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AN OVERVIEW OF ISSUES AND ADVANCES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SHARED LIBRARY COLLECTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Prepared for the Collection Management Planning Group

Systemwide Library Planning
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In its October 21, 2002 report to the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (<http://www.slp.ucop.edu/consultation/slasiac/102902/SIP_Report_with_comments.doc>, <http://www.slp.ucop.edu/consultation/slasiac/102902/SIP_Report_with_comments.pdf>), the SLASIAC Scholarly Information Program Task Force observed that " the [UC] shared digital collection has been remarkably effective, and the Task Force recommends that the shared collection concept be expanded beyond the digital realm to include, on a selective basis, print collections. This overall strategy offers the best possibility to capture and leverage the benefits that lie in the interrelationship between digital and print collections, presents an opportunity to improve service by better integrating access to information regardless of format, and builds upon the collaborative relationships among the campus libraries that have been established to guide the development of the shared digital collection."

Subsequent discussion by SLASIAC and the University Librarians has evidenced both substantial support for and a more nuanced view of the concept of shared collections. In particular, the University Librarians, at their planning retreat on November 14-15, 2002, set out additional concepts and issues related to shared collections, and expressed the expectation that the Collection Management Planning Group would take ongoing leadership in:

- articulating and validating the underlying concepts,
- further exploring the issues, and
- identifying and assessing new candidates for consideration as shared collections.

Definition.

At its November retreat, the University Librarians adopted the following as a proposed definition of the Shared Collection of the University of California:

The University of California **shared collection** consists of information resources collectively managed and accessible Universitywide. Such resources may be collectively purchased or electively contributed. Items in the shared collection are collectively owned (counting TBD). Those not in the shared collection are locally owned.

The University's shared collections are a component of a broader strategy for systemwide collection management and coordination.

Drivers/Benefits.

In the view of the University Librarians, the forces that drive the creation of a shared University of California collection include:

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- Opportunities to acquire or provide access to **new collections** that enhance or complement existing holdings
- Opportunities to **optimize management** of local collections, for example by foregoing acquisition or retention of print journals when digital is reliably available.
- Opportunities to improve **access to currently inaccessible resources**, such as dissertations.
- Opportunities to plan for and implement trusted and cost effective **preservation** of digital and non-digital collections

Forces Advancing or Inhibiting the Development of a Shared Collection

Among the forces or factors that are seen to advance or support the development of a shared University of California collection are:

- The precedent established by the Shared Journal Collection (Elsevier/ACM) (see **xx** below)
- The availability of tools that support rapid identification, requesting, and delivery of materials included in the shared collection (the Melvyl union catalog, Request, Tricor overnight courier service, Web-based delivery of document requests)
- Lack of space in campus libraries; increased range of options for management of campus collections
- Limited funds for local acquisitions
- Opportunities to redirect library acquisitions and processing staff to higher-priority activities
- Opportunities for smaller campuses to establish research-quality collections faster
- Advances the "One University, One Library" principle
- Opportunities to ensure the preservation and persistence of research collections, including existing materials that are deteriorating
- Responsive to the expressed concerns of University administrators and State officers about efficient and effective use of funds and facilities
- Opportunities to increase the breadth, depth, and distinction of collections at the campus level and Universitywide

Among for forces or factors that are seen to inhibit the development of a shared University of California collection are:

- Faculty attitudes and preferences
- Uncertainties about accounting for a shared collection in library statistical reports used for institutional evaluation and accreditation
- Fear of fostering homogeneous and undistinguished local collections
- Effect on campus and State financial support; possible inducement to reduce funding commitments
- Fear of loss of local control
- Variety of campus academic programs, and campus independence in academic program planning
- Absence of proven organizational and funding models
- Effect of reducing the size of the market for scholarly publishing, especially in humanities

Examples of Materials Comprising the Shared Collection

Examples of materials currently available or whose acquisition is planned that generally meet the UC Shared Collection definition provided above include:

- Digital journals and databases available Universitywide through the California Digital Library
- Digital books provided by the UC Press (see <<http://escholarship.cdlib.org/books.html>>)
- Shared print equivalents of Shared Collection digital journals

The following categories of materials have been suggested as possible candidates for Shared Collection treatment. Materials in the first group are viewed by the University Librarians as high priorities for consideration; those in the second group are more speculative.

Group 1:

- Government documents (work is in progress: see <<http://www.slp.ucop.edu/sopag/govpubsTF7.pdf>>)
- Back runs of journals with digital equivalents
- Back runs of low-use journals w/o digital – prospective
- UC-digitized copies of print holdings

Group 2:

- Monographs in RLF's, not circulated for x years
- Back runs of low-use journals w/o digital – retrospective
- Non-print collections (use-based): both ubiquitous (e.g., CD's, microforms) and unique items