

**Report of the Executive Director  
To the Triangle Research Libraries Network Governing Board  
For the year 1999/2000**

At the June 1999 meeting of the Triangle Research Libraries Network Governing Board a presentation was made on the information resources program of the consortium. The board was informed about collaborative efforts to license data bases in digital formats and to further resource sharing; about planning for disasters which might damage or destroy collections and facilities; and about a proposal of the Triangle South Asia Consortium (TriSAC) to be named a national resource center and thereby to fund collections development and a shared area studies bibliographer. In the intervening year progress has been realized in each of these areas and in others of interest to board members.

Cooperative collections development, a hallmark of the consortium for many years, advanced in new directions with the negotiation of several licenses to electronic resources. Collections working groups in a range of subject areas have been established and have begun exploring possibilities for expanding collecting agreements. Disaster plans have been prepared or are being written on each of the campuses, and a workshop for staff who would lead recovery efforts is to take place in late July. In the Spring TriSAC was informed that the four universities would jointly be named a national resource center and that grant funding for library collections and a staff member would be made available.

An essential component of any library collaborative resource development and sharing program is ready access to collections and delivery of materials to users in a timely fashion. Students, faculty, and staff from each of the universities make regular use of the ten TRLN libraries, both by borrowing directly from their collections and by requesting items through interlibrary loan. The consortium is attempting to simplify the lending process for walk-in users and is involved in a major project whose purpose is the expansion and enhancement of document delivery.

Scholarly communication issues have been one of TRLN's major areas of interest. The topic was the principal focus of the 1998 governing board meeting. In March of this year the consortium held a "town meeting" on copyright, fair use, and ownership in collaboration with the National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage. The event attracted faculty and staff participants from each of the member institutions, and from the region, and proved very successful. The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition of the Association of Research Libraries has asked TRLN to consider partnering with it in producing a publication and web based resources to assist faculty editors in pursuing self-publishing opportunities.

Information technology programming remains central to the consortium's purposes. Planning continues for migration to a new online integrated library management system and a number of information and training events intended to prepare staff for the system took place in recent months. In addition, meetings on digital imaging projects, on electronic reserves, and on other technology-focused topics were held.

Training and development of the staffs of member libraries was a major emphasis in 1999/2000. TRLN sponsored workshops on development of writing and library management skills, conducted forums on interlibrary loan procedures, coordinated visits by a variety of vendors demonstrating online and print offerings, and arranged for downlink of an international library teleconference. A training or information-sharing event took place, on average, every three weeks and reached hundreds of staff.

Communication about the consortium's programming took the form of a major upgrade of the TRLN website (<http://www.trln.org/>), monthly online publication of *TRLN E-News*, and on campus meetings of the program officers and the executive director with a variety of library staffs from all four institutions took place last July. The program was well received and a 2<sup>nd</sup> "annual meeting" is scheduled for this summer.

TRLN staff have represented the consortium at a number of professional meetings, published and presented papers, and led association conference and committee sessions. Among the organizations in which the three staffers had some active participation were the American Library Association, the Coalition for Networked Information, the Center for Research Libraries, the International Coalition of Library Consortia, the Library Information and Technology Association, the National Information Standards Organization, the North Carolina Library Association, the North Carolina Preservation Consortium, and the State Library of North Carolina.

Organizationally, a new standing committee on library public services was established and the council of directors began discussion of priorities for present programming and the possibility of new initiatives.