

**TRLN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2003-JUNE 2004**

The membership and the leadership of the Committee on Information Technology underwent changes this year. In September, Kristin Antelman (NCSU) assumed the chairmanship of the committee replacing Paul Conway (Duke) who had served as chair for the past two years. Pat Mullin (UNC) continued his membership on the committee. Hope Breeze (Duke Law Library) retired and left the committee as the representative from the separately administered libraries, and Wallace McLendon (UNC Health Sciences Library) joined as their representative in April. Naveed Khan left his position at NCCU in April and has not been replaced on the committee.

The Executive Committee asked that the standing committees review their charges (which date back to 1997) and memberships. The Council of Directors was also asked to talk with their staffs to consider TRLN structures that would be most effective in advancing cooperative projects and programs. The Executive Committee agreed to consider changes to the charges and membership of the standing committees but agreed not to undertake any changes to the current committee structure at this time. The members of the CIT recommended three changes to the charge: update the wording in the charge to include newer technology beyond integrated library systems; include the committee's practice of establishing work groups, subcommittees or consulting relationships as needed; and add a statement that the activities of two or more member libraries would be considered under the TRLN umbrella. The Executive Committee approved the changes to the committee charge with one exception. The Executive Committee said that it was a principle that TRLN activities could involve two or more libraries and that it was not necessary for such a statement to be added to the committee's charge. The revised committee charge is as follows:

Plans, oversees, and coordinates all TRLN programmatic, training, and information exchange activities related to digital library initiatives, integrated library system implementation, technical infrastructure development, digital content creation or management, and associated information technology issues. Establishes working groups, subcommittees, or consulting relationships to investigate issues, plan programs, or advise the Committee. Recommends membership candidates to the Council of Directors.

The issues and projects involved in building digital libraries emerged as a common theme for the TRLN libraries and of interest to staff throughout the libraries and institutions. The committee decided to plan a symposium to explore the issues around digital libraries and formed a small planning group to recommend an agenda and panel topics. The committee hosted a day long symposium entitled "Building Usable Digital Libraries" in December. The purpose of the symposium was to explore the issues around digital libraries, including how materials are deposited, collected and managed, and how they get used. David Levy, Professor at the University of Washington Information School, agreed to be the keynote speaker for this event and to participate in the program

throughout the day. Committee members identified and invited a scholar from each campus to form a panel to react to Levy's keynote address. Committee members agreed on a format for campus reports on their environment in terms of digital projects, and presented these reports at the symposium. The planning group organized two panels of presenters to raise issues relating to the creation and use of digital libraries. The panel members, librarians and faculty, encouraged the audience to engage in wide ranging discussions of these issues. The large audience of 177 (including faculty, librarians and information technologists) praised the symposium content and speakers, and applauded the opportunity for a focused discussion on such a relevant topic. Potential collaborative activities were identified in the wrap up session, including: usability testing; clearing house for digital collections, projects, and products; and integration of thematic collections across the libraries. Materials from the symposium were made available on the TRLN web site.

The committee planned two other events around topics of common interest and concern. A forum on the issues concerning the move from paper to electronic theses and dissertations was held in June. Twenty participants from the libraries, the graduate schools and the instructional technology centers attended this meeting. Campus representatives gave brief reports on where they were in the process of evolving to ETD's (Electronic Theses and Dissertations), how fast they were moving toward their goals, how they were addressing training needs, and what business case was made for ETD's. Following these reports, the attendees discussed the issues raised in these reports. In particular they explored opportunities and roadblocks encountered in the move from the paper to electronic format.

As the TRLN libraries move to newer versions of integrated library systems the capabilities offered by those systems present a new range of services and a new set of challenges in providing those services. One common set of services and challenges emerged through the implementation of reference or citation linking software. This software provides the ability to go directly from a citation to the work cited, or to additional information about the cited work. There are technical obstacles and organizational concerns to be tackled in the design of these services. The committee worked with the Committee on Library Public Services to design a forum to address both the technical and organizational issues associated with reference linking. This event was scheduled in June but was postponed due to scheduling conflicts.

Issues of authentication and authorization have long been on the committee's agenda. Through a North Carolina Networking Initiative (NCNI) supported project outside of the committee's purview, three of our institutions were involved with exploring the use of Shibboleth software, which is designed to accommodate cross-institutional authentication. These discussions have moved back on the CIT's agenda as demonstration projects are being developed.

TRLN is a member of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) and one of the benefits of membership is involvement in working groups of that organization. In October, staff from the TRLN member libraries attended NISO sponsored workshops

around the issues of metasearching (the ability to search a heterogeneous set of resources with a single interface). These workshops involved ILS vendors, middleware providers, librarians and publishers. As a result of these discussions, NISO launched the Metasearch Initiative, which will identify, develop, and frame the standards that are needed to support this technology. Andrew Pace (NCSU) was appointed as one of the co-chairs of this committee. Paolo Mangiafico (Duke) and Tim Shearer (UNC) serve on committee task groups. The first face-to-face meeting of this international group took place in the Research Triangle Park in April and was co-sponsored by TRLN and NISO.

The committee continued to involve working groups, subcommittees and consulting relationships to accomplish its agenda. A Task Group was charged once again to review the continued use of DRANet, a cataloging utility service used for accessing bibliographic and authority records. The library system department heads met during the year, and will meet with the CIT in the near future to identify services that may be impacted by the move to disparate integrated library systems.

The committee continued to plan open meetings to encourage technical information exchange and staff development. Twelve staff involved in the various aspects of providing web development for the libraries met in March to share information and identify common goals or concerns. A topical meeting on metadata repositories and OAI (Open Access Initiative) harvesting was organized by the Duke web developers. This meeting held in April brought together twenty-six staff members to learn about Duke's projects. A listserv was created for staff to stay informed of future web-related activities. The CIT and the Committee on Library Public Services co-sponsored an event at NCSU in October. The event included a tour of the new Learning and Research Center for the Digital Age and breakout sessions that provided an in-depth look at the service aspects of the center. Over 50 staff from the TRLN libraries attended this event.

The committee members continued to keep each other informed by providing brief campus updates at their meetings. They also continued to explore areas of common interest including content management systems, portals, image access systems, streaming media, and e-books. The committee endorsed the consortium's membership in COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources), and will recommend that the consortium join ND LTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations). The committee's list of topics to address in the future includes: metasearching, web content management systems, Luna Insight, DSpace software and repository activities, and digital preservation and e-journal archiving.

MEMBERSHIP

Kristin Antelman, North Carolina State University (Chair)

Paul Conway, Duke University

Pat Mullin, University of North Carolina

Wallace McLendon, University of North Carolina Health Sciences Library

Mona Coutts, TRLN staff