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Collections Working Group Minutes for April 9, 2010

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois

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Collections Working Group Minutes

9 April 2010

CARLI Office (Champaign)

Members attending: Marlene Slough – Eastern Illinois University (chair) ; John Dorr – Illinois Institute of Technology ; Jerry Anderson (via phone) – Joliet Junior College ; Chad Buckley – Illinois State University ; Luann DeGreve – Benedictine University ; Frances Drone-Silvers - Parkland College ; Mary Konkel – College of DuPage ; Jim Millhorn – Northern Illinois University ; Lydia Morrow-Ruetten – Governors State University ; Heather Parisi – Dominican University ; Lynn Wiley – University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Staff attending: Elizabeth Clarage ; Connie Walsh

Marlene called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00. There were a number of announcements following an introduction focused on CWG member's favorite off-hour web sites.

Announcements:

Elizabeth reported that at the most recent CARLI Board meeting Susan Singleton announced that the CARLI staff were developing three different budget scenarios for the forthcoming year. The least damaging scenario envisages a 10% cut, whereas scenarios for a 20% and possibly 25% cut are also being developed. Perhaps outside Benedictine there was general lamentation that the 2011 budget cycle looks dire. There is general agreement that travel expenses will be slashed and that there will be more demand for webinars and the like.

Elizabeth also updated the group on the last copy project. So far 2100 items have been submitted. All but a handful of monograph titles—seven in all—were accepted. The majority by UIUC. The offending titles were all aged computer books and manuals. Elizabeth suggested that a disclaimer be added to the last copy project to the effect that certain items could be legitimately discarded if it was determined that they no longer had any educative or archival value. The group agreed to the disclaimer.

Lynn reported on the progress of the purchase on demand pilot project. She indicated it was a rousing success. There were around 800 requests and 200 books purchased with an average delivery time of three days. There is still more work to do on evaluating the program, but Lynn is confident that purchase on demand will expand in the future.

Forthcoming CARLI programs were announced:

April 9 – Public Services Working Group Regional Open House—SIU Carbondale

April 28 – Digital and Electronic Copyright Issues—I Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign

May 14 – Connecting Libraries and Users: Anthropologists Helping Librarians Meet 21st Century Challenges—DePaul University, Lincoln Park Campus

May 21 - Connecting Libraries and Users: Anthropologists Helping Librarians Meet 21st Century Challenges—Illinois Wesleyan (It was pointed out that there was enthusiastic demand to attend this program.)

May 24 – Webinar on preservation of audiovisual materials.

At the conclusion of the announcements the minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

Awards Program Review Update

The CWG members that are on the CARLI Collections Enhancement Awards Program Evaluation Task Force reported that the CARLI Board responded to its interim report with the desire for the group to refocus the discussion of collections away from awards toward imaging what CARLI libraries could or should do to enhance the idea of a shared state-wide collection. This changed focus lends itself to a new group with a new charge. The current Task Force will submit a report to the CARLI Board to fulfill its current charge. A new group with a charge to be developed on how to enhance cooperative collection development on a statewide basis will be created.

The CWG discussed the change in focus and how this group fits into this discussion and extending the discussion to others in the state. These central issues led to a lengthy dialog that would be revisited throughout the course of the meeting.

Book Digitization Initiative

Elizabeth delivered a handout that showed the ranking of each of the proposals received since December 2009. She also indicated that the Internet Archive is cranking through our materials at a rate of 200 volumes a month. There is some concern about the few number of proposals received this year and spending the funds allocated for this program. However, this did allow the group to accept a proposal for 1200+ volumes. Lynn suggested that the digitization project be expanded to include materials such as local newspapers. John followed-up by suggesting the digitization of student newspapers. The group also applauded the initiation of the Digitized Book of the Month posting on the CARLI blog. The group determined that expanding this information to both the CARLI Facebook page and in the CARLI twitter feed would be desirable.

Training Programs

There was a brief discussion of the Spring into Assessment program. Comments from participants were generously favorable. In particular there were high marks for Lucy Lyons keynote address. The question is how to follow-up? John and Mary volunteered that they would be willing to experiment with webinars on their presentations. Elizabeth indicated that a change is in the works for the webinar software. Going forward webinars may be recorded and could be posted at the Clearinghouse. We also approved of the notion that subsequent program evaluations will be handled online. In this manner collation of the questionnaires can be machine generated. One aspect of the evaluation that needs to be brought to the fore is to encourage participants to articulate what they learned and took away from the program, and what they might consider implementing at their home institution. Frances also reminded us that there would be a program devoted to Streaming Video at Parkland College on July 22.

Future Directions for CWG

This was a very diffuse discussion that touched upon a broad array of topics. To my mind there were two overarching related themes. First, how are CWG policy recommendations vetted throughout the CARLI network. The second theme—best summed up by Frances—is what can CWG do to overcome obstacles—circulation policies, material formats, embargoes—so as to enhance I-Share as an individual institutional and

collective enterprise. CWG should gear itself toward concrete proposals so as to achieve the latter end. The Group decided to continue this discussion at its next meeting.

Collections Resources Clearinghouse

We revisited the notion of the topical categories and shuffled a number of things around. For instance, it was decided to collapse Evaluation into Assessment, etc. Marlene is keen to pick up the pace on populating the Clearinghouse. To that end Elizabeth is going to forward an occasional friendly reminder for each of us to do our part in making recommendations.

Meeting dates and Deadlines:

May 21, 2010 – CARLI Office (Champaign)

June 16, 2010 – Deadline to score book digitization proposals

June 22, 2010 – Conference call to discuss book digitization proposals

The meeting adjourned at almost precisely 3:00 p.m.