

A Proposal for the Collections Enhancement Award Program

Background on Collections Awards Program:

Collection grants have been a part of the cooperative collection management program since its inception in 1986. They were originally intended to provide an incentive to participate in the two core elements of ICCMP, namely the systematic and routine evaluation of collection coverage and strength among all Illinois academic libraries and the evolution of meaningful agreements among individual libraries to collaboratively build and shape broad and deep collections in all disciplines. ICCMP was seen as a logical extension of the principles of resource sharing articulated when the state began supporting ILCSO.

It was hoped that the value of the overall program would foster funding to individual institutions to support cooperative collection building. The rigorous analysis of collections proved to be both difficult and time consuming and was not adopted as a universal necessity. Similarly, few formal, inter-institutional collection building agreements were established. However, with the growth of integrated library systems and other resource discovery tools, the desirability of knowing how others are building resources and the concept that collective strength is beneficial have been incorporated into the collection management practice of many Illinois academic libraries.

When CARLI was formed, funding for the Collections Enhancement Awards Program was transferred from Northern Illinois University to the University of Illinois. At that time, the CARLI Board of Directors increased the overall funding for the program by \$80,000 to a total of \$250,000. In May, 2008 the Board appointed a task force to reconfigure and strengthen the Awards Program. The task force report, accepted in July, 2007, recommended that \$100,000 annually be directed to a program of digitization through partnership with the Open Content Alliance. In addition, it was recommended that funding be allocated to enhancing bibliographic access to existing collections and/or analyzing the depth and breadth of library resources statewide. The remainder of funding would be directed to an annual program of acquisition, based on a clearly articulated theme.

Current status:

A fairly consistent group of member libraries submits annual proposals under the award program. An effort has been made to create focus for the program and more rigorous reporting and accountability. However, the original goals of routine and comprehensive collection analysis and formal cooperative collecting agreements have been largely forsaken. Advances in technology have shifted the part of the focus of collaborative collection building toward digitization efforts, with the results being more easily and widely accessible. One round of

awards has been made under the 2007 program reconfiguration, with a second in progress. Further review of the awards program process, funding levels and focus is warranted.

Proposal

Given:

- The funding reductions that CARLI faces in FY 2010,
- The uncertainty of funding sufficiency in subsequent budget cycles,
- Insufficient data upon which to evaluate the effectiveness of the Collections Enhancement Awards Program, and
- The desire to consider the Collections Enhancement Awards Program's alignment with CARLI's strategic objectives.

It is recommended that:

- Collections Enhancement Awards Program –Collaborative Digitization / Collection Partnerships (awards to buy materials)
 - The Board of Directors reduces the amount of funding to be awarded for FY 2010 by \$80,000. (This is the amount of additional money that CARLI added to the program in 2006.) The remaining \$70,000 would be shared by the Collection Enhancement Awards and the Access and Analysis Awards.
- Access and Analysis Award Program
 - Program continued at its current level of funding for FY 2011. (max \$70,000).
 - Analysis awards should be limited to projects that benefit more than one library.
 - Analysis awards include a requirement that a CARLI staff liaison will be assigned to each project.
- OCA Book Digitization Initiative
 - Program should continue at its current level of funding for FY 2011. (\$100,000)
 - The OCA Book Digitization Initiative transition from an annual proposal/review/award model to a continuous or more frequent, criteria-based, submission model.
- Task Force
 - Two Board members, two staff members and two librarians be assigned to do a thorough review and analysis of the Collections Enhancement Awards Program, with a final recommendation on the continuation and/or reconfiguration of the Program submitted to the CARLI Board of Directors by the December 2010 Board meeting.

Program Element	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Collection Enhancement	Portion of annual total of \$70,000	Portion of annual total of \$70,000	Task Force recommendation
Access and Analysis	Portion of annual total of \$70,000	Portion of annual total of \$70,000	Task Force recommendation
Digitization	\$100,000	\$100,000	Task Force recommendation