

TRLN UNLIMITED** UNIVERSAL TRLN*****EXPANSIVE COLLABORATION**

For decades, TRLN libraries have provided leadership in collaboration in the areas of cooperative collection development, automation, policy development, and sponsored projects. TRLN has routinely counted among its core assets the geographic proximity of its members, breadth and depth of its research collections, staff expertise and the sustained commitment of resources from institutional leaders who see libraries as pivotal to achieving their vision for greatness.

From 2007 to 2009, TRLN built the infrastructure for the *Digital TRLN*. The aim was to create a digital environment characterized by user services and tools that facilitate access to large multifaceted collections. "Search TRLN" was implemented and provides easy discovery and request functions across the combined collections of TRLN. One result of this streamlined discovery and request platform has been a seventy percent increase in the borrowing of materials within the TRLN libraries.

Today's faculty and students are under increasing demands and their expectations of networked academic communities continue to accelerate with those demands. An ever-growing universe of information resources and forms of scholarly communication tax our libraries' funding models. We can best meet our users' expectations in this fiscal climate by integrating and harnessing the full complement of TRLN's past successes – including the wealth of physical and digital materials, expertise with the complex integration of bibliographic data and systems development, and our human resources networks built on unique and long-lived trust.

TRLN has a vision of breaking down any remaining barriers to a long-standing goal of one research collection, serving one user community across four distinct institutions. TRLN will exploit the geographic proximity of the libraries by exploring opportunities to share staff across the consortium and consolidating workflows. TRLN will play a leadership role in access to and preservation of digital collections, engaging with national experts and creating a model for true collaboration.

TRLN makes this commitment to the future of universal access and expansive collaboration with the recognition of the inherent ambiguity in such an endeavor. We will proceed opportunistically, pursuing grants and external resources where possible and engaging outside expertise where appropriate.

2010 TRLN UNLIMITED INITIATIVES

One research collection for one user community

Our vision for the future is unlimited resource sharing within the consortium. We will share materials across our institutions as we do within our institutions – removing barriers to access and providing easy and rapid delivery services. We will engage faculty and facilitate organizational changes in order to provide national leadership on resource sharing and corresponding assessment.

Collaborative staffing models

In order to better understand the implications of shared technical services functions we will design a pilot project between Duke and NCCU to discover the feasibility and effectiveness of this model. In support of staff development and a deeper understanding of our member libraries we will create and assess competitive internships or fellowships within the TRLN libraries.

Shared digital access and preservation

We will seek IMLS funding for a Planning Grant to understand exactly what is involved in digital access and preservation collaboration. Using Southern Americana manuscripts as a pilot area we will consult with national experts and local faculty, and will ultimately provide a collaborative model for other consortia.

Shared large-scale digitization

We anticipate participating in the Google digitization project provided a settlement is reached. We will explore joining the HathiTrust and will plan to make use of shared storage to be provided in the second year of the TUCASI funded TIP project.

Infrastructure Enhancements

- SEARCH TRLN – technical infrastructure enhancements will be necessary to support universal, easy and rapid access to the shared. We will explore a shared interface, shared records and the implications of patron-initiated services
- TRLN Management Academy – try again in 2010 and if not enough interest regroup on how to offer this training
- Single Print Archive – potential for collaboration with other print archives through CRL
- Facilitate Communication – continue to improve information sharing and test the effectiveness of creating a resource of potential report or article possibilities for interested researchers and authors
- Scholarly Communication – continue staff education programs and explore transformative publishing models and participate in efforts to clarify and inform authors and readers of their rights

CORE VALUES AND PROGRAMS

TRLN (Duke University, North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina Central University) is one of the oldest consortia in the country. The hallmark of cooperation among the four universities has been a highly successful cooperative collection development program that has resulted in little duplication across institutions and a high degree of uniqueness in the respective collections. With the licensing of electronic content, the cooperation has expanded to include electronic resources. The shared collections are made available to users from any TRLN library through reciprocal borrowing arrangements and through a privileged delivery service. Another of TRLN's strengths is the broad range of staff development, continuing education, and training opportunities that are offered locally and attended widely by all levels of staff.