

**TRLN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2001-JUNE 2002**

The Committee on Information Technology experienced changes to its membership and leadership during the year. Paul Conway (Duke) replaced Gwyneth Duncan (Duke) in August 2001, and Kristin Antelman (NCSU) replaced John Isenhour (NCSU) in February 2002. In November 2001, Paul Conway became chair of the committee replacing Pat Mullin who had served as the chair for three years.

The majority of the committee's activities were related to planning for the next integrated library system. In May 2001 the committee was planning for a migration to DRA's new product when it was announced that DRA was merging with SIRSI. The uncertainty of the future viability of our vendor and our current system caused us to reconsider our options. Along with the Executive Committee we considered hosting a meeting of other ARL libraries using the DRA system and of staff from SIRSI/DRA to influence plans for future development and pricing. We also considered contracting with a consultant to review with us the library automation marketplace and to agree on common goals for the implementation of an integrated library system. Neither of these options was pursued. Instead, the Council of Directors charged an ILS Transition Committee to propose to the Council of Directors a process for the relatively rapid investigation of available integrated library systems, and, once approved, to guide and implement that investigation process. Pat Mullin and Naveed Khan served on the ILS Transition Committee and Mona Coutts served as staff support, and the CIT was asked to serve as technical consultants to the committee. In addition the CIT was asked to gather cost information from the vendors under consideration and to determine potential cost benefits for consortial purchases. The final reports were distributed to the Council of Directors at the May 9, 2002 meeting and it was decided that the institutions would pursue their own timetables for choosing and migrating to a new integrated library system.

The CIT collaborated with other TRLN standing committees throughout the year. As mentioned, the CIT served as technical consultants to the ILS Transition Committee and compiled cost information for the final report. The Committee on Library Public Services expressed interest in working with the CIT to plan an issues meeting on services and the web for reference and systems staff. A breakout session on this topic was presented at the TRLN Annual Meeting. The Committee on Human Resources created and conducted a survey of technical training needs. The CIT provided input into the creation of the survey and reviewed the results for TRLN-wide training opportunities.

The committee once again charged a task group to consider the renewal of the DRANet service. The TRLN DRANet Task Group reviewed the use of the service and recommended that other methods of accessing the data be found and the service be discontinued in Summer 2002. The CIT referred this recommendation to the Committee on Information Resources to plan for the discontinuation of DRANet and to recommend any central funding necessary for alternate access methods. During budget discussions the Executive Committee recommended to continue the DRANet service for 2002-2003.

The committee met several times during the year via desktop videoconferencing equipment in order to test that communication medium. The committee did not find desktop videoconferencing to be a substitute for face-to-face meetings. The medium proved useful for reporting information but did not prove conducive to group discussions.

The committee reviewed two documents drafted by the International Coalition of Library Consortia: Endorsement of the Bath Profile, and Privacy Guidelines for Electronic Resource Vendors. The committee recommended to the Executive Committee that these be endorsed by TRLN.

The committee continued to hold open meetings to encourage technical information exchange and staff development. The library system department heads met several times during the year. They identified web integration as a topic for an open issues session for IT staff. A planning group worked on an agenda for such a meeting but the meeting was not held due to conflicts in scheduling. Other topics suggested for issues meetings included geographical information systems and digital library programs.

The committee sponsored several vendor demonstrations that were available to staff from the TRLN libraries. A demonstration by Luna Imaging was held in December and was attended by 50 staff from the four institutions. TRLN-wide demonstrations by serial solution vendors TDNet, Openly Informatics, and Serials Solution were conducted, and were well attended.

MEMBERSHIP

Kristin Antelman, North Carolina State University

Hope Breeze, Duke University Law Library

Paul Conway, Duke University (Chair)

Naveed Khan, North Carolina Central University

Pat Mullin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Mona Coutts, TRLN staff