



#alctsAC18



# Collaborative Collection Development: Increasing Equity in Times of Austerity

Kimberly Shotick, Illinois Institute of Technology  
Niamh McGuigan, Loyola University Chicago

**June 24, 2018**

*Co-Sponsors:*  
*RUSA CODES*  
*Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)*



# Session Outline

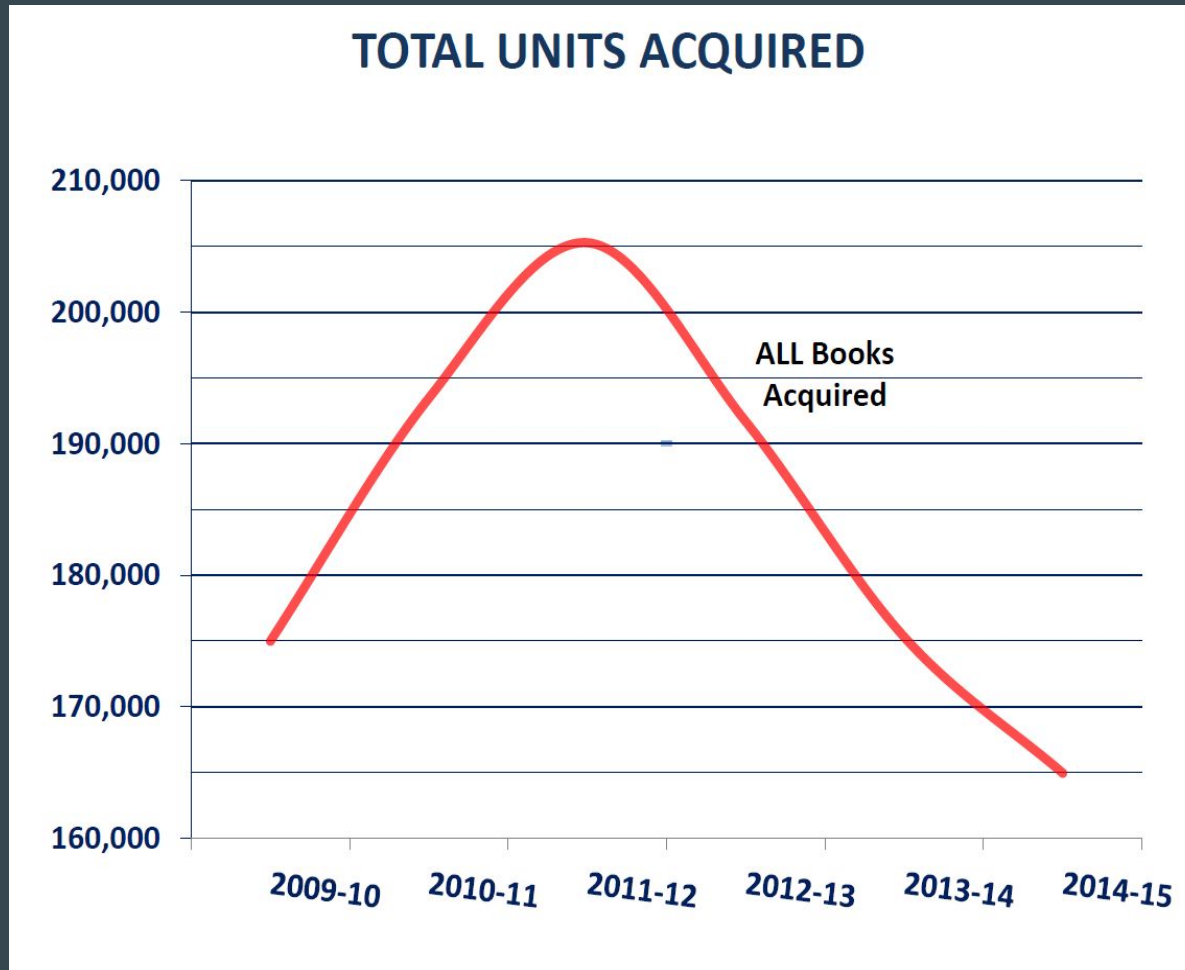
- Environment
- Determining Readiness
  - Discussion
- Strategies
  - Discussion
- Equity
  - Discussion

# Session Goals

- Be able to identify and apply **best practices**
- Be able to **advocate** for collaborative collection initiatives

**Environment**

# CARLI libraries are buying fewer books



Source: Michael Zeoli,  
YBP Library Services.  
CARLI e-book symposium,  
May 7, 2015

# The decrease in I-Share borrowing also suggests fewer unique print books

I-Share Traffic

FY11	425,255
FY12	411,841
FY13	422,774
FY14	398,577
FY15	378,041
FY16	336,267
FY17	296,900



# Nationwide

- Over the past five years, 19% of academic libraries reported decreases in funding, and 60% reported flat budgets.
- “When placed in the context of stagnant library budgets, this level of increase is unsustainable and will likely result in market constraint where scholarly communication as we know it will continue to suffer death by a thousand cuts.”

Bosch, S., et al. (2018) *Library Journal*

# CARLI

## Consortium of Academic Libraries in Illinois

- Collections Management
- E-Resources
- Digital Collections
- I-SHARE Catalog
- Public Services
- Scholarly Communications



# Pilot Collaborative Collection Development Projects

- Benefit to library users = access to more titles
- Good for the scholarly communication ecosystem to purchase more unique titles

# Pilot Collaborative Collection Development Projects

## Survey Comments:

- “...current budgetary climate may hamper our ability to participate...”
- “...spread thin with other projects...”
- “...loss of control...”

# Pilot Collaborative Collection Development Projects

- Goal was to create **lightweight** collaborative collection initiatives:
  - Minimal commitment from libraries
  - Provide a framework for purchasing more unique titles

# Pilot Collaborative Collection Development Projects

Pilot projects:

- Unique purchases in subject area of choice
- K-12 textbooks used by local school districts
- Consortial ebooks

# Strategies

Center for Research Libraries

**Best Practices in Cooperative Collection  
Development**

CRL Working Group on Best Practices in  
Cooperative Collection Development  
2002

# Before you start:

determining if your  
institution is ready for  
success

- History of collaboration
- Administrative support
- Clear goals established
- Funding available

# Unique Print Titles Purchases



Goal: make a **richer** consortial collection



# Unique Print Titles Purchases

FY17 & FY18

NEIU  
13.9%

RCC  
9.4%

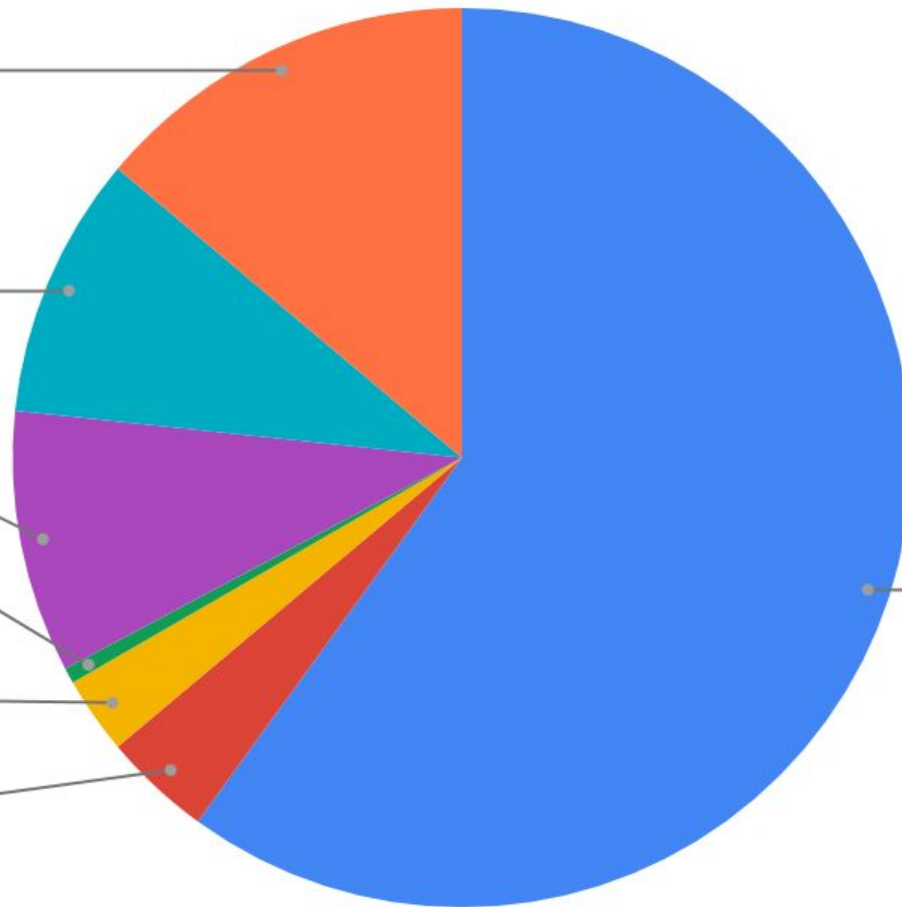
PMML  
9.4%

DePaul  
0.6%

IMSA  
2.8%

LFC  
3.9%

UIC  
60.0%



# Readiness Discussion

**Would your administrators support collaborative collections projects?**

**What impact has administrative buy-in had on the success of collaborative collections projects?**

# Managing a collaborative project:

what's worked

- Communication
- Flexibility
- Feedback
- Assessment of outcomes

**...need for  
“constant and redundant”  
communication.**

# Example: Feedback and Assessment

	2016 - 2017 Purchased Titles (Purchased 2017: 1/1 - 6/30)	2017-2018 Purchased Titles (Purchased 7/1/17 - 5/24/2018)
Number of Titles	29	105
Number of Browsers	270	165
Number of Loans	326	192
Money Spent	\$7,776.80	\$23,198.80

Source: CARLI 2017-2018 Collection Management Committee Annual Project

# Strategies Discussion

**What strategies have made the most impact in cooperative projects?**

**What aspects might make cooperative collecting challenging at your institution?**



# Common pitfalls

and how to avoid them

- Staff turnover
- Lack of motivation
- Inability to think globally

**“...we can make better decisions, save money, preserve our print heritage better, and serve our users better.”**

**Equity**

**“Deep suspicion to centralized solutions”**

**“Fear of change and loss of control”**

**“Resistance by selectors to this kind of cooperative collection development”**

“Perhaps the biggest challenge for all types of cooperatives was the variable levels of motivation, effort, and commitment that exist among partners. Administrators of cooperatives had to be able to adapt to this disparity, which manifests itself as indifference and lack of participation.”

# Equality and Equity

- “When a society is stratified into poles of advantage and disadvantage, with the inevitable consequences of privilege and exclusion, the promise of equal access to the discourses necessary for democratic participation rings hollow.”
- “In order to maximize opportunities for access experience by certain groups, **a good society commits resources in order to level the playing field.**”

# Promoting Equitable Access

- Library Consortia
  - Interlibrary Loan
  - Reciprocal Borrowing Agreements
- 
- Walk-in Access
  - Digitized Collections
  - Open Access Movement

# Equitable Practices in Collaborative Collection Development

- Define goals in the context of the common good
- Commitment of local funds to the cooperative program
- Commitment to collaboration from top administrators



**How do you balance local priorities against the benefit of the larger community?**

**Do the leaders in your institution support work that benefits users outside of your library?**

**Do your institutional priorities help or hinder equity?**

# Advocacy

“Fairness demands remedies to redress historic injustices that have prevented or diminished access in the first place.”

ALA (2007) “Equality and Equity of Access: What's the Difference?”

# References

American Library Association. (2007, May 29). *Equality and equity of access: What's the difference?* Retrieved from: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/equalityequity>.

Bosch, S., Albee, B., & Henderson, K. (2018). Death by 1,000 cuts. *Library Journal*, 143(7), 28-33.

Hightower, C., & Soete, G. (1995). The consortium as learning organization: Twelve steps to success in collaborative collections projects. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 21(2), 87-91.

O'Donnell, J. J., & Regan, S. (2017) How many libraries do we need? *The Serials Librarian*, 72:1-4, 42-47, DOI: 10.1080/0361526X.2017.1322355

Shelton, C. (2004). Best practices in cooperative collection development: A report prepared by the Center for Research Libraries Working Group on Best Practices in cooperative collection development. *Collection Management*, 28(3), 191-222.



#alctsAC18



***Thank you***

for attending this ALCTS program

**Your feedback is important to us!**

Please take a moment to complete a  
**short online evaluation form** at the URL below:

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JRY5BGJ>**



ALA American Library Association