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ATG Special Report -- A Pennsylvania Library Collaborative Celebrates its Past and Plans for its Future

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How to Beat the Serials Crisis
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articles have been copied more than five times in
the past three years.

After comparing the remaining print titles
with the printed copy usage stats, we were left
with just under 2,000 titles for which we had little
or no use. The rest of the usage had been in older
volumes of current electronic journals, in already
cancelled journals, and in our Danish Legal De-
posit journals.

I had now, one way or the other, shifted
trough almost 10,000 titles, and I am happy to
say I did not spend too much time trying or by
heavy involvement of my already overburdened IT
department.

By using Ulrich’s Serials Analysis System
(USAS) — a new analytical tool created by
Bowker to evaluate serials collections — I was
able to load all the different lists into the system
and in less time than it takes to write the
procedure down. I had total compar-
sions between the lists and could subtract and add to my heart’s con-
tent.

My final list of 2,000 “not used”
print journals gave not just title, ISSN,
and usage, but also provided subject
headings, information on whether the journal was available electronically
(E) (another feature in USAS), and
approximate price (also from Ulrich’s).
I quickly sorted out the titles tagged with E — they had to be dealt with by
hand to see if we already had them
online (print with free online, part of
an aggregated package, etc.); or if we
had missed opening for online access
where possible (with print).

The rest of the print journals had
to be evaluated by our subject librarians.

I downloaded the reports for each
subject and forwarded them to their
respective subject specialists. It was
a very difficult process for all; the ac-
tual workload was not insignificant
and agreeing to cancel any subscrip-
tion is a very painful process. One
wanted to look at a list of serials they
have specifically selected for their area of exper-
tise and choose to let go of a number of them.

I did, however, have criteria that would let
them keep a journal even though it had low us-
age. For example, some of the University de-
partments have their own special libraries.
On occasion they drop a subscription when they
know that we have it in the main library. If it was
recently done, that could mean the usage had
been in the departmental copy and thus be a rea-
son to keep the subscription. Another reason
might be if it was a very obscure but high impact
factor title that was not available by inter-library
loan. The subject specialists had a six-week dead-
line for this project. There was a little back and
forth, as you can imagine, but the job was done
on time, and between August 2004 and Decem-
ber 2004 we identified about 300 journals that we
could cancel. This, on top of the titles al-
ready made e-only, helped us to realize approxi-
mately $40,000 USD in savings. We also were
now able to provide a much better service to our
users and give our much burdened check-in staff a little less work.

When the actual cancellations of journals were
done, we started looking at our older holdings,
as the second part of my project was to take a
little pressure off our stacks. We started out with
the titles in JSTOR, as we deemed it the safest
archive of them all. This time I matched the com-
plete JSTOR package against our entire hold-
ings — not just the current. As you can imagine,
these lists were huge and it did take more than a
few minutes to compute the overlap.

I think throwing perfectly good journals out
is painful and extremely worrisome for all in-
volved, so we contacted JSTOR to ask if they
had hard copies of the titles we wanted to
discard. We got a list back with quite a few titles that
they did not have, which we subsequently packed
and shipped to Ann Arbor, discarding the rest.

All these savings meant that we actually had
a little air in our budget and therefore were able to
buy more online journals, journal backfiles,
and databases. It was important to me to investi-
gate how the individual backfile packages com-
pared to our current holdings. Would we cover
weak areas, lighten the load on our photocopy
center? For this I had several tools: as a sub-
scriber to Serials Solutions I used their Overlap
Analysis tool for quick results as well as Ulrich’s
for more precise answers.

I could also have made an Excel macro to
compare the different files and holdings, but since
the large datasets tie up my PC for long periods of
time, I decided not to; also the added benefit of
Ulrich’s subject data cases the decision process.

Our current project is to examine our data-
bases. Do we need new ones? What are they
indexing? Many bibliographic databases have
coverage resembling each other and it can be
rather difficult to see what the actual difference
is, but by loading the coverage for each database
and comparing them, it is quite easy to see not
only which journals they index and where they
overlap, but also to see within which subjects the
strengths and weaknesses are.

ATG Special Report — A Pennsylvania
Library Collaborative Celebrates its Past
and Plans for its Future

A Forty-Year Commitment to People, Service
and Collection Development

by Doug Cook, Steve McKinzie, and the ACLCP 40th Anniversary Planning

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Organizations come and go it seems, more
quickly than we can bookmark them on our Web
browsers. However, one library organization, the
Associated College Libraries of Central Penn-
sylvania (ACLCP), has withstood the test of
time. ACLCP is celebrating its 40th Anni-
versary. It is an organization with both a rich his-
tory and the promise of a robust future — a con-
sortium with a shared vision of service, people and
collection development.

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Although libraries have collaborated at least since the founding of ALA’s “Cooperation Committee” in 1876-1877, the Higher Education Act P.L. 89-329, (signed by President Johnson on November 18, 1965) spurred academic libraries to join together and pursue federal grants through a program of mutually beneficial and successful relationships. The result was a move toward "expansion" and increasing college enrollment made it difficult for small libraries to manage the world's knowledge and serve the diverse needs of a larger student body. The founding librarians had their minds in the library when they began to discuss resource sharing, and those students' information and research requirements have driven the directions taken by ALCPL ever since. The importance of allowing students access to the various subject collections maintained by each institution was the primary cause for ALCPL's initial formation. Originally, most of the private colleges within the consortium limited access to their collections to their own student and faculty and for good reason. Such libraries had no way of obtaining resources from other academic libraries, but under the ALCPL borrowing umbrella, each individual library pledged to back maintain responsibility for its schools' respective student borrowing. The result meant that students could use and check out books widely, enabling them to tap into the rich diversity of consortia's holdings.

In addition to this, librarians and staff within the consortium took additional steps to promote access to those diverse holdings. One of ALCPL's early projects included bibliographies of musical scores, as well as a union list of materials on the India-Pakistan conflict. A common library card and Inter-Library Loan agreements soon followed. Shared purchasing and a combined catalog greatly helped students in their search for information. In fact, some of the students from the early days of ALCPL are still benefiting. Berk Lafer, who was a student at Shippensburg in the 1960s, worked in the Shippensburg Library for Miss Alma Winton, one of the founders of ALCPL. One of Berk's tasks as a student was to prepare the IBM computer cards for the ALCPL Union Serials Directory. Berk is now the Library Director at Shippensburg and a past President of ALCPL.

Another constituent served well by ALCPL is its membership. One of the current most practical benefits of the organization is its commitment to the professional development of all library workers—library managers, faculty, and staff. Unlike many other library associations, paraprofessional support staff can take a leadership role in ALCPL. Typically 150 members gather twice-yearly to listen to speakers, discuss issues, and work on mutual projects. Individual members also have the opportunity to participate in Special Interest Groups, such as Circulation, Reference and other job-related groups.

Tina Maresco, head of InterLibrary Loan at Dickinson College, argues that her Special Interest Group for Document Delivery and InterLibrary Loan has proved invaluable for her professionally, both for the mentoring she has received and the exchange of procedures and best practices. Indeed such groups often foster shad- owing exchanges, programs where individuals visit their colleagues with similar responsibilities in other libraries. Tina describes her experience in the shadowing program (both as a mentor and as a visitor) as "outstanding— one of the greatest benefits of her library's membership benefit." In addition to the importance of Special Interes- es: Groups and various shadowing programs, ALCPL sponsors research and educational grants for faculty and staff. This sense of professional development was something that characterized the organization from the beginning. Peter Young, currently the Director of the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD, was a librarian at Franklin and Marshall College in the early days of ALCPL. He remembers an ALCPL fieldtrip to learn about the first service offerings from OCLC. "Little did we anticipate," he remembers, "the sweeping changes that would result... in the intervening three decades."

Professional Leadership & Collection Development

ALCPL provided an early model of collaboration for libraries. Susan Campbell, Library Director at York College, has been affiliated with ALCPL longer than any other current library director. (Susan joined York College as the library director in 1985.) She insists that ALCPL impressed her from the beginning, and that it has had a long history of benefiting the profession. It provided, as she phrased it, "extraordinary leadership, not only in Pennsylvania but also nationally in providing models for resource sharing through interlibrary loan delivery systems and early serials catalog development." As an example, she points out that ALCPL received a state grant in 1985 to purchase fax machines for each of the consortia's libraries. Such a cooperative approach now seems almost primitive, but the pioneering use of fax technology accelerated interlibrary loan access among the member libraries and made cooperative collection development much more feasible. Campbell also maintains that ALCPL was "among the first consortia to successfully negotiate group discounts. Long before other cooperatives ever existed or considered cooperative purchases, ALCPL used its leverage collectively to purchase several important collections and valuable online resources. The value of such cooperative efforts was never lost on those involved in the process. Peter Young further reflects that his ALCPL experiences, "were formative in providing an understanding of the cooperative nature of library services."

The interlibrary loan delivery service Campbell alludes to is Pennsylvania's InterLibrary Delivery Service (IDS), founded by ALCPL and the Lancaster County Library System, and funded as a pilot program through the Library Services and Construct Act in 1969. This innovative program linked (and continues to link) more than 30 libraries in South Central and Eastern Pennsylvania through a van service that delivers materials to the libraries several times per week. Over the years, IDS expanded across the state and now serves more than 1100 libraries.

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AICPL's (Associated College Libraries of Central Pennsylvania)
40th Anniversary Celebration

Time: October 7, 2005 (9:00 am)
Location: Holiday Inn, Granville, PA
Attendees can also look forward to a historical exhibit and special music to commemorate this special day. AICPL Home Site: http://www.alcpl.org/

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Many of the people involved in ACLCP's beginnings had no idea that they were pioneers in the field. They were merely interested in collaborating to solve shared problems, such as limited resources. Efforts which we take for granted today, such as the ability to send a copy of an article to another library both cheaply and conveniently, were only able to be solved by forward thinking. ACLCP has always been able to focus on the individuals served by the organization. Historically, ACLCP librarians were more concerned about making limited resources stretch as far as they can go to meet patron needs. Berk Laite said that "what surprised everyone the most (including the founders) was that the administration of the founding schools were hesitatingly willing to share their resources with each other - no strings attached."

On the national scene, the emphasis on collaboration turned toward "networking" during the 1970s and 1980s - particularly focusing on the application of computer technology to organize and make accessible the country's vast information resources. ACLCP remained in step with this national trend, contributing records to the Pennsylvania Union List of Serials. It also created a union list of members' holdings on CD-ROM (This catalog or union list quickly migrated to a Web-based product when the newer technology came into vogue), and during the 1990s, produced a directory of databases which were accessible at its libraries. All these efforts were undertaken in light of serving local users' needs, within the context of small academic libraries.

**ACLCP: A Human Factor**

Why do some consortia survive and others die a quick death? Jonathan Lauer, Library Director at Messiah College and past President of ACLCP, believes that ACLCP can attribute its longevity to its focus on people. Lauer says, "ACLCP continues to be an important organization for area libraries because it still builds professional identity and real community in an increasingly atomized, fragmented, and technologically driven world."

Jonathan calls this the "human factor." It was people that brought ACLCP together, and it is people that have kept ACLCP together.

Susan Campbell adds that the real strength of ACLCP is "the interaction of the individuals who represent all levels in the member libraries. It is an extraordinary group of people who come together to share ideas, solve problems, envision the future, and meet all manner of challenges." Organizations such as ACLCP remain strong because of the people involved. They also remain strong because they emphasize the "human factor," placing patrons and members as the highest priority.

**The Present and Future ACLCP:**

Of course, with so much success behind, one wonders about the consortium's plans? Does ACLCP have a bold and innovative vision for its future? Are there possible renewed cooperative collection development projects afoot, or plans to upgrade and improve its cooperative online catalog of joint holdings?

Jonathan Lauer insists that the organization actually has no plans at present to use its leverage to broker any cooperative purchase of online products. "Even though we may have set the standard for such brokerage in the past, we're unlikely to pursue that in the future. Too many larger groups or consortia such as Palnet (OCLC's local affiliate) and PALCI (Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium) are doing that." He added that the same thing was true of the ACLCP union catalog. "We actually abandoned our contract this year for the catalog, and we've no intention of continuing it. OCLC's FirstSearch WorldCat serves our users well enough now, indeed." Lauer muses, "the era of localized online union catalogs may be gone. Such catalogs have to a sense outlived their usefulness. Other cheaper and more powerful products do the work as well."

None of this, however, means that ACLCP itself has backed away from its commitment to technology, traditional collection development and services to its users. "On the contrary," argues Lauer, "a local consortia, especially a great one like ACLCP, may now be more relevant than ever." Lauer claims the reasons for this are obvious. "The ongoing value of such cooperatives is the power of localized professional development and the sharing of best practices."

In Lauer's estimation, a localized network is always more powerful than a national." This is because participants have some hope of getting to know

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short courses not only in information management but also basic software technical skills. These rooms could also be used by teachers for other purposes and during exam and paper writing periods the computers were opened up for general student use, adding to the number of terminals available.

- **Multimedia workstations.** The emphasis seems to be on campus integration, that instead of having disparate facilities on campus doing this sort of thing, a successful Commons bring all the equipment and staff who know how to use them together with everything else happening in the Commons — this is a one-stop shop for integrating multimedia information, technology, hardware, and learning.

- **Consultation stations.** In this case one-on-one reference and technology consultation sessions are integrated within the Commons and not located outside it on another floor or area of the Library. These stations, moreover, are not seen just as the private property of library staff members but can also be used by teachers and TAs as needed — the library is not separate from the rest of the university but an integrated part of it.

- **Writing Lab.** This is clearly a case where non-librarians are integrated within the physical space where students are accessing and manipulating information instead of taking their printout or sending their paper to a writing lab for help.

- **Extended Hours.** The principle of integration here is integrating what can happen in the Commons with the life cycle of students who tend to do their searching and writing in the late afternoon and night, instead of the morning and early afternoon when classes are being held.

- **Lounge.** Students rest, eat, study, and play. The idea for lounges seems to be to integrate opportunities for resting, hanging out with friends, and studying within the Commons. Interestingly, there is no mention of food in the BYU report.

**Wandering the Web**

1980s and is essentially a music and dance culture of events that feature primarily electronic music and extended dancing often to the point of trance. Maligned and suppressed for its tolerance of certain trance inducing drugs, the rave culture nevertheless is evolving into a more mainstream expression.


- [http://www.ravelinks.com/](http://www.ravelinks.com/) — Another extensive site with regional calendars and links to worldwide rave organizations.

**Hip Hop culture**: Beginning in the 1970s in America’s inner cities, the Hip Hop movement began as a dance and music culture ostensibly by and for minority youth. As with all such movements, it has moved into the mainstream and become a billion dollar music, fashion and entertainment business while maintaining its various sub-cultural elements.

- [http://www.110ch.com](http://www.110ch.com) — Extensive links to other hip hop sites on various topics

**Furries**: Let me be your, Teddy Bear?

- [http://www.interactive-websites.com/scripts/fuzzwolf/fuzzwolf.taf](http://www.interactive-websites.com/scripts/fuzzwolf/fuzzwolf.taf) — [http://www.tigress.com/events/furity_eng.html](http://www.tigress.com/events/furity_eng.html) — [http://www.furterconfusion.org/jf2003/](http://www.furterconfusion.org/jf2003/) — I must confess, the Furry subculture, was one I knew nothing about until informed of its existence by a colleague. This culture began around 1985 and is focused on the love for and role-playing surrounding the concept of animals with human characteristics and intelligence. Although not a new concept in film and literature, this cultural expression evolved out of the SciFi and Gaming conventions environment. Some individuals even take the next step and begin to dress in full costumes for their events. The first two sites provide definitions and examples for the initiated and the third site is an example of an anthropomorphic or furry convention. There is even a subculture of the furries called “plushies.”

**A Pennsylvania Library**

one another and one another’s libraries. Not only is the personal comfort level higher and longer lasting, but the application of what is learned is more likely to be apropos.”

Susan Campbell agrees. “ACLP has always been about networking,” she contends, “and that still goes on at almost all levels. It’s a great organization, — probably the best of its kind. I cannot say enough good things about it. It has proved invaluable for librarians and staff here at York College.”

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Endnotes

1. This article was written with the collaboration of the ACLP 40th Anniversary Planning Committee, Associated College Libraries of Central Pennsylvania, including Jonathan Lauer (Chair), Doug Cook, Tom Dusza, Bernadette Lear, Steve McKinzie, Lawrie Merz, Sara Pike, and Ruth Runion-Stear.


In Indian Territory

needed (or if present need be read). What all of these accounts have in common is that they are primary sources, that they document vanished ways of life, and that they were recorded by highly intelligent and skillful writers. They should be allowed to stand on their own merit.

Gene Waddell is College Archivist at the College of Charleston, and he wrote Indians of the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1562-1751 (Southern Studies Program, 1980) and Charleston Architecture, 1670-1860 (Wryick and Co., 2003).

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