended to dictate local procedures but rather to be flexible and to enable libraries of all types and sizes to participate and benefit. It supports cooperative decision-making and offers guidance to institutions pursuing cooperative plans. It is meant to be continuously changed and improved. Several suggestions have been made for revision and change, and the next draft of the plan will contain more specific guidelines and timelines for activities within the scope of the plan.

The Committee has recently written a grant proposal for funding to hire a consultant to work with libraries on several different kinds of cooperative projects. The projects would be set up as models that could be followed by other libraries. Documentation for the projects would serve as reference material for other libraries, and could be used in whole or in part as the basis for additional cooperative activities.

There are a number of cooperative projects already underway in the state. Some of these were discussed at the OLA conference presentation *Libraries Connect Through Cooperative Collection Development* held April 7, 1994, at Sunriver. William Abrams made a presentation on the cooperative agreement between Portland State University and the University of Washington concerning the collection of Arabic materials. The two libraries have a written agreement assigning areas of principal responsibility for the collection of monographic Middle Eastern language vernacular material. In addition, the libraries have coordinated acquisition efforts by sharing vendor evaluations, cataloging statistics, and other technical information. They have also promoted free access to unique Middle Eastern materials with a reciprocal borrowing agreement for inter-library loans. The agreement is to be reviewed and its effectiveness calculated five years from the date of signing.

Jan Marie Fortier gave a presentation on the successful agreement between Marylhurst College and Mt. Angel Abbey for collecting books about sacred music and art. The librarians applied for and were awarded a grant from the Meyer Trust for acquiring materials. While Mt. Angel uses NOTIS and Marylhurst uses DYNIX, their plans are to make all bibliographic records for such items searchable from any site. Both systems are owned by the same company, and both libraries are members of Valley Link. The agreement has benefited both libraries by allowing them to acquire unique materials, including everything in *Books for College Libraries* on these subjects. Jan reported that they are currently working on expanding the grant to include books about religion.

A number of librarians who attended the presentations indicated an interest in working with librarians from other institutions on cooperative projects involving certain subject areas. Listed below are some of the topics.

Business materials and antiques: Mary Finnegan, Salem Public Library, 588-6165

Popular health materials: Deanna Cecotti, Multnomah County Library, 248-5123, ext. 4885

Fiction: Flora Persons, Multnomah County Library, 248-5123

Sheet Music: Jan Gorden, Jackson County Library, 776-7281; Aletha Bonebrake, Baker County Library, 523-9088

Architecture: Janet Wright, Portland State University Library, 725-4192

If you are interested in working cooperatively in any of the subject areas listed above, please contact the individuals whose names appear.

New technological means of assessment are providing tools for a number of other cooperative projects that are taking place within the state. PORTALS contracted with the Western Library Network for an electronic collection analysis of libraries in the Portland area and received four types of reports in 1994. The first report is a collection analysis

report, in which the classification number from each bibliographical record was matched with a corresponding conspectus line number, counted by occurrence and reported by division and category levels. Results indicated 1,744,528 discreetly held titles. Some libraries have not completed retrospective conversion; the totals include, of course, only titles that have machine readable cataloging.

Title overlap reports were also generated. Uniquely held titles and shared titles were identified and the results summarized. 840,222 titles were identified as unique and held by only one library in the group.

A third report was a gap analysis with the University of Washington libraries, listing by subject category titles held by the University but not owned in the Portland area.

The final report was a comparison with the third edition of *Books for College Libraries*, which lists approximately 50,000 titles recommended for four-year undergraduate institutions. A miss list and a close list were created, the former listing books held in none of the libraries and the latter listing books which appeared to be close to matching but which could not be isolated by electronic means alone. There were exact matches on 91.3% of the titles in *Books for College Libraries* and a check of the miss list and close list against titles at Portland State University that have not been converted to machine readable cataloging records has yielded many more exact matches.

The PORTALS Collection Development Committee, chaired by Victoria Hanawalt of Reed College, is working on a project whereby all missing titles on the *Books for College Libraries* list will be purchased by member libraries if they are in print or available used and still considered standard works. Member libraries have agreed to the project, in which assignment for purchasing will be based on previous commitments to collecting in the subject areas. In December 1994, the committee used statistical sampling to determine the best way of discovering the level of commitments to collecting in the various subject areas. PORTALS staff is now using the collection analysis report to provide appropriate data

This project is comparable to one done by the 19 academic libraries in Montana, for which WLN provided a *Books for College Libraries* match in 1992. According to Mary C. Bushing, head of collection development at Montana State University, writing in the May/June 1993 issue of *WLN Participant*, the 19 libraries had 83% of the *Books for College Libraries* titles and were working on a commitment to increase Montana holdings to at least 90%.

Another cooperative project among the PORTALS libraries is the serial weeding agreement. If a library is considering the withdrawal of a serial run, or the cancellation of a serial title, and if the title is the last or next to the last copy in the area, that library must notify the other libraries before taking action. Other libraries may approve the action, recommend reconsideration, offer to subscribe, or offer to house the items to be withdrawn.

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In defining cooperative collection development, it is well to keep our goals in mind. The Collection Development Committee of the Oregon State System of Higher Education libraries has stated that their mission is "to facilitate cooperation in collection management and development and to share information in order to maximize the value of OSSHE resources." Periodic meetings for discussion provide a setting for sharing information among the eight OSSHE libraries. Similar arrangements among groups of libraries exist throughout the state.

If you have a comment on the work of the Statewide Collection Development Steering Committee or ideas for projects, please let a member of the committee know. Co-chairs are Deanna Cecotti of the Multnomah County Public Library (248-5123 ext. 4885; e-mail deannac@nethost.multnomah.lib.or.us) and Karyle Butcher of Oregon State University Library (737-7300; e-mail butcherk@ccmail.orst.edu). ☐

Coquille

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Information on Demand

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then hardly used and that courses are changed before the library is prepared.

Shirley reiterated the advantages of belonging to CCRLS: the shared collection, shared expertise, mutual checkout and interlibrary loan services, and a speedy delivery system. Problems do arise, however, when libraries have different hours (CCC is seldom open on the weekend), when unprepared students descend on the public libraries, and when public patrons expect to find popular fiction at the academic library.

In conclusion, Shirley offered some encouragement for all of us. Accept our differences and do not try to do it all. Concentrate on what you do well. The key is in finding information whether by instruction or information-on-demand. ☐

Adapted from minutes prepared by Diane White for the Reference Roundtable. Contributions by Elizabeth Mannarino and Shirley Williams. Edited by Ruth Vondracek and Barbara Valentine.

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