Learning From Traditional Collaborative Models

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Traditional Collaborative Models

- Cooperative acquisitions and licensing
- Cooperative collection development
- Cooperative cataloging
- Cooperative preservation microfilming
- Cooperative digitization
Cooperative Acquisitions

- When materials are essentially unavailable or unaffordable through conventional means
- Decisions based upon “degree of selectivity”
  - Selective (“best of,” authoritative sources, of interest to the largest amount of users)
  - Representative (important enough to be considered of interest by majority)
  - Comprehensive (includes materials of narrow or specialized focus, have a place in comprehensive research collections)
Cooperative Collection Development

- RLG’s Conspectus, Center for Research Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, regional/state efforts
- Goal: to avoid duplicative costs associated with acquisition, storage, preservation, and delivery of materials
- Common criticism: “tend to deal with collections of non-commercial, non-copyrighted, little-used materials, mostly in foreign languages.”
- Forthcoming? UK’s Research Library Network
Cooperative Cataloging

- Enabling systems: RLIN, OCLC, CURL
- Exemplar: Program for Cooperative Cataloging
  - “An international cooperative program aimed at expanding access to library collections by providing useful, timely, and cost-effective cataloging that meets mutually-accepted standards of libraries around the world.”
- Goals
  - “Develop and maintain mutually acceptable standards”
  - “Promote values of timely access and cost-effectiveness …”
Cooperative Preservation Microfilming

- Brought people together to address . . .
  - Selection issues
  - Technical barriers
  - Process issues
  - Budgetary formulas
  - Models
- Sustainability of product (microfilm) was explicit within projects
Cooperative Digitization

- US cooperative projects (RLG, IMLS, et al.), UK projects (JISC-funded activities such as eLib, TASI, RDN), Australian projects
- Brought people together to address . . .
  - Selection issues
  - Technical barriers
  - Process issues
  - Budgetary formulas
  - Models, where possible
- Most projects neglected to specifically address sustainability issues
Lessons / Guidance

- Cooperative selection, acquisition, and collection development could be one in the same in the digital realm
  - Degrees of selectivity
  - Affordability
  - Intellectual property issues

- Must borrow from and capitalize on successes from past collaborative efforts
  - Develop and maintain mutually acceptable standards
  - Trust in partners
  - Willingness to collaborate to build tools, investigate process-related issues, develop usable models