

CTW Collaborative Collection Development

Consortial Background:

In February 1987, Connecticut College, Trinity College and Wesleyan University formed the CTW Consortium to share the development and implementation costs of an online, integrated library catalog. The three institutions then started to share their collections through a consortial borrowing agreement facilitated by a coordinated daily delivery service between campuses. The success of these ventures led to other institutional collaborations; an Information Literacy grant (2001-2006) and most recently, a Collaborative Collection Development grant (2007-2010), both awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Collaborative Collection Development Projects:

- Initially, collaborative collection development among the institutions was informal with a primary goal of minimizing duplication of more specialized, research level materials. Duplication was avoided by checking the shared catalog, but decisions were strictly made on the local level.
- In 1996, the first systematic effort was made with YBP to compare each of our profiles and purchasing patterns. The resulting analysis did not lead to a more formalized purchasing agreement; however a general policy was drafted to guide the selection of multiple copies for the consortium. The overall goal was to increase unique CTW holdings while not compromising the core collections of each library.
- In 1999, a CTW committee was formed to review and select electronic databases for consortial purchase. The goal was to negotiate consortial discounts and broaden overall knowledge of electronic resources. CTW still subscribes to some electronic resources as a consortium but the selection process is done by committees at the local, not consortial, level.
- In the fall of 2006, CTW designed a pilot project with YBP to formalize the selection of more costly scholarly monographs. A special CTW notification slip profile was created for selecting "consortial titles." These titles had a list price over \$85 and were published by a select group of 20 academic publishers. Because of workflow issues, this pilot project proved cumbersome to manage and was recently stopped.
- In 2007, CTW applied for and was awarded a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation to analyze the three existing collections and develop a more formalized plan for collaborative collection management. It will include creating individual and shared collection development policies, de-accessioning or storing duplicate titles, and identifying future collaborative projects. Among the first projects were a cross-institutional analysis of enrollments and majors by academic departments/programs; a review of monographic expenditures by LC classification; evaluation and selection of available collection analysis tools; and an initial assessment of core collections against authoritative lists (Books for College Libraries and Outstanding Academic Titles) using OCLC's WorldCat Collection Analysis.

Impediments:

The major impediments to past collaborative efforts were time constraints upon collection development librarians and a hesitancy to give up local autonomy of the selection process. In addition, the three campuses are geographically spread out and culturally different which poses occasional challenges to communication and consensus building. There are no formalized agreements for the CTW Consortium which results in some insecurity concerning shared ownership of resources.

Facilitating Circumstances:

The hiring of a grant-funded CTW Librarian for Collaborative Collection Projects who works across the three campuses and coordinates their collaborative efforts has facilitated consortial communication and progress toward shared goals. Also, economic pressures have created a more supportive environment for collaborative efforts within the consortium. This is further helped by overall professional trends towards greater collaboration in collection building and management, and the resulting literature about it.

Other Collaborative Activities of the CTW Consortium:

- The CTW Consortium has an associate membership with the Five Colleges Library Consortium in Massachusetts. This allows CTW to rely on the print copies of JSTOR journals stored in the Five Colleges' Depository.
- CTW has purchased or subscribed to a number of electronic resources as part of the Oberlin Group.
- Recently, there have been conversations about possibly joining the Boston Library Consortium to expand collaborative opportunities and shared resources. There also has been interest in possibly joining the Center for Research Libraries.

For additional information about the CTW Consortium's collaborative efforts please contact:

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