

Strategic Plan 2003-2005

Mission/Vision

The Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) is a cohesive and collaborative organization that provides leadership in the development of solutions that meet the academic information resource needs of its member institutions.

Core Purpose

To collaboratively enrich the information resources and develop the intellectual context for current and future users in our academic communities.

Goals

By means of shared planning, action, and appropriate partnerships COPPUL, through its member libraries will:

- Provide the information infrastructure to support the instructional and research needs of faculty and students, while building an information base that serves as an underpinning of knowledge-based economic development throughout Western Canada.
- Provide equitable access for its clientele to the total information resources of COPPUL.
- Provide effective and efficient access for its clientele to comprehensive resources throughout the world.
- Be in the forefront of efforts to preserve, expand and access both electronic information resources and traditional collections.
- Create an integrated networked and jointly funded virtual library in Western Canada.
- Share equitably the collective resources, both material and personnel, of its member libraries.

Key Areas of Focus

COPPUL will actively seek collaborative opportunities and exercise leadership in the achievement of its overall Mission/Vision and Goals by focussing on the following areas:

1. Leveraging resources and services.
2. Building and enriching information resources.
3. Communication and advocacy.
4. Collaboration with other groups with complementary interests.
5. Facilitating research and innovation.

Strategic Actions

In addition to continuing to pursue and implement current activities, with a focus on database licensing agreements, COPPUL will give priority to the following areas of interest. Items marked * were designated as high priority at the Strategic Planning session held in February 2003.

1. Leveraging Resources and Services

- *Continue to build VWCUL (Virtual Western Canadian University Library).
- Review resource sharing agreements, especially the ILL transaction fee.
- Discuss and decide on strategies for staff development, including involvement, support, training, communication between working groups, secondments and exchanges.
- Develop and expand collaborative virtual reference.
- Develop and share web-based instruction and documentation.

2. Building and Enriching Information Resources

- *Evaluate COPPUL's role in database licensing, including but not limited to CNSLP.
- Strengthen negotiating power with vendors to reap maximum benefits from our collective buying power.
- Represent COPPUL members' interest in CNSLP.
- Coordinate and support local digitization initiatives, especially those with Western Canadian content.
- Explore possibilities for digital preservation projects in the region.

- Facilitate discussion amongst the academic community of scholarly communication issues and new ways of contributing to the information context.

3. Communication and Advocacy

- *Develop and implement a communication and advocacy plan.

4. Collaboration with Other Groups with Complementary Interests

- The Executive Director to explore opportunities to collaborate with other regional groups, e.g. OCUL, CREPQ, CAUL, in areas of licensing, virtual reference, the VWCUL project, information literacy. etc.

5. Facilitating Research and Innovation

- *Assess the impact of the revolution in the digital scholarly environment from the perspective of the possible and desirable roles for a regional library collaborative. Develop a research proposal that could be submitted to, for example, CURA, INE, CIHR, SSHRS, CFI, to investigate this key priority. This could include issues and questions such as:
 - repositories and their roles
 - networked environment
 - inter-operability
 - information literacy
 - content creation / transformation
 - user needs / preferences
 - usability studies
 - contribution to / support of research and learning with the expectation that what is learned will suggest / inform services and products that can be provided by COPPUL libraries.
- *Develop a COPPUL repository of survey instruments and results concerning studies of library users.

September 2003

For more information, contact:

Sandy Slade, Executive Director
coppul@royalroads.ca

Page updated: June 01, 2005