

COOPERATIVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN ILLINOIS ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Cooperative collection development (CCD) in Illinois has a long and robust history, dating back to the 1970s with the inception of the Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Program. CCD evolved over the years and presently is an important part of the program known as CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois.)

Funding for CCD in all of its incarnations has been provided through the State of Illinois and money has been dispersed through a competitive grant process administered by individuals from member institutions serving on a review board. Early projects that were funded tended almost exclusively to revolve around a single topic, where individual libraries would purchase titles and guarantee that they would be shared throughout the state. The programs have always encouraged cooperative efforts among different types and sizes of institutions, so that large public university libraries like University of Illinois would partner with small private university libraries like Augustana, as well as with community college libraries.

In recent years, the move has been towards doing more assessment of collections, looking for gaps in our state-wide collection and analyzing use patterns. In addition, there is a strong push to begin to digitize primary source collections in member libraries, generally around a common theme that continues our tradition of bringing all types of sizes of libraries together. Cooperative purchasing proposals continue to be funded with print holdings going to various libraries around the state.

Liberal arts libraries in Illinois have taken full advantage of the existing CCD program in Illinois and have not forged our own alliance. The universities in the northern part of the state (e.g., Augustana, Lake Forest, Wheaton) have a geographic advantage in working together on various projects that may include CCD along with several other areas of programming. The state of Illinois is some 400 miles long and 200 miles wide, making it more difficult for the central and southern liberal arts universities to meet with their northern counterparts very regularly. In addition, some but not all of the libraries are members of the Oberlin Group, and some but not all are members of NITLE. Thus beyond CARLI, we do not have share a common consortia that draws us into discussion about issues that relate specifically to the challenges and opportunities for CCD in liberal arts libraries in Illinois.

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