
*2017–2018 CARLI Collection Management Committee Annual Project:
Collaborative Collection Development Continued and Expanded*

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Introduction and Background

The Collection Management Committee continued various projects that began in FY16 (education and one-time purchase collaborations) and FY17 (consortial purchase of eBooks restarted). The committee also started a new project to collaborate on open access eBook selection and cataloging for I-Share. All of the projects have the goal of enhancing the statewide collection of books. In working through various projects, the committee tried to further delineate best practices that began to emerge last year.

Collaboration projects were started in FY16 in response to declining book budgets, declining I-Share borrowing, and the perceptions that libraries were buying fewer unique items for a variety of reasons and/or buying more eBooks that could not be shared among consortium members. The overarching goal of the committee's work was to increase the number of unique print books and eBooks that could be shared with all members, as well as to tap into the growing number of open access eBooks that are available but need to be found and cataloged.

The committee's annual projects for FY16 and FY17 contain extensive documentation on the state of book buying and a review of literature on collaboration. Rather than repeat this supporting documentation, we offer links to the reports:

https://www.carli.illinois.edu/sites/files/files/2016CollectionsMgmtCommCollaborative_Collections.pdf
and https://www.carli.illinois.edu/sites/files/files/CMC_2017Project.pdf.

Continuing Projects

Education

The education collaborative collection development project focuses on purchasing print K-12 textbooks being used in Illinois school districts around the state. In 2017, 6 institutions participated in this initiative, purchasing an estimated \$10,389 worth of materials. This year, 2018, 5 institutions participated by purchasing an estimated \$10,779 worth of materials. Despite lower participation, there was a moderate increase in financial commitment to the project.

K-12 textbooks are unique in that they can often be prohibitively expensive to purchase and challenging to share. For example, a set purchased in 2018 titled "Being a Reader" was estimated at \$5000. These materials also have many parts, including teacher resources and student manuals that often need to be used together. The costs, however, make these materials desirable for consortial sharing.

The title list for selection was gathered by reaching out to over 20 different school districts across the state with emphasis on districts near I-Share institutions with teacher education programs. The response rate was low, but some school districts identified their materials on websites. As districts generally adopt textbooks and curricula for a number of years, it does not seem worthwhile to reach out to the same districts in the next year as these titles will likely be the same. Rather, continuing efforts will focus on promoting the purchased materials to all CARLI member libraries, as the circulation statistics seen below are modest. Also, an effort will be made to get purchase commitments for those items not yet purchased. The list of title identified along with the purchasing CARLI members can be found here: [CARLI K-12 Textbooks](#).

Staff at the CARLI Office verified the item types assigned to these collections are ones that are generally requestable by students in I-Share libraries. Most items are assigned the “UBreg” item type, indicating that they are requestable, although some follow up was needed to ensure that collaborating libraries were using the correct code.

Circulation Statistics

Year	Circulated	Browse
2017	4	8
2018	1*	

*note: most 2018 items have not been processed yet

One Time Purchases

A goal of CARLI’s Collection Management Committee (CMC) is to pursue ways in which CARLI members can work together to enhance the statewide collection. Due to budget issues, the committee members suspected that member libraries had not been able to purchase all the print books they would have liked. As a result, CMC began the one time purchase project during FY17 and continued it during FY18. During both years, CARLI librarians were invited to purchase titles unique to the I-Share catalog and record the purchases on a Google Drive spreadsheet.

Announcements and requests for participation were sent out in CARLI newsletters and it was announced at the CARLI Annual Meeting.

The one time purchase project’s goal was to have every CARLI library purchase two or more unique print titles which are not owned by I-Share Libraries at least six months after their publication date. The committee believed that after six months most titles that would have been purchased and would have been added to OCLC and I-Share.

Some CARLI libraries expressed concern that this project would encourage the purchase of titles of low or limited value. This was not the committee’s intention. The committee felt strongly that if every CARLI member could purchase a few titles not held in our consortium, our joint collection will be richer.

During FY17, 11 different CARLI librarians purchased 164 titles for the project. As of March 2018, 77 of the titles remain unique in the I-Share catalog.

Usage Statistics for 77 Remaining Unique Titles

Charges	Browses
17	69

During FY18, 6 different CARLI librarians purchased 25 titles for the project. As of May 2018, 24 remain unique in the I-Share catalog. Usage statistics are not yet available for these titles.

Titles purchased for the project can be found at the following links:

- [FY17 One-Time Purchases](#)
- [FY18 One-Time Purchases](#)

Due to the large drop-off in participation during FY18, the CMC has decided to discontinue the formal one time/unique purchase project. However, the committee still sees significant value in encouraging CARLI members to continue to seek unique purchases. The CMC encourages selectors to remain cognizant of the larger CARLI collection when making selection choices and actively seek unique titles to add to their local collections.

Consortial eBook Purchases

This project asked CARLI member libraries to purchase two eBooks at price that included a multiplier negotiated by CARLI. By paying the multiplier, the books were available to all CARLI members. During this past fiscal year, 39 CARLI members purchased 105 eBooks on behalf of the consortium.

The project was announced to the membership in January 2018. There were two additional messages included in the CARLI newsletter and sent to email lists with final messages sent one month and ten days prior to the end of the project. Purchases in the last month/ten days warrant this approach again if the project is continued in the future.

The Collection Management Committee reviewed the project procedures that were used during the previous year, 2016-2017. Due to the high number of eBooks that members wanted to purchase but ultimately were not available for consortial purchase, the Committee redesigned the participation process for 2017-2018.

CARLI staff reached out to our eBook vendor and requested a list of titles published after 2014 that were available for consortial purchase. This title list was then compared to I-Share and divided into:

- No Copies in I-Share (~3,100 titles)
- No Print Copies in I-Share (~4,300 titles) (there was some concern about the accuracy of this metric so it will be double checked if the project is repeated)
- Complete list of titles available with I-Share inventory counts (~16,500)

A [spreadsheet](#) was then shared with members for selection purposes. Of the 112 titles that members wished to purchase, 7 were not purchased (6% not purchased). Reasons for not purchasing:

1 title: another library had already purchased

1 title: price increase

2 titles: titles were requested prior to the new process was in place and the titles were not available for purchase

3 titles: library declined to purchase due to book format (workbook or juvenile material)

This contrasts with the statistics from the previous year, when 27 CARLI members identified 89 titles to purchase, of which only 29 were completed purchases (67% not purchased). The main reason that titles were not purchased then was that they were not available for consortial purchase.

Consortial eBook Usage from date of Purchase through 5/30/2018:

	2016 - 2017 Purchased Titles (Purchased 2017: 1/1 - 6/30)	2017-2018 Purchased Titles (Purchased 7/1/17 - 5/24/2018)
Number of Titles	29	105
Number of Browsers	270	165
Number of Loans	326	192
Money Spent	\$7,776.80	\$23,198.80

All titles purchased in the preceding year have had use. For the titles purchased this year, 39 did not yet have use; however, 53 of the 105 titles were purchased in April and May.

Open Access eBook Project - Phase One

The open access eBook project evolved from conversations that were initially held about collaboration in literature, as CARLI members had concerns that they were not finding and using all open access literature books available. The Collection Management Committee expanded the focus to open access eBooks in all subject areas.

In the February CARLI News, the Collection Management Committee sent out an Open Access eBooks Survey. It stated:

“The CMC is exploring the availability of Open Access eBooks and their corresponding cataloging records. In this context, Open Access eBooks refers to academic monographs that are made freely available for use and distribution online.

What Open Access eBooks would member libraries like to see available to all libraries using I-Share and eventually through OCLC Collection Manager to all CARLI members?

Even if your institution does not currently select or add Open Access eBooks to your local catalog, all CARLI members are encouraged to complete the survey ... so there is an accurate representation of the entire consortium.

Thank you for completing this survey to help us understand current practices and interest in this topic within the CARLI membership.”

The survey results were as follows:

Number of responses: 77

Number of institutions that responded: 62

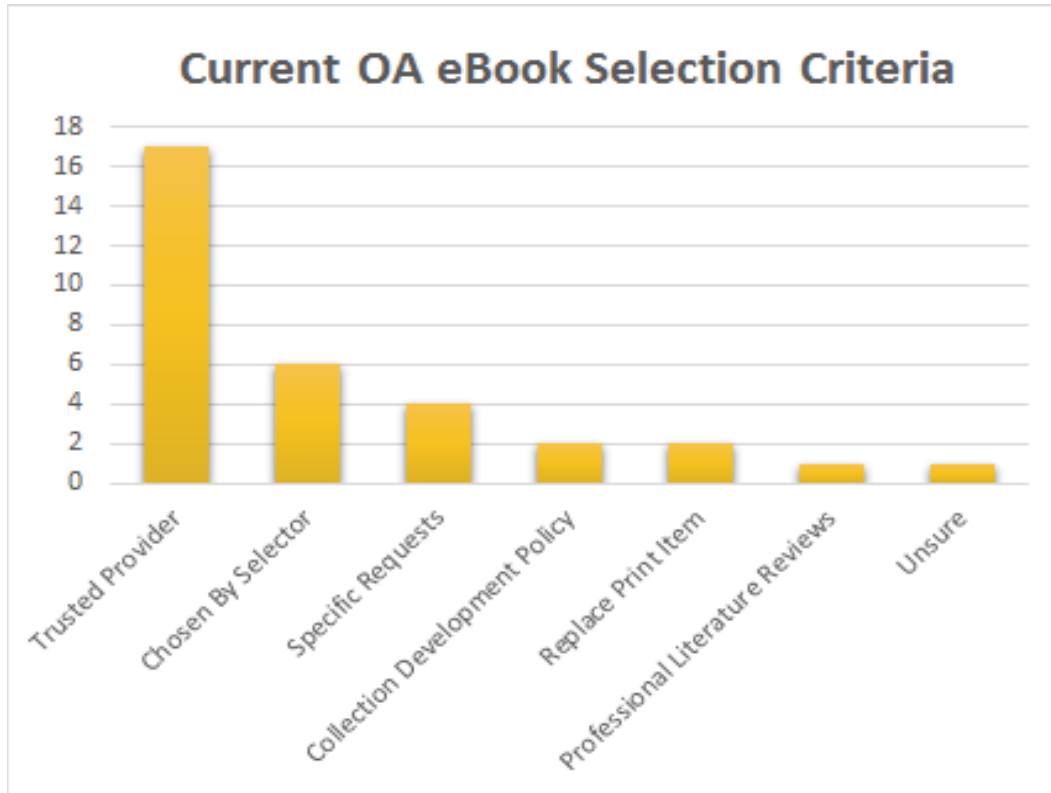
The questions from the survey are in italics and we share them and the answers.

Has your library added any Open Access eBook titles to your catalog?

Yes: 35

No: 42

How did you choose which Open Access eBooks to add to your catalog?



Current Selection Criteria for Open Access eBooks	Responses
Trusted Provider	17
Chosen By Selector	6
Specific Requests	4
Collection Development Policy	2
Replace Print Item	2
Professional Literature Reviews	1
Unsure	1

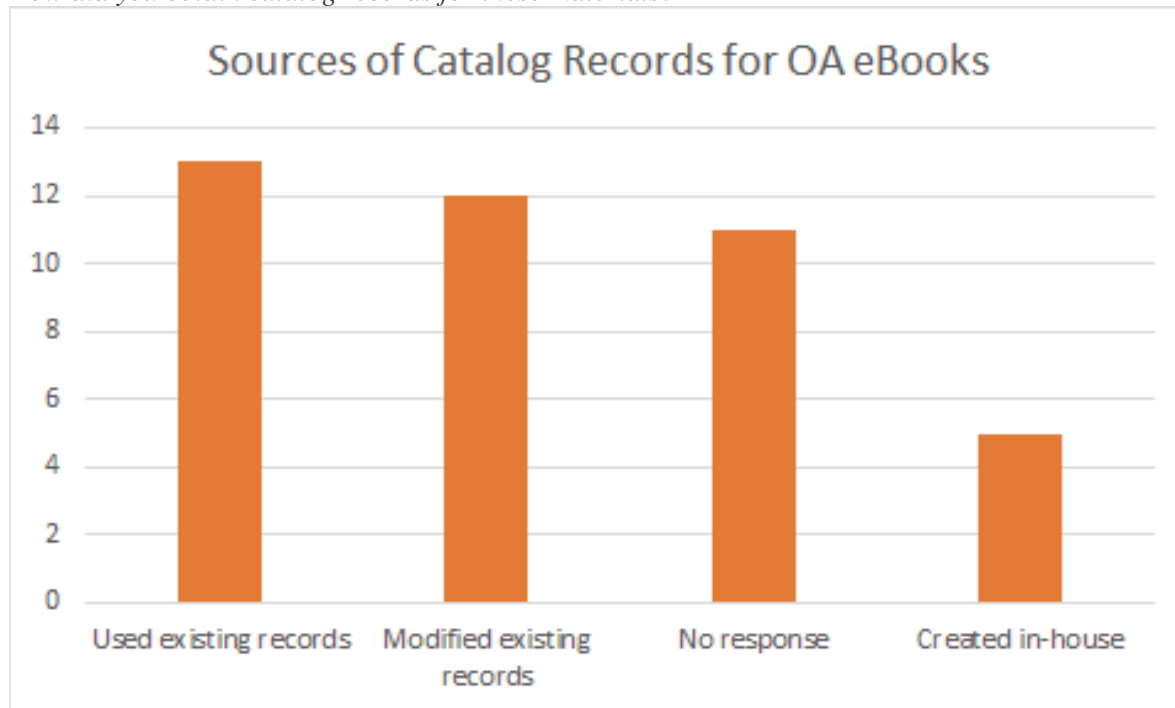
Did you add single Open Access eBook titles or a collection(s)?

Both: 11

Collections: 8

Single titles: 11

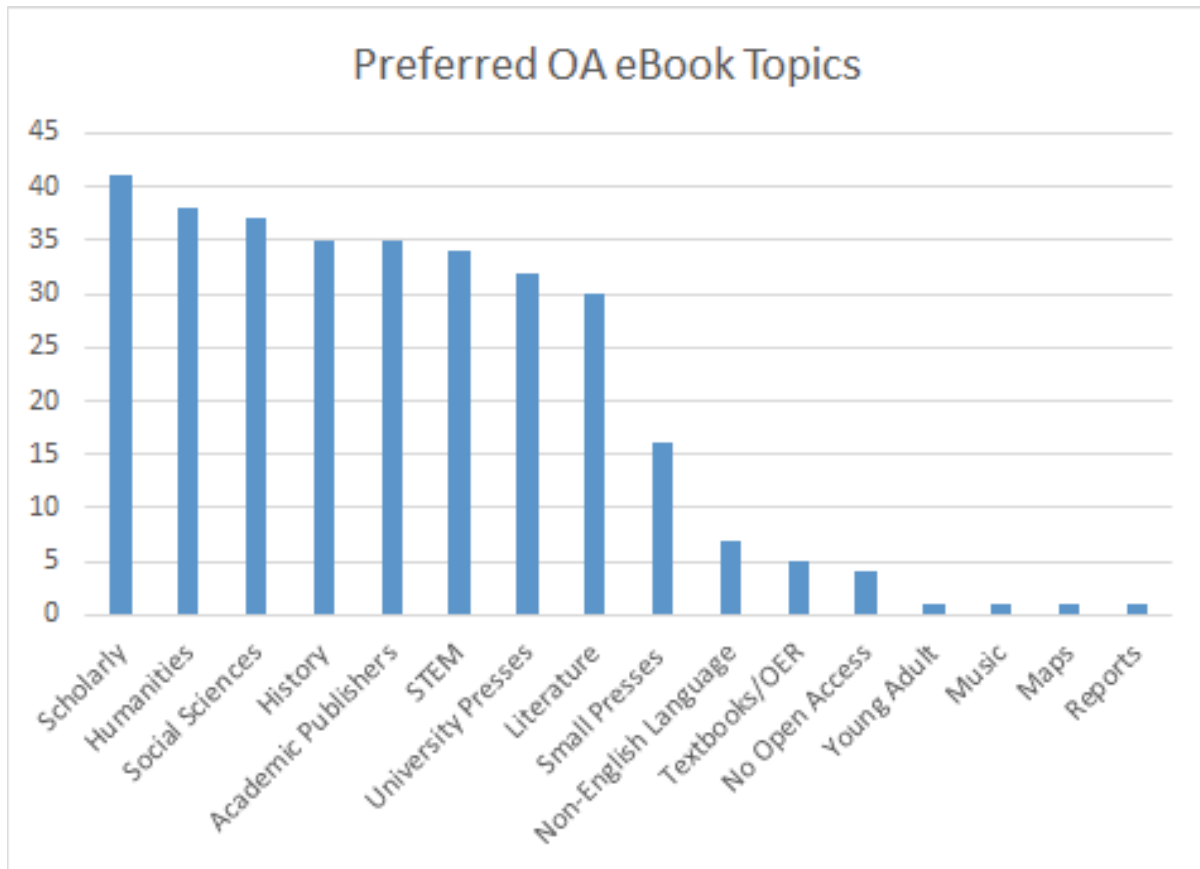
How did you obtain catalog records for these materials?



Sources of Catalog Records Open Access eBooks	Responses
Used existing records	13
Modified existing records	12
No response	11
Created in-house	5

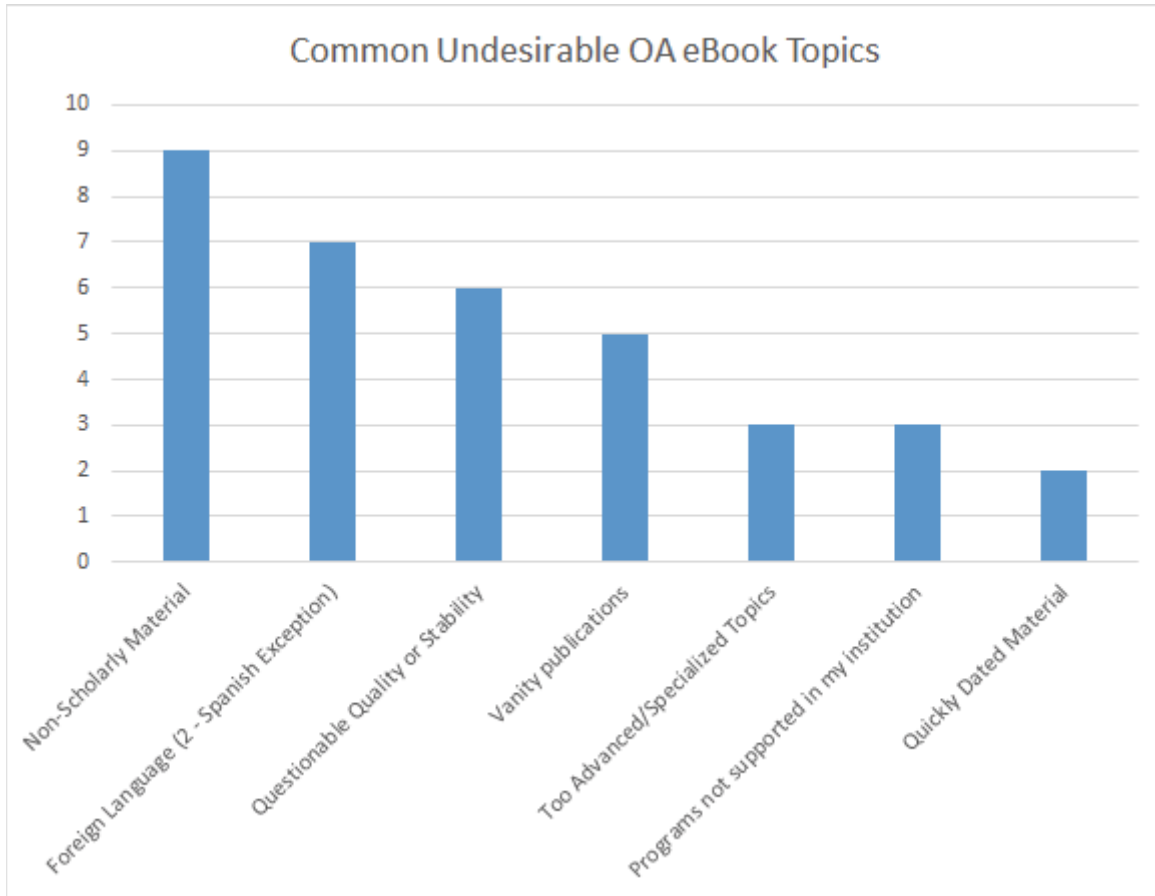
Additional Information on Cataloging	Responses
Obtained records from OCLC	9
Obtained records from Serial Solutions	3
Records need some improvement (ex. Add TOC)	2
Don't catalog, but make discoverable through a different system	2
Modified print records to include link to OA online version	1

What type of Open Access eBooks would you like to provide access to through your catalog?



Preferred Open Access eBook Topics	Responses
Scholarly	41
Humanities	38
Social Sciences	37
History	35
Academic Publishers	35
STEM	34
University Presses	32
Literature	30
Small Presses	16
Non-English Language	7
Textbooks/OER	5
No Open Access	4
Young Adult	1
Music	1
Maps	1
Reports	1

What types of Open Access eBooks would you not want added to the catalog?



Common Undesirable Open Access eBook Topics	Responses
Non-Scholarly Material	9
Foreign Language (2 - Spanish Exception)	7
Questionable Quality or Stability	6
Vanity publications	5
Too Advanced/Specialized Topics	3
Programs not supported in my institution	3
Quickly Dated Material	2

Any other comments?

- There is a need for a centralized system for evaluating, selecting, and cataloging OA eBooks (3 responses).
- Staff limitations have prevented libraries from cataloging OA eBooks (2 responses).
- OA eBook collections tend to be too specialized (2 responses).
- Interest shown for open textbooks (2 responses).

- Interest shown for other OA content in addition to eBooks (2 responses).
- There is a need for advanced search filters to aid discovery.
- Users are interested in eBooks that have no DRM limitations on use.
- There is a preference for a small, highly curated collection.
- There is a preference for adding OA eBooks to the discovery layer rather than the local catalog.

Are you interested in contributing to a collaborative project on Open Access eBooks?

Yes: 38

No: 22

No response: 19

In response to the survey, the committee developed guidelines for a possible Open Access eBook Collection Pilot Project in 2019. The goal of this project is to test procedures for adding records for scholarly and stable Open Access eBooks to the I-Share catalog. The steps laid out in these guidelines will enable CARLI to create a central repository of Open Access eBook records, managed and maintained by CARLI staff and committees.

This is a pilot phase focusing on open access eBooks that have records available in OCLC Worldshare Collection Manager Knowledge Base. Following a pilot phase, this policy may be updated to include a broader range of open access materials. In future years the CMC should look for ways to encourage member libraries to suggest materials to be added to OA collection, including materials that require original cataloging.

The Committee will review OA collections in [OCLC WorldShare Collection Manager Knowledge Base](#) to identify potential collections.

The committee and other volunteers will select materials based on the following criteria:

- The collection/provider is listed in a recognized directory of Open Access content, such as the Directory of Open Access Books.
- Materials are peer-reviewed or appropriately scholarly.
- Materials are released under an Open Access License.
- Materials have a stable URL.
- Materials are archived in a secure digital repository.
- There are no significant limitations to the readability or navigability of materials.

Desirable Materials:

- English language
- Academic or University publishers
- Content appropriate for a broad academic audience
- Content that will not become dated
- Current academic monographs (as opposed to digitized historical collections)

Undesirable Materials:

- Non-English language material (with potential exceptions for Spanish language material)
- Books that are self-published
- Books that are highly specialized
- Material available in another collection that is widely available to CARLI members
- Digitized historical collections

CARLI Staff will be responsible for adding and updating records in I-SHARE. The collection should be updated twice a year based on committee recommendations communicated to CARLI. For cataloging in I-Share, the following is proposed:

- **Collection name:** CARLI Open Access eBook Collection
- **Location name:** CARLI Open Access eBook Collection
- **Facets:** Genre - Open Access eBooks

This collection will be made optional for local catalogs in the same fashion as the Hathi Trust collection.

The Collection Management Committee will review this policy annually and revise when necessary to incorporate changes that reflect member library preferences and developments in Open Access publishing.

Best Practices in Collaborative Collection Development

In 2002 the Center for Research Libraries released a report titled *Best Practices in Cooperative Collection Development*. This report looked at several large-scale successful collaborative projects in order to develop descriptive best practices. The following is a distillation of those best practices in light of the collaborative projects this CARLI committee engaged in.

Determining Readiness

Before beginning a collaborative collection development project, institutions should determine whether or not they are ready to take it on. Collaborations that have been successful had these elements in common before initiating projects:

- History of collaboration
- Administrative support
- Clear goals established
- Funding available

In the case of CARLI, institutions have a long history of collaboration. Although CARLI does not have funding for individual projects (other than the staff time to assist the committee work), in one case administrative support and additional funding lead to greater participation in one of the projects. Each project defined their own goals with the common goal of increasing unique resources to be shared across institutions.

Elements Necessary for Success

Successful collaborative collection development projects had the following elements in common:

- Constant and clear communication with participants. Communication should come from multiple channels, such as direct emails, listservs, newsletters, and in-person communication. Repetitive and regular communication of objectives and procedures is necessary.
- Flexibility to allow for changes in membership, funds, and objectives. This may mean changing procedures and/or objectives as projects develop.
- A feedback mechanism to allow the project to adapt as needed. Along with pushing out communication, leaders should actively seek feedback from participants.
- Assessment of outcomes. Projects should be assessed via methods most appropriate to the particular project. Examples of potential assessment methods include: analysis of circulation data, interviews with participants, and surveys to individuals at collaborating institutions.

Future Directions

Based on the responses from member libraries, there is interest in collaborative collection development in various formats. The challenge for the committee is to construct opportunities to facilitate member participation. The expansion of the eBook project was a successful example of an opportunity that generated response because it was not time-consuming or very costly to participate. For next year, the committee plans the following collaborative collection development projects:

- The OA Project will start the initial phase of selection of OA eBooks to add to the I-Share catalog and consider expanding to non-cataloged and/or non-monograph items in the future.
- Discontinue the formal One-Time Purchase Project, but encourage CARLI member libraries to continue to expand the collection as they can by selecting unique materials by being cognizant of the larger collection when making selection choices.
- Continue the consortial EBook project if the next contract under negotiation allows continued collaborative purchasing at a reasonable price.
- The Education Project will continue, but will focus on outreach with libraries that have made purchases to increase usage.

The Collection Management committee will also look for new opportunities to expand collaborative collection development among member libraries and enhancing the statewide collection.