

**Создание консорциума и работа в нем
как основной элемент библиотечной сети**

Consortium Formation and Participation as a Key Ingredient of Library Networking

**Створення консорціуму та робота у ньому
як основний елемент бібліотечної мережі**

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Существует несколько преимуществ участия библиотек и библиотечных ассоциаций в консорциумах или конфедерациях. Данный доклад рассказывает об опыте работы автора в консорциуме, дает краткое представление о Международной коалиции библиотечных консорциумов, описывает причины участия библиотек и библиотечных ассоциаций в мероприятиях консорциума и предлагает создать Конфедерацию библиотек и библиотечных ассоциаций.

The advantages of consortium or confederation participation by libraries and library associations are several. This paper will discuss consortium involvement with which this writer has had experience, will discuss briefly the International Coalition of Library Consortia, will provide a rationale for the involvement of libraries and library associations in consortium endeavors, and will propose the creation of a Confederation of Libraries and Library Associations.

Існує декілька переваг участі бібліотек та бібліотечних асоціацій у консорціумах чи конфедераціях. У даному докладі розповідається про досвід роботи автора у консорціумі, дає коротке уявлення про Міжнародну коаліцію бібліотечних консорціумів, ознайомлює з підставами для участі бібліотек і бібліотечних асоціацій у заходах консорціуму та пропонує створити Конфедерацію бібліотек і бібліотечних асоціацій.

Introduction

In the Southeastern United States, there exists an organization, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. The ASERL is composed of the library systems of the largest research universities in this geographical region. In 1981, the University of Memphis Libraries were admitted to membership in this influential group. Later, in the latter part of the 1980s an effort was initiated resulting in the establishment in the state of Tennessee at the location of the University of Memphis, of TENN-Share, a resource sharing group. The U of Memphis Libraries immediately entered into this effort. In the early 1990s, TALC, the Tennessee Academic Library Collaborative was established and, again, the U of Memphis Libraries became a participating member. Each of these participative efforts was and is advantageous to faculty and to students of the University. This paper will describe each of these efforts, will discuss briefly one of the more prominent and highly developed collaborative efforts in the United States, The Big Twelve plus, and then will provide some description and discussion of the International Coalition of Library Consortia. Finally, it will use the brief discussions of these various efforts as a rationale for proposing the establishment of a formally structured confederation of libraries and library associations.

TENN-Share, a localized initiative

Throughout the 1980s, as libraries everywhere were becoming increasingly aware of the escalating costs of library material and the increasing inadequacy of funding needed to acquire such material, a group of representatives of Tennessee libraries of all types — academic, public, school and special — gathered to talk about how they might work with one another in ways so as to provide higher quality collections and services to their users. As a result of this initial discussion, an organization named TENN-Share was created with the goal of TENN-Share that of attempting to facilitate interlibrary borrowing and lending among Tennessee libraries of all types. As TENN-Share developed and evolved, it eventually created and approved, in 1992, a constitution which was later amended in 1995. In 1997, a dues structure was established so that TENN-Share might hire an Executive Director. It did that, and in 1998 the Executive Director, along with a number of other librarians throughout the state of Tennessee worked diligently to cause the creation of the Tennessee Electronic Library, TEL, a statewide network which provides access to a variety of electronic databases to users of all types of publicly supported libraries. A statement of mission adopted by TENN-Share reads as follows:

TENN-Share exists to promote the sharing of library resources among libraries for the benefit of the citizens of Tennessee. TENN-Share has as its broad role the charge to serve as a catalyst for resource sharing initiatives on a variety of fronts. TENN-Share functions as a coordinating agency for various Tennessee library consortia involved in resource sharing, with a primary charge to facilitate interlibrary lending among Tennessee libraries by providing OCLC/SOLINET Group Access Capability in Tennessee. TENN-Share will seek to establish effective communication about its initiatives to extend the reach of available fiscal and information resources with other Tennessee consortia, and those of the region and the nation. (1)

TALC

The State of Tennessee has a system of public owned and funded institutions of higher education and this support system encompasses both the University of Tennessee system and the Tennessee Board of Regents System. Each of these two systems has a governing board which is separate and distinct from the other and which does not duplicate membership, policy, or legal status. They are two organizationally different systems of publicly funded higher education. In 1997 and into 1998, discussion took place between the library directors of the University of Tennessee System and those of the Tennessee Board of Regents system. Out of these meetings and discussions came the idea of creating an endeavor which was termed the Tennessee Academic Library Collaborative. TALC, as this initiative is named, supports users of its constituent member libraries. One goal that it has achieved is the creation of a statewide library borrower's card for faculty and students of Tennessee higher education. The statement of mission of the Tennessee Academic Library Collaborative reads as follows:

The Tennessee Academic Library Collaborative creates partnerships among Tennessee's publicly assisted, post-secondary academic libraries and works collaboratively with other groups and organizations to provide leadership to various library sectors in the state and region. TALC leads, creates, and delivers programs and projects designed to increase and to improve access to library services and resources for participating users' institutions. TALC strives to combat rising costs for library materials and resources through a number of group-based strategies. (2)

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries

Moving beyond the libraries of the state of Tennessee, the University of Memphis Libraries joined the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries in 1982. This organization was established in 1956 as an informal discussion and planning group to deal with problems common to the large research libraries of the Southeastern United States. Its current composition includes the forty-three largest academic libraries in the twelve-state southeastern region encompassed by the Southeastern Library Association and, as ex-officio members, the state libraries or state library agencies in each of these states. Criteria for membership must be maintained in order for membership to be maintained. These criteria are:

1. Expenditure of one-half the average (mean) expenditure of ASERL university libraries for total library operations.
2. Expenditure of one-half the average (mean) expenditure of ASERL university libraries for books, periodicals, and binding.

The ASERL is the founding agency of SOLINET, the southeastern regional affiliate of OCLC, and conducts its business meeting each year in the spring. (3)

The Big 12 Plus

In March of 1999, the ASERL library directors met and, among other agenda items, discussed the desirability of making ASERL somewhat more formal and more organized than it had been for a number of years. By way of providing an example and motivation for such an effort, a representative of The Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium was invited to make a presentation about that cooperative effort. An outline of that presentation is as follows:

Programs and Goals

- Resource Sharing
- Scholarly Communication
- Continuing Education
- Preservation & Conservation

Resource Sharing Program

- Interlibrary Loan
 - First program developed; very robust
 - Planning to develop consortium-wide, patron-initiated ILL system
- Virtual Undergraduate Library
- Joint licensing of electronic databases
- Consortium-wide digital collections

Continuing Education

- CE has emerged as a major opportunity for Big 12 Plus
- Variety of possible topics
 - Licensing electronic resources
 - Diversity
 - Knowledge access management
 - Change management (4)

The International Coalition of Library Consortia

Moving beyond the involvement in consortia on the part of the University of Memphis Libraries, note should be made of the International Coalition of Library Consortia. This group (ICOLC) first met informally as the Consortium of Consortia (COC) in 1997. The Coalition continues to be an informal, self-organized group comprising more than 80 library consortia in North America, now expanding to the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia and other countries. The Coalition serves primarily higher education institutions by facilitating discussion among consortia on issues of common interest. At times during the year, the ICOLC may conduct meetings dedicated to keeping participating consortia informed about new electronic information resources, pricing practices of electronic providers and vendors, and other issues of importance to directors and to governing boards of consortia. During these sessions the Coalition meets with members of the information provider community, providing a forum for them to discuss their offerings and to engage in dialog with consortial leaders about issues of mutual concern. Further information about ICOLC may be obtained from the email address at the web site. All consortia anywhere in the world who are in general agreement with the ICOLC Statement of Current Perspective are welcome. (5)

An examination of the Home Page for ICOLC indicates membership of organizations, consortia, and confederations from a variety of countries throughout the world. To be sure, the majority of organizations listed are in North America, but a number of others in other countries are represented. The China Academic Library and Information System (CALIS) in China is a relatively new addition as are several organizations in South Africa. The advantage of participation in ICOLC is, of course, that of collegiality and the sharing of experiences and ideas.

Conclusion

The foregoing has provided a description, albeit brief, of several involvements on the part of the University of Memphis Libraries in cooperative or consortial arrangements and has identified briefly the existence of, and the rationale for, the International Coalition of Library Consortia. It should be clear that the motive for any and all of these efforts is, in the final analysis, to achieve higher quality services to library users. A brief examination of the programs and goals of The Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium, discussed earlier, indicates very clearly what advantages accrue from cooperative activity within the context of a consortium. The sharing of resources is a primary benefit for users of participant libraries in any consortial effort. Continuing professional education not only enhances the skills and talents of individual librarians or information workers, but those enhanced skills and talents ultimately benefit users of member libraries.

The benefits of consortium membership are clear and unequivocal, regardless of the particular conditions of political economy which exist in any region anywhere in the world. Throughout the world, there is a growing appetite for professional knowledge, professional skills, and the development of talent. As libraries and information centers become increasingly important to the development of economies and to the satisfaction of the appetite for professional knowledge, skills, and talents, the establishment of a formally recognized, consortially based agreement among libraries and library organizations is a goal which, by any measure, should be seen as unarguable. Such an agreement, articulated in the form of a recognized consortium, could do much to foster information resource sharing in the world. It could serve so as to negotiate advantageous pricing of library material in whatever format, and serve as a communications clearinghouse concerning resource activities in the region. Surely, a Confederation of Libraries and Library Associations is a laudable goal which would be recognized as a significant accomplishment by the various governing bodies or institutions of your respective libraries.

Notes

1. TENN-SHARE URL: <http://toltec.lib.utk.edu/~tennshare/>
2. Tennessee Academic Library Collaborative URL: <http://toltec.lib.utk.edu/~talc/>
3. The ASERL URL is accessible by member institutions only. Statistical data for the ASERL member libraries are available at <http://www.lib.memphis.edu/aserl.htm>
4. The Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium URL: <http://www.big12plus.org>
5. ICOLC URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/index.html>

CONFEDERATION OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization is the Confederation of Libraries and Library Associations of *****.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section 1.

The purposes of the Confederation of Libraries and Librarian Associations of ***** are to:

Serve as a major advocate for information resource sharing in the ***** , seek funding for and manage/coordinate multi-type resource sharing projects in *****.

Promote and facilitate interlibrary loan reciprocity in *****.

Serve as an umbrella organization for ***** resource sharing groups.

Serve as a communications clearinghouse about ***** resource sharing activities and disseminate relevant information to the membership regularly.

Investigate and support opportunities for cooperative collection development among ** *****libraries.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

Full membership is open to any library organization or information agency in the *****. Representatives of member organizations are eligible to serve as an officer, board member, committee chair, committee member, or any other office or appointment within the Confederation of Libraries and Librarian Associations of *****.

Section 2.

Affiliate membership is open to any library resource sharing organization in *****. Representatives of affiliate organizations may serve as committee members.

Section 3.

To become an affiliate member, organizations may request to join the ***** by contacting the chair of the Membership Committee, who will present the request to the Board of Directors for approval.

Section 4.

Each full member organization will have one vote on all matters presented to the membership for vote by the Board of Directors. This vote will be cast by the chief librarian or designate.

Section 5.

Each full member in good standing will be eligible to take advantage of all contracts, services and agreements negotiated on behalf of the ***** members and/or provided by *****.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICES, DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1.

The officers of ***** are President, Vice-President/President-Elect, the immediate past President, Secretary, and Treasurer. There is one officer per office. Each officer will perform the duties usually attached to these offices.

Section 2.

Representatives of full member library organizations or library agencies shall be eligible to serve as an officer.

Section 3.

The officers will serve a term of two years and are not immediately eligible for re-election to their respective offices.

Section 4.

The officers of the ***** will compose the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will:

Develop an agenda and program for all general meetings and be responsible for securing hosts and speakers for these meetings.

Ensure that the organization remains in compliance with the Constitution adopted by the membership.

Suggest and develop workshops, demonstrations, training programs and other professional development opportunities related to resource sharing for the members of *****.

Receive and respond to suggestions for needed programs, projects and activities from the Board of Directors.

Report at least twice a year on the activities of the committee and the Board of Directors to the membership.

Make recommendations on policy matters to the Board of Directors.

Act on behalf of the Board of Directors as needed between board meetings.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Section 1.

The Board of Directors includes all officers and three elected representatives from each of the geographical entities participating in *****.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors will direct the affairs of ***** and decide all matters of official policy.

Section 3.

The Board of Directors will be elected for staggered terms with one-third of the Board memberships retiring each year.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1.

The Board of Directors will meet at least once a year, as necessary, on the call of the President, or at the request of any three chief librarians or designates of full member library organization or information agency

Section 2.

Others can be invited to the Board of Directors meetings at the discretion of the President, but do not have a vote on matters presented to the Board for action. In addition to the Board, all committee chairs are asked to attend Board meetings, as well as those coordinating major ***** efforts and activities.

Section 3.

Meetings of the general membership will be held once a year. Additional meetings can be called by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1.

Standing committees of the ***** include the Executive, Membership, and Nominating Committees. Additional standing committees can be added to the organization by approval of the Board of Directors. Ad hoc committees can be established by the President to serve throughout her/his term as President. To continue after that time the committee must be re-established by the next President.

Section 2.

Committee chairs will be appointed by the President, annually. committee Chairs will be responsible for appointing all other committee members. Representatives from any full member organization can serve as committee chair and as committee members. Representatives of affiliate members can serve as committee members. One exception is the Executive Committee whose membership is established in ARTICLE IV, Section 4.

Section 3.

Duties of Committee Chairs include:

Appoint at least two committee members from full or affiliate member organization.
Call their committee members together for a meeting at least once annually.
Attend all meetings of the ***** Board of Directors, or assign a committee member to attend.
Report at each meeting of the Board of Directors on any activities of the committee.
Attend the ***** annual conference and any other gatherings of the Board of membership.
Submit a brief report to the President in May of each year to contribute to the organization's biennial report.

Section 4.

***** Committees and major responsibilities:

Executive Committee (See ARTICLE V, Section 1).

Nominating Committee. Duties include:

Prepare a slate of candidates for the offices of Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer every other year.

Prepare a slate of candidates for vacant positions on the Board of Directors.

Ensure the Board membership reflects the policies outlined in ARTICLE V of this document.

Prepare each slate of candidates for office and/or the Board and distribute to the membership one month before the vote is to be taken.

Count the ballots and make a report to the Board and the membership on the results of the election.

Assist the President and the Board in any additional votes of the membership, e. g., constitutional amendments, etc.

Membership Committee. Duties include:

Maintain membership records for *****.

Produce an annual membership directory.

Present applications for affiliate membership to the Board of Directors for approval.

Review the membership dues structure annually, revise as needed, and present proposed changes to the Board of Directors for approval.

ARTICLE VIII: BY-LAWS

By-laws may be adopted, suspended and amended upon a recommendation of a member of the board of Directors submitted to the Board for approval and accepted by a majority vote of the members of the *****.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended upon a proposed amendment or revised constitution document being submitted by a member of the Board of Directors to the Board for approval and accepted by a majority vote of the members of the *****.