

TRLN United: One Collection, One Community

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. Our new direction will include several areas of emphasis:

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 enlist faculty support and facilitate organizational changes in order to provide national leadership on resource sharing and corresponding assessment.

Collaborative staffing models

We will explore opportunities for a variety of collaborative staffing models. These arrangements will support staff development, will allow us to share expertise and specialized skills, and will facilitate the distribution of workloads and the sharing of positions. Activities may include the creation of internships or fellowships within TRLN libraries, and the exploration of job trading and sharing. A pilot project between Duke and NCCU on the feasibility of sharing technical services functions will help us better understand the implications and effectiveness of a shared staffing model.

Shared digital production, access and preservation

We will seek to develop a collaborative model for shared digital production, access and preservation. We will work with partners and funders to digitize large portions of our collections. We will explore opportunities for shared storage and preservation through the HathiTrust and the shared storage provided in the second year of the TUCASI funded TIP project. We will continually improve shared access to these digitized collections.

Infrastructure Enhancements

- SEARCH TRLN – We will enhance our technical infrastructure to support universal, easy and rapid access to the shared collection. We will explore a shared interface, shared metadata for common records, and the implications of patron-initiated services
- TRLN Management Academy – We will plan for another Academy in fall 2011, and will explore alternative delivery mechanisms if travel funding is still a problem.
- Single Print Archive – We will continue to expand the Archive, and we will explore potential collaboration with other print archives through the Center for Research Libraries (CRL).
- Facilitate Communication – We will continue to improve information sharing within the consortia, and will test the effectiveness of creating a resource of potential report or article possibilities for interested researchers and authors.
- Scholarly Communication – We will continue to sponsor staff education programs, and we will explore transformative publishing models and participate in efforts to clarify and inform authors and readers of their rights.

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 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.

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.