

**TRLN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION RESOURCES
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2005 to JUNE 30, 2006**

The membership of the Committee on Information Resources for the fiscal year consisted of Teresa Stanton (UNC Law), Chair, Virginia Gilbert (Duke), Debora Hazel (NCCU), Greg Raschke (NCSU), Diane Strauss (UNC), Marjory Waite (UNC Health Sciences), and Mona Coutts and Judy Ruttenberg, TRLN staff.

Greg Raschke took the lead on the production of a web document entitled “Renowned Research Collections: Committed Service,” and its companion, “Statistics Regarding the Composition, Use, and Savings Generated from Joint Licensing and Shared Collections.” These web pages document the combined strength of the TRLN collection, the services that facilitate cross-institutional access to the collections, and the money saved through collaborative licensing and purchase of electronic resources. It is noted that, together, the collections of the TRLN libraries form the second largest academic research collection in the nation with over 14 million volumes and 125,000 journal subscriptions.

TRLN’s combined collections offer seamless access to jointly licensed electronic journals and databases, as well as direct borrowing privileges from member libraries and delivery of available library materials within forty-eight hours. Collaborative licensing increases the buying power of each institution and, compared to the general marketplace, helps to contain the rise of information costs through favorable contract terms. The Electronic Resources Committee (ERC) contributed data on licensing and expenditure, and the CIR provided editorial feedback, along with the Council of Directors, to whom a presentation was made in January. A web designer under contract with TRLN produced the HTML pages.

In September, the CIR appointed Diane Strauss as chair of the TRLN OCLC Collection Analysis Task Group. The group, comprised of TRLN’s Project Librarian and nine librarians from the four TRLN university campus libraries, was charged to investigate uniqueness, strengths, overlap and gaps in the holdings of the ten TRLN member libraries. TRLN joined with the Association of Southeastern Regional Libraries and the Florida Center for Library Automation to purchase a one year license to OCLC’s WorldCat Collection Analysis Service.

The task group found that more than 71 percent of OCLC records in the aggregate TRLN collection are unique to a single institution and only 2 percent of the records overlap at all four institutions. As a general rule, overlap levels were highest for subjects in which all TRLN campuses have research programs. The highest rates of duplication were found in core science fields that generate the greatest level of external funding. The subject areas 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 such as supporting a doctoral program or a campus-wide multidisciplinary program.

These findings are consistent with prior TRLN overlap studies. Cooperative collection development efforts among TRLN libraries continue to result in high levels of unique holdings and minimal overlap among all four TRLN institutions. In May of 2006, the task group completed its charge, including coordinating and participating in training sessions of the collection analysis system. The task group's report was reviewed by the CIR committee and the final draft was sent to the Executive Committee on June 30th.

Two Collections Working Groups met this year. The International and Area Studies Working Group met at Duke University in December, and the Science, Technology and Medicine Working Group met at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill in March. Both meetings facilitated information sharing across the campuses and both groups expressed a desire to meet regularly. The CIR discussed the role of the Collections Working Groups and recommends revisiting the discussion once permanent collections administrators (at the Associate Director/Associate University Librarian level) are in place at Duke, UNC-CH and NCSU. The STM group expressed an interest in consulting and providing input to the ERC on new licensing decisions.

The Electronic Resources Committee (ERC), which reports to the CIR, continued to meet actively this year. In addition to its existing licensing renewal activities, the ERC began looking for opportunities to expand the TRLN portfolio by compiling a list of databases that each campus holds in common and currently licenses locally. The ERC is also looking at opportunities for discounts on jointly purchased journal backfiles.

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Stanton, UNC Law Library, Chair
Virginia Gilbert, Duke
Debora Hazel, NCCU
Greg Raschke, NCSU
Diane Strauss, UNC
Marjory Waite, UNC Health Sciences Library
Mona Coutts and Judy Ruttenberg, TRLN Staff