

TRLN PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) is a collaborative organization comprised of Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, whose purpose is to marshal the financial, human, and information resources of their research libraries through cooperative efforts in order to create a rich and unparalleled knowledge environment that furthers the universities' teaching, research, and service missions.

The TRLN consortium pursues strategic opportunities to realize efficient use of resources through joint institutional initiatives. The TRLN member libraries are committed to the development of a comprehensive shared collection and integrated discovery and delivery services that are available to all students, faculty and staff at each institution. TRLN has enabled our institutions to become leaders in critical areas of higher education, such as the rapidly evolving landscapes of scholarly communication and the economics of information. The TRLN consortium promotes innovation as well as the creation of new models for library collaboration. This commitment to consortial effort is embodied in the following statements of principle and is the basis of TRLN's goals, programs, and priorities.

TRLN functions as a single entity on behalf of its member institutions, particularly in its negotiation of contracts and licenses. Participation in TRLN programs and initiatives does not preclude member library involvement with other consortia, associations, or organizations. TRLN cooperative activity need not include every member library. TRLN embraces a culture of assessment.

Participation

- Members of TRLN councils and committees are committed to engaging issues from a consortial perspective.
- Staff at all levels are involved in consortial activities.
- TRLN's programs and activities are integrated into member library operations wherever possible.
- To pursue timely and effective collaboration, TRLN members ensure the availability of clearly defined decision-making mechanisms within their libraries and institutions.

Funding

- Support for TRLN activities consists of membership dues, grants and other external funding, and member library resources for special projects and new initiatives.
- Resources for integrated programs, services, and collections are earmarked within the central TRLN budget as well as in individual member library budgets.

Communication

- TRLN and member libraries actively publicize the consortium's mission and its programs and services to both internal and external audiences.
- TRLN councils and committee members regularly communicate with library staff about the priorities and activities of the consortium.

Staffing

- To realize program objectives, sharing of personnel and expertise among TRLN member libraries is essential.
- Central staff members are seen, and see themselves, as employees of each TRLN institution.
- TRLN is committed to developing shared training and development programs for all levels of staff in its member libraries.