

**TRLN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2002-JUNE 2003**

The membership and the leadership of the Committee on Information Technology remained stable throughout the year. Continuing members were Kristin Antelman (NCSU), Hope Breeze (Duke Law Library), Paul Conway (Duke) chair of the committee, Naveed Khan (NCCU), and Pat Mullin (UNC). Mona Coutts continued to serve as program officer.

The Council of Directors received the final reports of the ILS Transition Committee and the CIT in May 2002, and decided that the institutions would pursue their own timetables for choosing and migrating to a new integrated library system. NCSU decided to migrate to the SIRSI Unicorn system, while Duke and UNC chose to undertake their own investigations of ILS vendors and their systems. NCCU will continue with their current DRA system. During the past DRA implementation, TRLN institutions agreed on a certain level of cooperation and consistency for the sake of user services and measurement. The committee prepared a statement on system implementations that assures that we do not lose current capabilities. The TRLN Statement of Principle on ILS Implementations was endorsed by the Council of Directors in October 2002. Both Duke and UNC began their system investigation process by reviewing the documents gathered and prepared by the ILS Transition Committee, and Mona Coutts met with key staff to transfer that body of work. The committee continued to keep each other informed of their processes, timetables and progress.

Institutional repositories emerged as an item of interest to the committee. The CIT met with the Committee on Information Resources to share information and discuss next steps following an ARL/SPARC workshop on institutional repositories. Repositories were the program topic for the TRLN Governing Board meeting in June. Prior to that meeting, key faculty members from the four institutions attended a presentation by Hal Abelson of MIT and learned about their DSpace and OpenCourseware initiatives. While no consortial actions are planned in this area at this time, committee members continue to monitor relevant issues and projects and to share their experience with the DSpace software.

Issues of authentication and authorization have long been on the committee's agenda. This year the Shibboleth software emerged as a promising authentication package especially suited for cross-institutional access. Discussions of testing the Shibboleth software began in the CIT and resulted in a North Carolina Network Initiative (NCNI) project outside of the committee's realm. The committee sees potential for collaboration with the CIR as common TRLN vendor products are identified for testing.

Committee members met with a group of visiting Japanese librarians to discuss technology activities in TRLN. David Ferriero hosted the visitors who also met with other TRLN groups. Committee members continue to distribute information on NISO ballots and informational items to appropriate staff on their campus.

The committee continued to plan open meetings to encourage technical information exchange and staff development. The library system department heads met several times during the year. They identified system architecture as a topic for an open issues forum for library staff. An ad hoc group was formed to plan a symposium on digital library issues. Other potential program areas include e-journal preservation and reference linking.

The committee participated in several vendor demonstrations that were available to staff from the TRLN libraries. In September 2002, members attended a local briefing on OCLC's rights management system. A demonstration of the Luna Insight system and the implementation at Duke was held in January 2003.

Committee members have begun exploring their charge and membership, and have identified several challenges that exist in the current structure. These include the fact that collaboration is often peer-to-peer and does not involve all four institutions; ILS implementations have become a campus activity; and digital library initiatives are often library-wide and campus-wide. Discussions of the charge, membership and committee activities will continue in the coming year.

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