

**TRLN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 2004-JUNE 2005**

The membership and the leadership of the Committee on Information Technology remained unchanged this year. Kristin Antelman (NCSU) continued to chair the committee. Paul Conway (Duke), Wallace McLendon (UNC Health Sciences) and Pat Mullin (UNC) continued their membership on the committee.

The issues involved in designing information or learning commons emerged as a common theme for the TRLN libraries and were of interest to staff throughout the libraries and institutions. These issues included building design, technology and software deployment and staffing levels. The committee decided to work with the Committee on Library Public Services to plan a symposium to explore the issues around information commons and formed a small planning group to recommend an agenda and speakers. The committee co-hosted a day long symposium featuring three speakers. Sheila Creth (creator of one of the earliest examples of an information commons) presented information on the history and the context of Information Commons; Joan Lippincott (Coalition for Networked Information) explained how students - especially Net Gen students - learn; and Crit Stewart (Georgia Tech University) described service models from a successful commons implementation. A representative from each TRLN campus gave an update on their progress or plans to implement information commons, and a photographic display provided examples from many different learning or information commons configurations around the country. The symposium was held on February 23, 2005, and was attended by 160 staff. The symposium sparked many positive discussions and comments. Presentation materials, reading lists, and photographs were posted on the TRLN website.

The committee also worked with the Committee on Library Public Services to sponsor an event on August 23, 2004 to discuss common services and challenges that have 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 committees designed a forum to address both the technical and organizational issues associated with reference linking. Twenty staff from the TRLN institutions attended this forum to discuss the challenges involved in configuring reference linking software and implementing OpenURL services. Discussion leaders from UNC shared information on the Article Linker system from Serials Solutions, while the discussion leaders from Duke and NCSU compared and contrasted their experiences with SFX from Ex Libris.

The committee planned two other events around topics of common interest and concern. On February 25th, twenty staff gathered to discuss the deployment of thin clients for public access. The event took place at NCSU and highlighted deployment experiences at

D. H. Hill Library and at the UNC Health Sciences Library. On March 1st, 15 staff met at UNC to learn about the implementation of the Ex Libris MetaLib software at Duke.

As the TRLN libraries move to new integrated library systems the basic functionality for cross-institutional searching, reciprocal borrowing and authentication, and circulation statistics reporting must be maintained. The committee convened a meeting with the heads of library systems departments to discuss these capabilities, and to explore new opportunities to enhance that functionality through the use of NCIP, Shibboleth, and other third-party software.

The committee encouraged groups of staff with similar job functions to convene meetings. The heads of library systems met several times during the year, as did staff involved in web development

The committee members continued to keep each other informed by providing brief campus updates at their meetings. They also continued to coordinate vendor demonstrations when possible. Representatives from Ex Libris provided a demonstration of their DigiTool software and staff from all TRLN libraries were in attendance. Wallace McLendon provided space for a committee meeting and then gave the members a tour of the newly renovated Health Sciences Library facilities. Committee members met with Helen Tibbo (UNC SILS) along with representatives from other TRLN standing committees to hear about Helen's plans for a UNC institutional repository. The committee members continued to explore and discuss areas of common interest including federated search software, metasearch, e-archiving, and digital asset management. The committee's recommendation that the consortium join NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations) was accepted by the Executive Committee. The committee's list of topics to address in the future includes: metasearching, LOCKSS, electronic resource management systems, and technical support models.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Kristin Antelman, North Carolina State University (Chair)

Paul Conway, Duke University

Wallace McLendon, University of North Carolina Health Sciences Library

Pat Mullin, University of North Carolina

Mona Coutts, TRLN staff