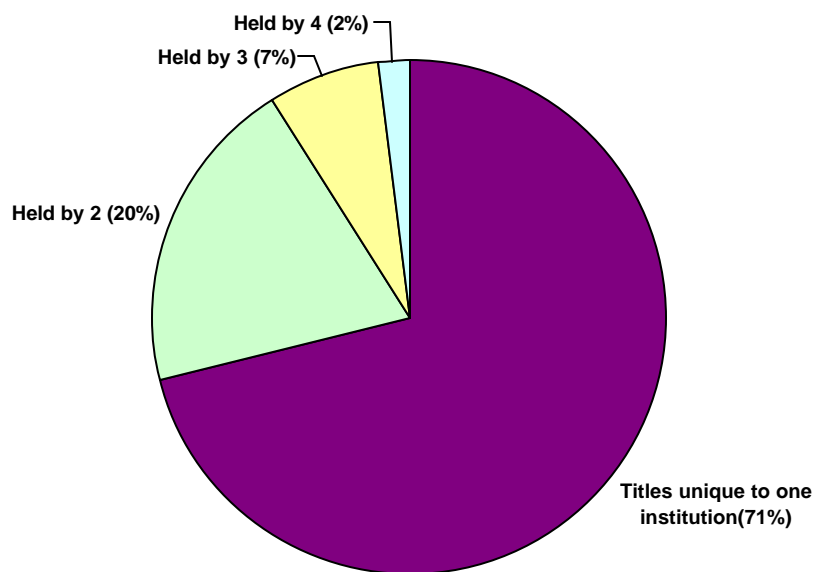


**TRLN OCLC COLLECTION ANALYSIS TASK GROUP:
REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION RESOURCES (CIR)
JUNE, 2006**



Task Group Membership:

- Gouri Dutta, NCCU
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Introduction

In fall 2005, the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) joined with the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries and the Florida Center for Library Automation to license OCLC's WorldCat Collection Analysis Service (OCLC-WCA). TRLN's Committee on Information Resources subsequently created the TRLN Collection Analysis Task Group, charging it to investigate overlap, uniqueness, strengths, and gaps in the holdings of the ten TRLN member libraries, both individually and as one aggregate collection. The report that follows describes the task group's investigation and principal findings.

Periodic collection analysis has been an essential concomitant to TRLN's emphasis on cooperative collection development. Since the network's creation in 1977, several overlap studies of its members' collections have been conducted to identify individual and collective holdings strengths and to measure the impact of long-standing cooperative collection development activities. The last study was conducted in 1992, and covered the cataloged collections of the eight member libraries at Duke University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since North Carolina Central University did not join the consortium until 1995, it was not included in these earlier studies.

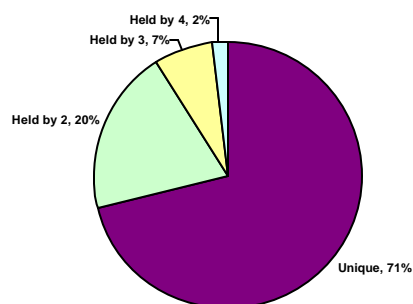
The table that follows highlights the findings of the 1992 study.

TABLE 1		
1992 TRLN DATABASE OVERLAP STUDY		
2,311,331 distinct OCLC records used as a basis for the percentages		
UNIQUE RECORDS		
28%	640,768	Duke
34%	794,961	UNC-CH
14%	314,511	NCSU
76%	1,750,240	Total unique
HELD BY TWO		
9%	198,900	Duke and UNC
3%	58,705	Duke and NCSU
6%	148,370	UNC and NCSU
18%	405,975	Total held by two
HELD BY THREE		
7%	155,116	Duke and UNC and NCSU
7%	155,116	Total held by three

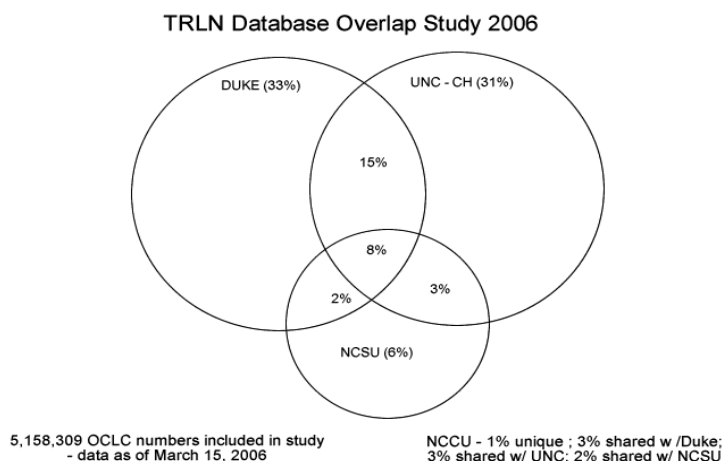
The 2006 Study

By spring 2006, the total number of OCLC records within TRLN had more than doubled since 1992, reflecting holdings growth, the retrospective conversion of more than 90 percent of the bibliographical records in the general collections, and the addition of NCCU's two libraries as consortial members. The number of distinct records grew from 2,311,311 in 1992 to 5,158,309 in 2006. The OCLC-WCA database, based on WorldCat holdings, mainly contains data on monographs. Ninety percent of the 5,158,309 distinct records in this study are books. As a result, all measures of overlap and uniqueness in this report are based upon this portion of our libraries' collections.

The task group first replicated the 1992 overlap study for the TRLN collections viewed in their entirety. As was the case in 1992, ongoing cooperation among the TRLN libraries continues to result in high levels of unique holdings. The new results show that more than 3.5 million unique records – 71 percent of the aggregate TRLN collection – are unique to a single institution, while only 2 percent of the records overlap at all four institutions. (See charts below.) When NCCU is omitted from the 2006 study, the results indicate that 8 percent of the records overlap at the other three universities, with unique holdings accounting for 70 percent, almost the same proportion as the 1992 study. A direct comparison to the 1992 study, which would require the inclusion of NCCU holdings data, is impossible since the OCLC-WCA does not allow limiting by the date holdings were entered into WorldCat.



Unique holdings in TRLN, 2006

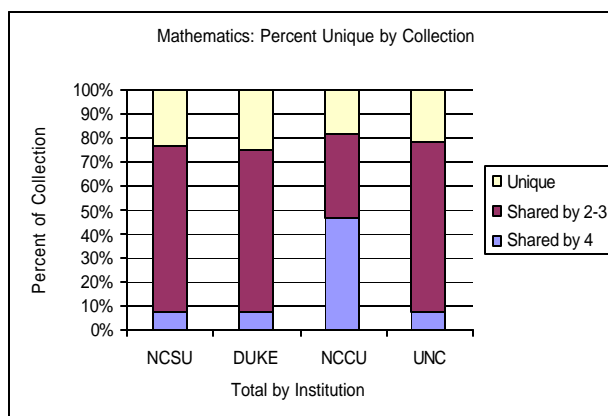
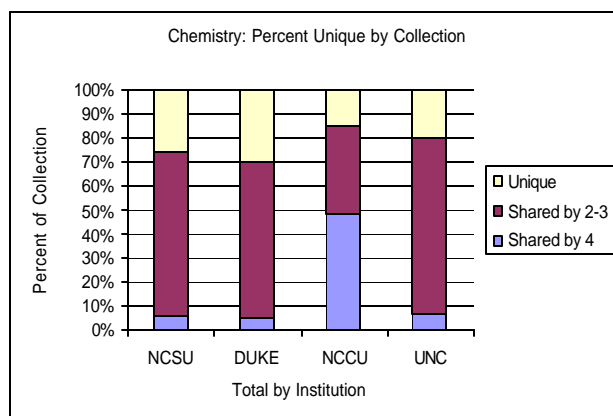


See accompanying overlap tables and graph, by institution and by percentage of unique records, on pages 11-13.

In addition to replicating the 1992 study, the task group went beyond the aggregate-level to measure major subject areas of the classified collections as well as selected non-English language titles across the holdings spectrum that corresponded to known cooperative collection development programs.

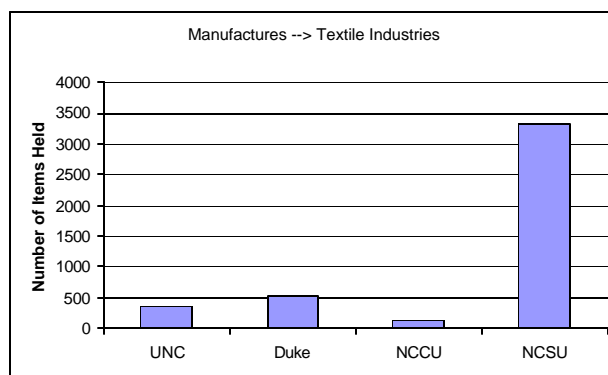
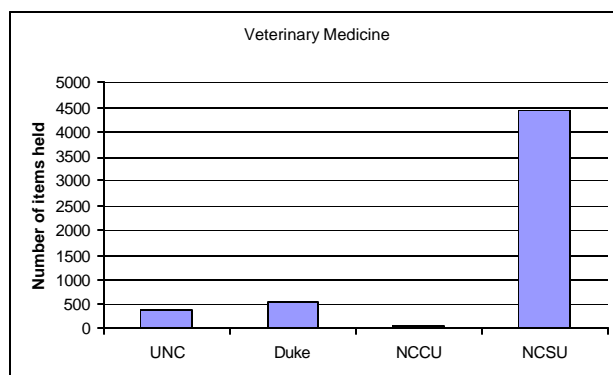
Collections Strengths

As a general rule, overlap levels were highest for subjects in which all TRNLN campuses support research in major subjects, with the highest rates found in the core science fields that generate the greatest level of external funding, in such disciplines as chemistry and mathematics.

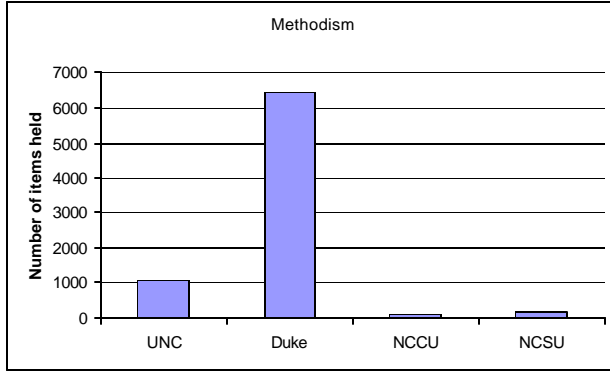


Not surprisingly, the subjects with the largest percentage and often the largest number of unique titles corresponded to fields in which only one campus had a special collecting commitment, often supporting a doctoral program or a campus-wide multidisciplinary focus. The charts that follow selectively illustrate such strengths on the TRNLN campuses, highlighting veterinary medicine and textiles at NC State, Methodism and international law at Duke, journalism and dramatic art at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the legal profession at NC Central University. While the se charts present subjects over the life of the collection, the task group also replicated the analysis by imprint date (1990 – present) and found a consistency in collecting patterns in recent years. (See pages 14-15.)

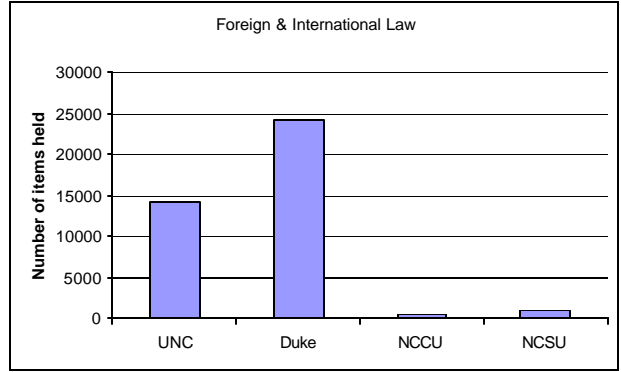
Selected Subject Collection Strengths in TRNLN



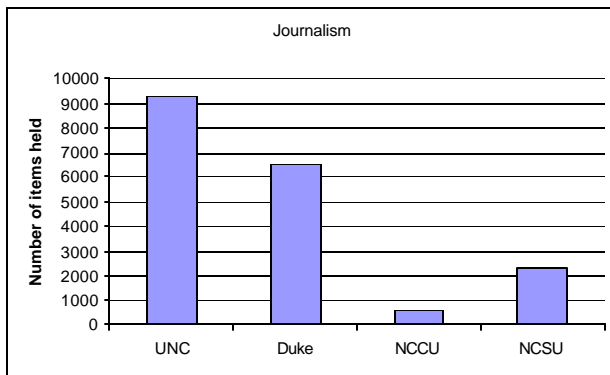
NCSU is the only TRNLN institution with degree-granting programs in veterinary medicine and textiles.



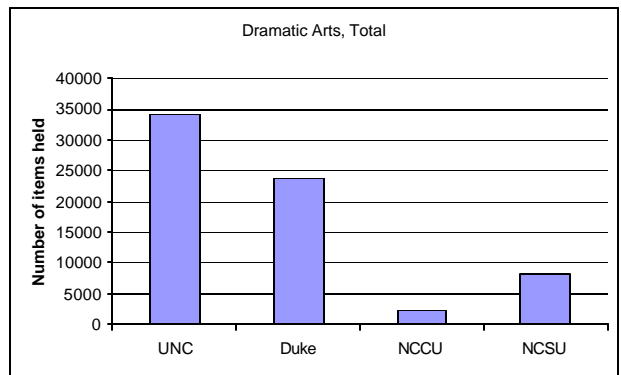
Duke has the only Divinity School in TRLN, together with a focus on American Protestantism, especially Methodism.



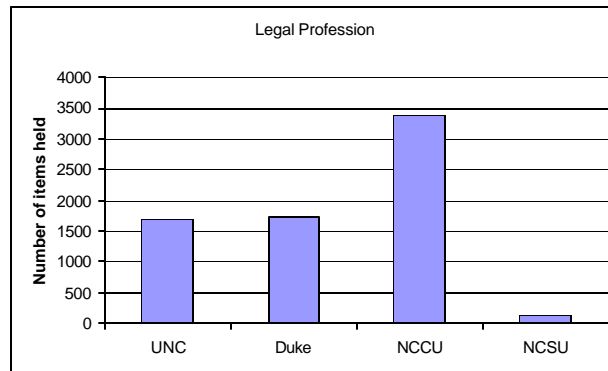
Within the three TRLN Law Schools, Duke is the only program with a special emphasis on foreign and international law.



UNC has the only graduate program in TRLN in journalism and mass communications.



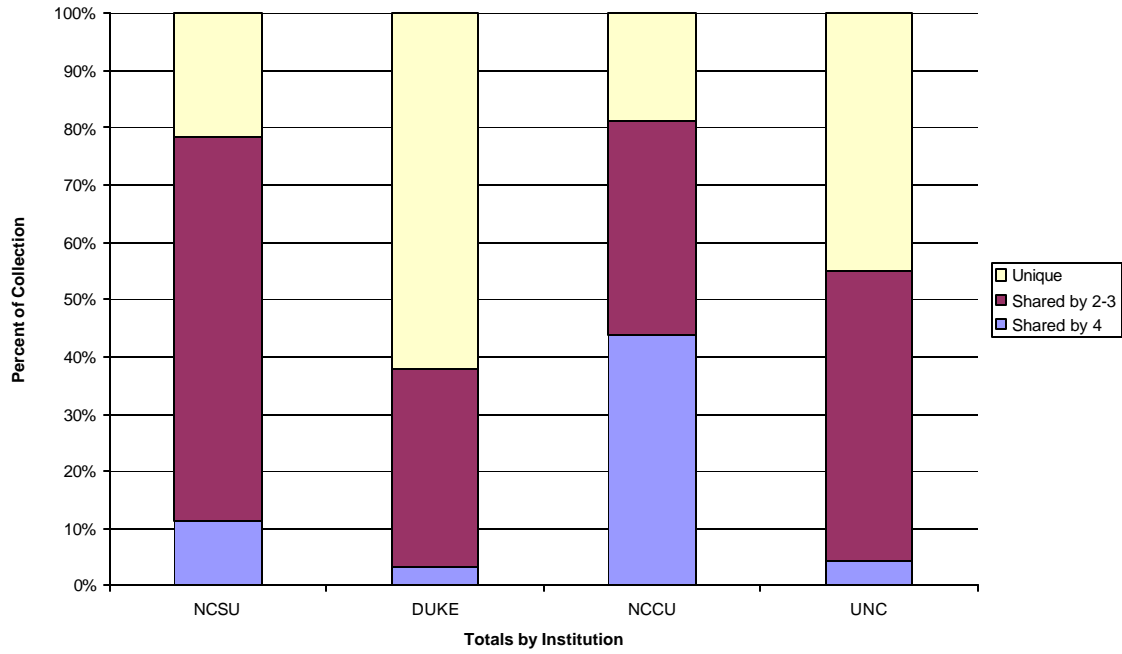
In addition to having the only TRLN graduate program in dramatic arts, UNC also supports an in-house repertory theatre.



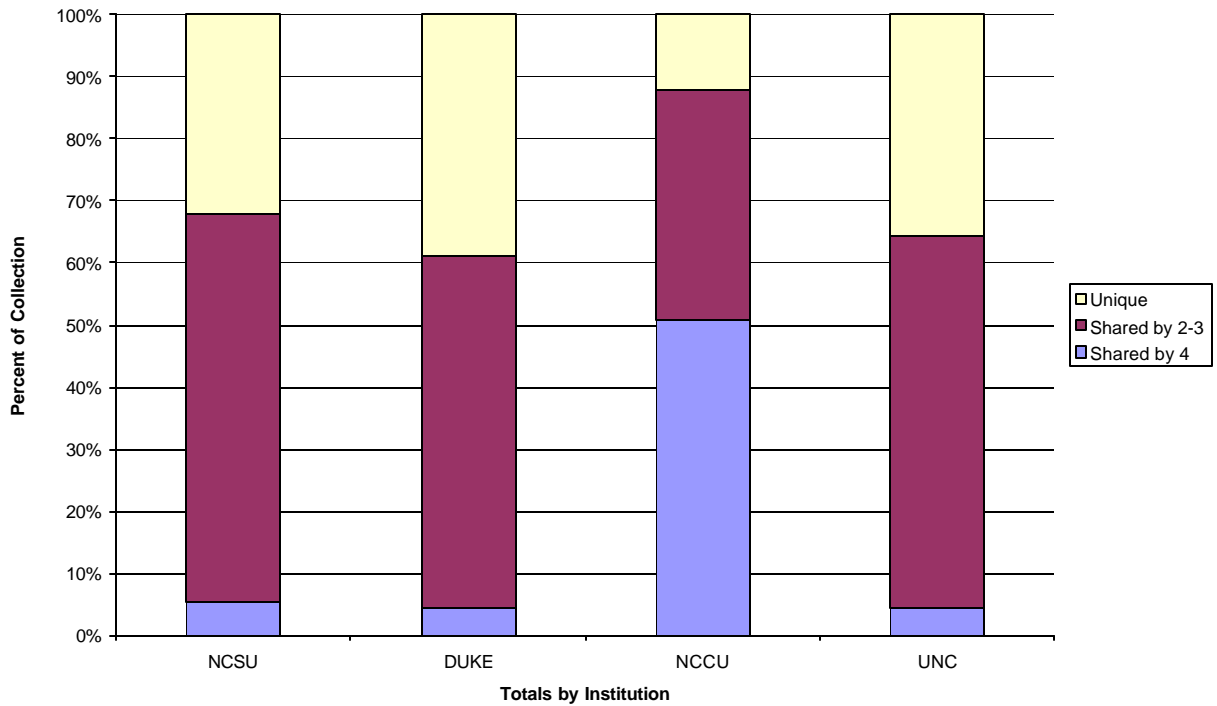
As the only public law library in Durham County, NCCU Law has placed a special emphasis on its practicing collection for attorneys.

The topical analysis within OCLC-WCA is based on the OCLC Conspectus which includes 32 broad divisions, such as business & economics; biological sciences and history. (See pages 6-7.) Overlap and uniqueness charts for all 32 divisions are available on the TRLN project website: <http://www.trln.org/TaskGroups/CollectionAnalysis/data.htm> The Conspectus subdivides further by approximately 500 categories and at its narrowest, into approximately 7,000 subjects.

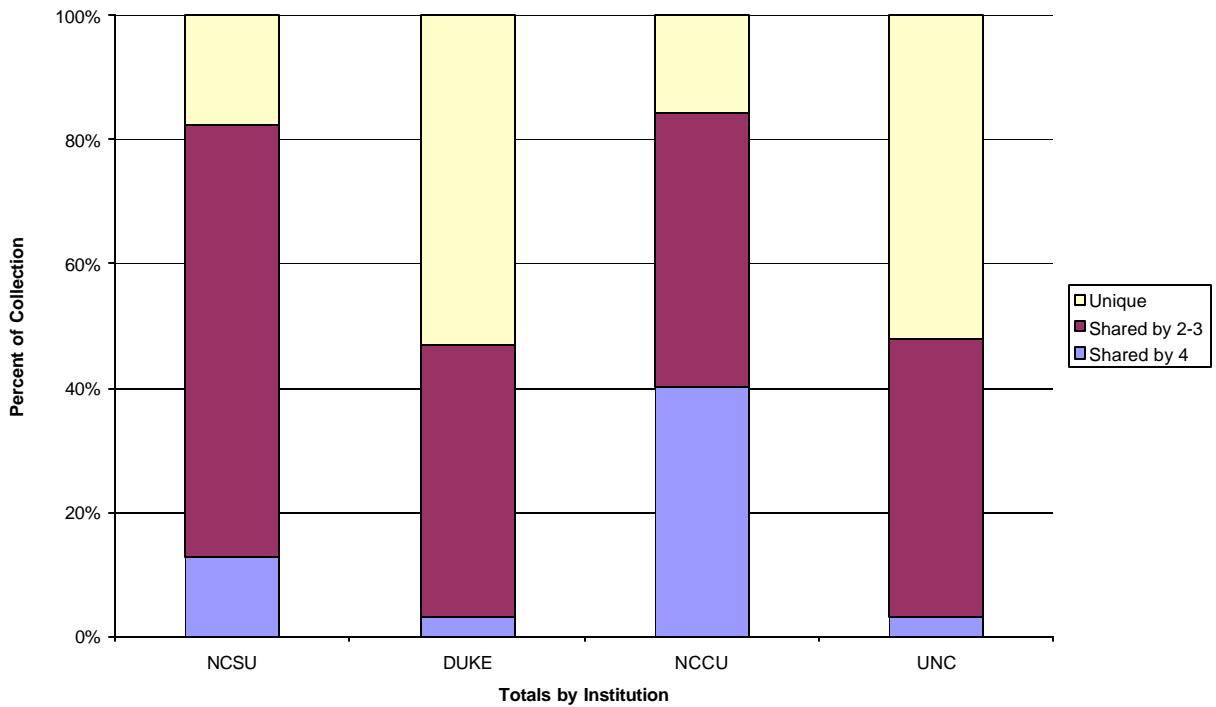
**Business & Economics
Percent Unique by Collection**



**Biological Sciences
Percent Unique by Collection**

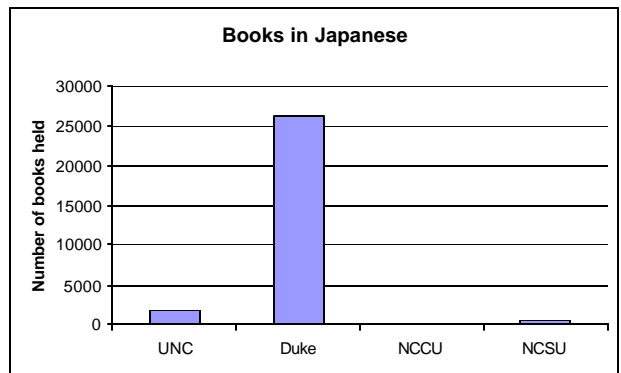
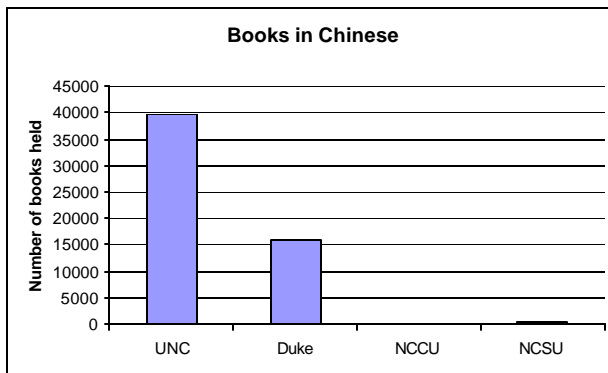


**History & Auxiliary Sciences
Percent Unique by Collection**

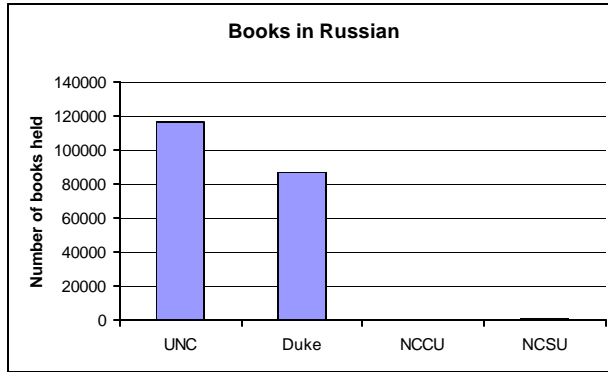


Selected Non-English Language Collection Strengths

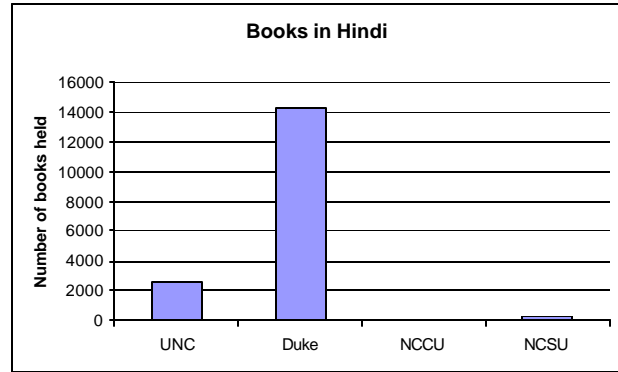
The task group also measured global and recent holdings for selected languages where only one TRLN campus has had a major collecting commitment in order to assess the impact of cooperative reliance. The dramatic results are displayed below.



A formal program in cooperative collection development for East Asia between Duke and UNC has been in place for decades, whereby only one institution collects comprehensively in the Chinese and Japanese vernacular.



UNC's greater commitment to Russian language materials is a result of its doctoral program in Slavic languages and literature.



Since the 1960s, Duke has comprehensively collected materials in the South Asian vernacular, and this chart highlights its strong retrospective collection in particular.

Limitations of OCLC-WCA

While the OCLC-WCA database offers libraries a new option for analyzing and comparing holdings, it is not without limitations. Some of the most significant ones identified by the task group follow. The OCLC-WCA includes only a subset of TRNLN holdings, one that largely excludes documents and non-monographic materials. Thus many duplicate materials in the social sciences and humanities in particular (government documents, certain microfilm and e-book sets, for example) are not reflected in our total overlap and therefore inflate our findings of uniqueness. However, this problem is partially mitigated by the additional exclusion of inherently unique materials in our special collections.

Overlap and uniqueness are more complex to report for certain categories of materials such as electronic materials and both the electronic and print version of materials. In the case of serial holdings reporting is only possible at the title level and this exempts large numbers of volumes from possible consideration even though subscriptions now represent the majority of the libraries' expenditures.

The OCLC-WCA also lacks the capacity to show or examine diffuse subjects and non-classification related sites of uniqueness. For example, areas of known strength within TRNLN, such as African American Studies and Southern Americana, proved too complex and distributed across the collections to capture accurately with OCLC-WCA. More sophisticated search technology within OCLC-WCA could potentially address this limitation.

Finally, although the task group charge included investigation of collection gaps in TRNLN, the OCLC-WCA is not yet equipped to make comparisons between the aggregate TRNLN collection and external libraries or groups of libraries. This future enhancement to the product would enable us to identify collection gaps by benchmarking the combined TRNLN collection against peer institutions and other consortia. At present, this is only possible within the individual accounts.

Archiving Reports for Future Use

The task group was charged with investigating and assessing the range of options available to TRNLN with regard to archiving shared collections data from the OCLC-WCA.

The task group recommends:

- 1) Archiving quantitative data at the level of broad OCLC Conspectus Divisions on the TRLN website.
- 2) Archiving quantitative data within specific areas of interest. Criteria for these areas might be future comparison due to anticipated change(s), high intensity of cooperation, strategic importance, shared storage projects, and/or other factors.

The task group recommends that the CIR identify areas of interest related to (2) above by August 1, in order to generate additional analyses and archive the results before the current subscription expires on October 1.

The task group investigated replicating (and archiving) the divisions of the former North American Title Count (NATC) using OCLC-WCA but determined that the latter did not offer the necessary level of subject granularity to do so. Furthermore, while a “snapshot” of the quantitative data for every one of OCLC-WCA’s specific 500 categories, could, with great effort, be preserved, many of these divisions would likely be far too specific and/or out of scope to be of future interest. And given OCLC’s stated plans to change the ways that these divisions are defined, future one-to-one comparisons at these deeper levels across time would then be impossible.

Training

The task group participated in and coordinated the following training on the OCLC-WCA product:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| November 15: | Online training led by SOLINET |
| December 9: | In person training held at UNC Davis Library – included participation from all 10 TRLN member libraries |
| March 21, 22: | Training for Duke Perkins subject selectors and other library staff |
| May 15, 19: | Training for UNC-Chapel Hill University Library bibliographers, selectors, and Collection Development Council members. |
| June 2: | Training for three TRLN Law Libraries, combined. |
| June 21: | Training scheduled at NCSU Libraries |

TRLN is working with all its member libraries to conduct additional training on all four campuses before the subscription ends on October 1, 2006.

Campuses are at different stages in the use of individual accounts and individual library analysis and comparison. The objective of training staff at each member library is to enable further local, specialized collection analysis.

Conclusion

Cooperative collection development within TRLN dates from the Great Depression of the 1930s, when great library collections existed at Ivy League institutions in the northeast and a few major

universities in the Midwest and California. Librarians and university administrators at the Triangle universities came together with a shared goal to enhance the collections of member libraries and provide better service to users by sharing access to specialized and expensive resources that do not need to be duplicated on individual campuses. Their successors have retained this goal and continuously added and modified collecting strategies to realize them. By building interlocked collections that maximize the number of unique research titles and minimize duplication TRLN libraries have increased the breadth and depth of their collections in ways that would otherwise be physically and fiscally impossible. And now with the OCLC-WCA database they have comprehensive statistical indicators of just how well they have succeeded in building local and consortial collections that place TRLN among the richest and most comprehensive found anywhere in the nation.

Additional Tables and Graphs

Table 2: 2006 TRLN Collection Overlap Study - Number of Unique Records

Table 3: 2006 TRLN Collection Overlap Study by Institution

TRLN Collections to Present, by Institution and Share Distribution

Selected Subject Collection Strengths in TRLN, 1990 - present

TABLE 2

2006 TRLN DATABASE OVERLAP STUDY BY NUMBER OF
UNIQUE RECORDS

5,158,309 distinct OCLC records used as a basis for the percentages

UNIQUE RECORDS

Duke	1,685,536	33%
UNC-CH	1,617,276	31%
NCSU	326,444	6%
NCCU	53,706	1%
Total unique	3,622,962	71%

HELD BY TWO

Duke and UNC		15%
Duke and NCSU		2%
Duke and NCCU		0.3%
UNC and NCSU		3%
UNC and NCCU		0.3%
NCSU and NCCU		0.2%
Total held by two		21%

HELD BY THREE

Duke and UNC and NCSU		8%
Duke and UNC and NCCU		0.8%
UNC and NCSU and NCCU		0.4%
Total held by three		9%

HELD BY FOUR

Duke and UNC and NCSU and NCCU	84,069	2%
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TABLE 3

2006 TRLN DATABASE OVERLAP STUDY BY INSTITUTION

5,158,309 distinct OCLC records used as the basis for the percentages

UNC-CH

1,617,276 unique records	31%
1,159,041 shared with Duke	23%
566,818 shared with NCSU	11%
159,012 shared with NCCU	3%

NCSU

326,444 unique records	6%
513,863 shared with Duke	10%
566,818 shared with UNC	11%
114,183 shared with NCCU	2%

Duke

1,685,536 unique records	33%
513,863 shared with NCSU	10%
1,159,041 shared with UNC	23%
150,065 shared with NCCU	3%

NCCU

53,706 unique records	1%
150,065 shared with Duke	3%
114,183 shared with NCSU	2%
159,012 shared with UNC	3%

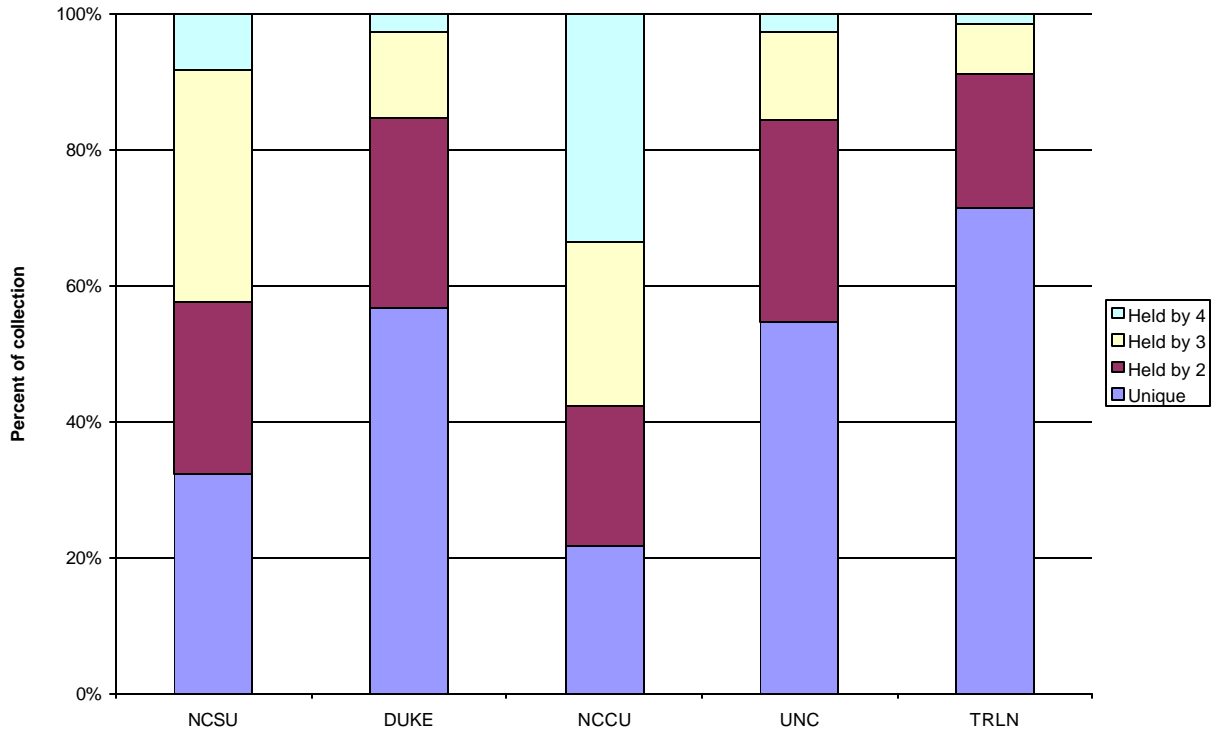
ALL FOUR TRLN INSTITUTIONS

84,069 in all FOUR institutions	2%
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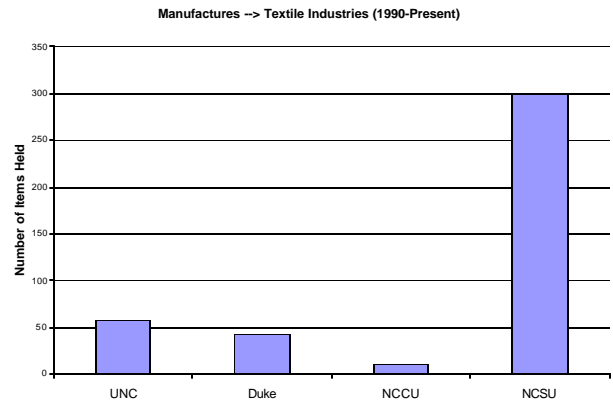
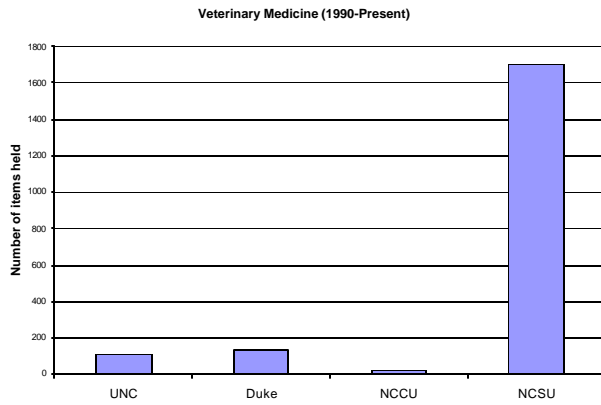
THREE "OLD TRLN" INSTITUTIONS, DUKE, UNC, NCSU

408,051 in all THREE institutions	8%
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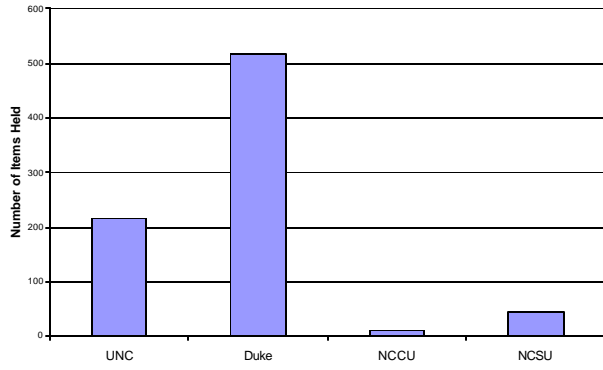
TRLN collections to present, by institution and share distribution



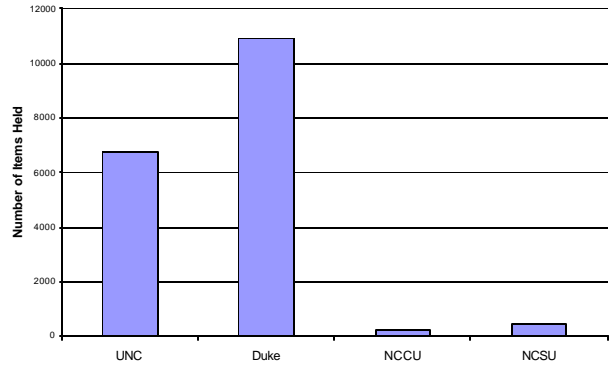
Selected Subject Collection Strengths in TRLN, 1990 - present



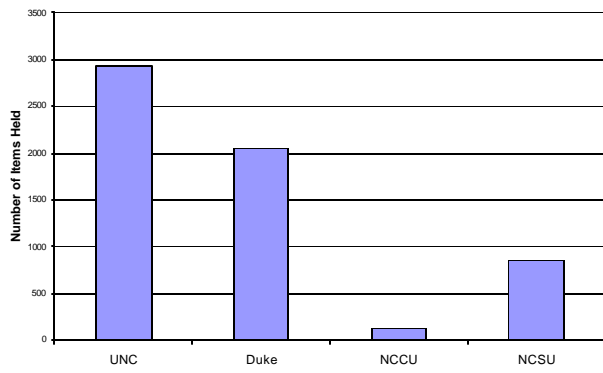
Methodism (1990-Present)



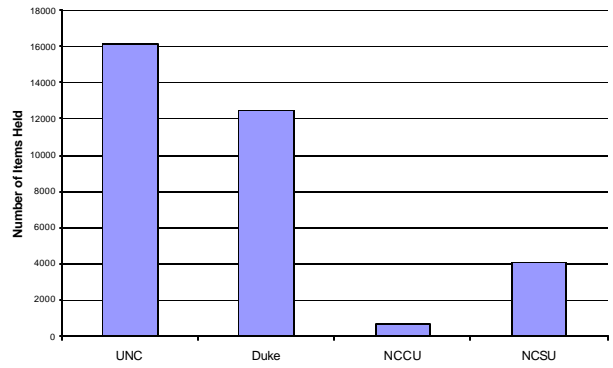
International Law (1990-Present)



Journalism, the Periodical Press (1990-Present)



Dramatic Art (1990-Present)



Legal Profession (1990-Present)

