

Greetings, all.

During our online meeting we began discussing various management issues, but tabled the discussion because it was difficult to tell who was still with us at that point. Since then Ann Riley and I have spoken by phone and suggest that we do some more asynchronous discussion via the listserv in preparation for our face to face meeting in January. In order to hit the happy mean between the too abstract and the too concretely detailed we thought we might take each suggested cooperative project in turn and analyze each to identify all the management issues, problems, obstructions that would need to be addressed.

The projects we identified during our meeting in Warrensburg are:

- Identification of collection strengths through comparison of collection analysis, collection policy statements, comparison of programs
- Sharing information/decisions regarding weeding, withdrawing, canceling subscriptions, including sharing discarded materials through gifts and exchanges
- Group purchases or coordination in purchasing expensive items to minimize duplication
- Group licensing or negotiating copyright or other license issues in order to gain greater leverage.

Others I've heard mentioned since include rotating collections—a library lacking space sending some of their materials to a library with extra space—and group preservation/digitization projects.

The management aspects that I'd outlined in our online meeting include:

who makes decisions
financial commitment
education/promotion
legal restrictions
what if consortial commitments are dissolved
measuring cost/benefits.

These might provide starting points for thinking about management issues, although I imagine there are more.

Why don't we tackle the first two of these suggested projects during the next week and see what ideas we can share via the listserv. If this method seems to work well, we can continue.

I'm also planning to collect some more literature on cooperative collection development and put it on our eres page. If you find citations to things that you'd like to see, please let me know. I'll be glad to track down articles, etc. and add them to this page.

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