

**TRLN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1999-JULY 2000**

The Committee on Information Technology experienced changes to its membership during the year. John Ulmschneider (NCSU) left the committee and Scott Ross (NCSU) joined in August 1999. Eric Albright (Duke Medical Center Library) left the committee and Hope Breeze (Duke Law Library) joined in November 1999.

The committee developed an agenda for 1999-2000 that was endorsed by the Executive Committee. The agenda included the following areas: TAOS Planning; Technical Information Exchange and IT Staff Development; Multimedia and Instructional Technologies; Internet 2 Initiatives; Disaster/Contingency Planning; E-Reserves; Digital Archiving; Digital Collections Infrastructure; Authentication and Validation; and Assistive Technologies. The committee continued to explore other issues of concern to all such as bibliographic citation software, anonymous email, and DECNet usage.

The committee charged two task groups during the year. The TRLN DRA Web2 Implementation Task Group continues to cooperate on the implementation among the TRLN institutions although the software's inability to display MFHD holdings properly has hindered their progress. The TRLN DRANet Task Group reviewed the continued use of DRANet and recommended its renewal.

Planning for Taos occupied much of the committee's time this year. A Taos Planning White Paper, which recommended five outcomes or goals for Taos implementation, was developed and sent to the Executive Committee for endorsement. The Executive Committee asked for a broader discussion of the outcomes by the Council of Directors who subsequently endorsed the goals as described in the white paper. The committee has coordinated TRLN's involvement in the Taos Early Experience Program (TEEP), drafting a purpose statement to encourage a test bed environment for experimentation, meeting with twenty-four staff from member libraries to discuss the goals and organizational issues for TEEP, and sponsoring local training, in addition to training offered by DRA in St. Louis, in various Taos modules.

The committee was encouraged by the Council of Directors to arrange local demonstrations of integrated library systems to include DRA and other vendors. The committee drafted letters for vendors and staff in an effort to clarify the objectives of these demonstrations. In the end it was decided to ask DRA to demonstrate Taos and to postpone invitations to other vendors. The committee arranged a morning and an afternoon demonstration of Taos by DRA staff. Over 150 staff from the member libraries attended these demonstrations. Following the demonstration 15 library staff involved in TEEP met with DRA staff to discuss TRLN's desired outcomes as presented in the white paper, and other issues of migration to Taos. Mike Mellinger, President and CEO, and Berit Nelson, Vice President, led the DRA presentation and addressed many of the issues of most concern to TRLN.

The committee continued to hold open meetings to encourage technical information exchange and staff development. Picture This!, a one-day conference about digital image projects attracted 74 faculty, library and IT staff. A follow-up meeting, Works in Progress, was also held. As a result of these interactions a group at UNC-CH sought collaboration with staff from TRLN libraries on their planning grant for developing digital image standards with the goal of shared access to resources. An open meeting on electronic reserves was held and attracted 25 librarians, IT and university press staff.