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The Shared Bibliographer: TRLN Builds Cooperative South Asia Collection

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Give us the Tools:
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discussing exit strategies with the **CoFoR Management Team** which will aim to continue its work for **REES** while demonstrating the relevance of **CCM** to a broadening constituency of professional and academic interests.

References

Accessible on the project website at <http://www.cocorees.ac.uk>

1. Gregory Walker, *Collection-Level Resource Guidance for Research in Russian and East European Studies*. February 2000.
2. Ron Hogg, *Specialised Listings of Research Material in Russian and East European Studies*. March 2000.
3. Lesley Pitman, Tania Konn, Roman Hobler, Katia Rogatchevskaia, *A Unified Search Interface for Research Resources in Russian and East European Studies*. September 2000.
4. Gregory Walker, *Collaborative Collection Management Initiatives for Russian and East European Studies*. July 2001.
5. *Collaborative Collection Management Project for Russian and East European Studies (COCOREES). Final Report*. December 2002.
6. The texts of the Agreement and the accompanying scheme of commitments will be placed on the project Website as soon as finalised.

Appendix: CURL-CoFoR Partner Libraries

Partners in the earlier RSLP COCOREES project are marked with an asterisk.

Birmingham University Library*
 Bodleian Library, University of Oxford*
 Bradford University Library
 Bristol University Library
 British Library*
 Brotherton Library, University of Leeds*
 Cambridge University Library*
 Durham University Library
 Edinburgh University Library
 Essex University Library*
 Glasgow University Library*
 Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)*
 John Rylands University Library of Manchester
 National Library of Scotland*
 Nottingham University Library*
 The Polish Library, London*
 Royal Institute of International Affairs
 School of Slavonic & East European Studies Library (University College London)*
 Scott Polar Research Institute Library, University of Cambridge
 Taylor Institution Library, University of Oxford

Associated Institutions

Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford
 Society for Cooperation in Russian and Soviet Studies, London

The Shared Bibliographer: TRLN Builds Cooperative South Asia Collection

by **Kim Armstrong** (Program Officer, Triangle Research Libraries Network, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890) <kim_armstrong@unc.edu>

Summary

The **Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN)** consortium appointed a shared bibliographer for South Asia collections in Fall 2001. The appointment was the result of a faculty/library partnership in which the libraries received a portion of a **U. S. Department of Education Title VI** grant to the **Triangle South Asia Consortium**. Monies from the grant provide partial support for the shared bibliographer and for collection purchases and processing. The libraries in the consortium lie within a 35-mile radius of each other in central North Carolina, so the bibliographer has a real presence and impact on the campuses served as well as the opportunity to build a single, shared collection for faculty teaching and research across the four campuses.

The Participants

TRLN is a collaborative organization of the libraries of **Duke University**, **North Carolina Central University (NCCU)**, **North Carolina State University (NCSSU)**, and the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC)**. The consortium offices are based on the UNC cam-

pus. For most of the consortium's history, the cooperative programs have consisted of coordinated collection development and resource sharing. (www.trln.org). Cooperation dates back to the 1930s and current selected areas of cooperative print collections include agreements for Africa, East Asia, Russia & Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

The **North Carolina Center for South Asian Studies** is an arm of the **Triangle South Asia Consortium (TSAC)**. The consortium is an educational cooperative of the same four universities that TRLN serves. Dues for the operation of the Center are paid by the member universities. TSAC's history dates to 1987 and its primary participants are the 32 core and 21 allied faculty whose research and teaching areas are related to South Asia. (<http://www.ncsu.edu/tsac/index.html>)

Getting the Ball Rolling

Faculty from the **NC Center for South Asian Studies** met with the University Librarians in 1998 to discuss their grant application for a **Title VI Undergraduate National Resource Center** and also an accompanying

FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) request. The faculty wanted to propose a new model for building South Asian collections in the **Triangle** and to build support for the new model into their grant. The grant, if awarded, would provide monies over three years directly to the libraries. The faculty envisioned a unified, consortial collection development policy for South Asia and a shared South Asia bibliographer.

The proposal to the University Librarians also delineated how collections might be built to maximize the complementarity of collections in vernacular materials that support teaching and research at the four universities. Each university would build a basic collection for beginning and intermediate language instruction and the more specialized vernacular collecting would be distributed to each university in a division by language. **Duke** would collect Bengali

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and Persian/Farsi; UNC would collect Tamil; North Carolina Central University would collect English and European language material; and Duke, NCSU and UNC would share collecting for Hindi and Urdu. This model would exploit the advantages of the longstanding cooperation at the Triangle universities within the libraries. It also demonstrated cooperation among the faculties to secure the strongest collection to support their work.

The university libraries enthusiastically agreed to support the proposal as presented. The libraries had been cooperating informally in South Asian studies for some time, but this funding would provide additional resources for the collections as well as the opportunity to experiment with a new staffing model in the consortium. That the faculty had envisioned and crafted this model for the libraries was a departure from the traditional approach to the development of distributed collection building among universities. The faculties saw a complementary, distributed collection as an advantage even though researchers would not have their primary research materials on their local campus. **TRLN** does offer the advantage of an expedited delivery system so most materials requested within the Triangle are delivered to the requestor within 48 hours.

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few years. Let's take a look at **ALA** in Orlando, Booth no.711. www.openrfp.com

Knovel Corporation have announced that they have been named as one of the **Red Herring 100 Award** winners. Red Herring 100 companies are the top private companies selected by the media group's editorial team as those that have demonstrated outstanding achievements since their inception and represent the most instrumental players in the technology market. Red Herring publisher **Alex Vieux** said the Red Herring 100 award has a tradition of identifying new and innovative technology companies and entrepreneurs. **Red Herring, Inc.**, founded in 1993, is a media company whose mission is to cover innovation, technology, financing and entrepreneurial activity. Their staff of award-winning journalists tell readers what's first, what matters and most importantly, why. **Knovel** is a pioneer in the field of infoware, the blending of information and analytical software, for the Science and Engineering communities. Since 1999, **Knovel** has been building a virtual library of the most important industry reference books and handbooks for technical researchers on a Web-based platform and enhancing it with interactive capabilities. Software tools applied to **Knovel's** content include interactive tables, keyword and fielded searches, live graphs and equations.

press.knovel.com/c.html?rtr=on&s=a89,6jmt,hzp,d44h,kgrz,9v6d,dmi7

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The state of cooperative collection building at the time of the grant proposal was a loose arrangement with **Duke University** by far holding the strongest South Asia collection. **Duke** was a founding member of the **Center for Research Libraries South Asia Microform Project (SAMP)** and joined the **PL 480** program in 1961. UNC began collecting on South Asia in the 1980s, principally in religion, history, and literature. **NCSU** also purchased material in religion, history, anthropology, and literature, and initiated vernacular acquisitions during the 1980s. The approximate size of each vernacular collection for South Asia varies: **Duke**, 219,748; **UNC**, 14,614; **NCSU**, 15,806; **NCCU**, 270.

The Money Arrives

The three-year grant was awarded in 2000. The grant requested \$35,000 per year for the libraries to acquire and process South Asia collections. Salary money for the shared bibliographer was used in the first year to hire a consultant, who evaluated the shared collections in the Triangle and advised on a job description for the bibliographer. At that same time, **UNC** and **NCSU** joined the **Library of Congress Overseas Program** for South Asia. The libraries worked to coordinate their profiles with **Duke**, already a participant.

A job description was prepared for the **TRLN** South Asia Librarian that detailed the duties of the position. The person holding the position would have responsibilities in collection development, public services, technical services, and external relations. In order to continue to develop the relationship with the faculty who initiated the grant, the **TRLN** South Asia Librarian will serve as a voting member of the **Triangle South Asia Consortium Executive Committee**.

The job description did not detail how the new **TRLN** librarian would be integrated into each university library. Instead the description contained the expectation that the librarian would "develop a unified collection development policy," "develop standards for the core reference collections," "determine appropriate levels of funding for South Asia collection development" and "recommend specific books, periodicals, non-print media, and electronic databases for acquisition." Each item stipulated that these duties would be performed in consultation with each **TRLN** library's own librarians.

The TRLN South Asia Librarian is Hired

In October 2001, the **Duke** subject librarian for South Asia, **Avinash Maheshwary**, assumed the new position of **TRLN** South Asia Librarian. **Avinash's** years of experience in the Triangle and knowledge of the faculties would jumpstart the new, innovative position. To support **Avinash's** role and to carry out some **Duke**-specific responsibilities, a two-year **TRLN South Asian Studies Library Fellow** position was created. The university libraries intended to divide costs for **Avinash's** **TRLN** position; the Fellow position was funded partly by **Title VI** money and partly by **Duke's** library. The Fellow is currently funded through September 2004.

The successful Latin American Post-Doctoral fellowship program at the **Duke** libraries funded by the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** served as the model for the **South Asia Fellow**

position, which would work closely with the South Asia Librarian and other librarians in **TRLN**, "in a cumulative experience to gain hands-on knowledge of collection development, cataloging, and public services work." Applicants were required to have either graduate degrees in South Asian Studies and librarianship, or a Ph.D. in South Asian Studies with experience in libraries.

The job description for the **Fellow** position emphasizes surveying the collection for strengths, weaknesses, and complementarity. Additionally, the **Fellow** assists in identifying materials for weeding and transfer offsite. Because this is a new model for **TRLN** and for the South Asia teaching and research community, the **Fellow** creates and maintains a strong Web presence for South Asia on the libraries' Websites. **Brent Bianchi** serves as the **TRLN South Asian Studies Library Fellow**.

Issues

The program is considered to be successful, although challenges remain to be resolved.

A new **Title VI** grant was awarded to the **NC Center for South Asian Studies** in 2002, and includes additional monies for collections. The understanding from the start was that the **TRLN** libraries would absorb the costs of the shared librarian and develop a sustainable funding model.

The **Committee on Information Resources (CIR)** of **TRLN** oversees cooperative collections programs. **CIR** will continue to monitor the vernacular collection development arrangement from the perspective of both the library and the users.

Each library has assimilated the **TRLN** librarian into the organization a little differently. The **TRLN** librarian is based at **Duke University**, but divides his time physically, with office hours and appointments at each campus. There are disparities in the way each campus has granted budget and purchase authority to the **TRLN** librarian for grant and non-grant funds to build South Asia collections. Further, the full integration of the **TRLN** librarian as a staff member in collection development has not been fully achieved on every campus. These disparities may remain, even in a healthy and successful program.

Wrap-up

This successful model for sharing a bibliographer among research institutions/libraries grew out of an environment that was ripe for this experimentation. The libraries already had a long history of area studies cooperation and collection building. The faculties from the four institutions that work/teach/research in South Asia were already meeting and were willing to conceive of the four library collections as a single entity. The faculty envisioned that investing a single librarian with the responsibility for building "one South Asia collection" in **TRLN** would result in the creation of a stronger, more coherent collection that would benefit teaching and research. In addition, duplication could be avoided, and resources used more effectively. The libraries received new monies from the grant, although not the total cost of the program, for this experiment. As this new shared librarian model matures, **TRLN** can consider whether there are other areas that could benefit from such collaboration.

[<http://www.against-the-grain.com>](http://www.against-the-grain.com)