WHITHER LIBRARY CONSORTIA?

Valerie Horton, Minitex

“I should have ventured to sea, bound anywhere, I knew not whither.”
Robinson Crusoe
Library Consortia in 21st Century
-- Co-author Greg Pronevitz, Massachusetts Library System
Networks, Cooperatives, and Consortia
Baseline Study on Consortia

2007 ALA surveyed 204 consortia

- 61% were regional
- 26% local
- 12% statewide

- Geographic limits
- Mostly multi-type
2007 -- Big 5 Services

Resource Sharing

Consulting and Technical Assistance

Communication

Cooperative Purchasing/Discounts

Professional Development
Other Services

- Automation, networking
- Library advocacy, PR
- Information and referral services
- Courier, document delivery services
- Standards
- Special populations support
- Professional collections
- Rotating or shared collections
- Digitization or preservation
Sources of Revenue

- E-rate: 1%
- Federal gov: 3%
- Local gov: 6%
- Member Fees: 9%
- State gov: 28%
- Other (mainly fee for subscription): 53%
Expenditures

- Products & services: 45%
- Staff: 32%
- Admin support: 7%
- Other: 16%
Predicting Future Priorities

Automation, networking

Resource sharing

Professional development

Courier
Great Recession

Grampa, tell us again the story of what life was like before 2008.
Whither Consortia Now?

2013 Survey

84 respondents
Most Common Services

1. Training
2. Shared electronic content, e.g., group license
3. Group purchasing
4. Integrated library systems
5. Delivery
6. Resource sharing
7. Cooperative collection development
8. Shared digital repository, digitization services
9. Shared off-site depository (physical materials)
Revenue Sources

2013 Revenue

Member Dues

State Funds

Fees for service

Other: LSTA, conferences, E-rate, grants, interest

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## Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Critical</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Trends

Trending lower
- Communications
- Consulting
- Advocacy/PR
- Professional collections

Still important
- Training
- Databases and coop purchases
- Resource sharing
- Delivery

Trending higher
- Integrated library systems
- Digital services & repositories
- Cooperative collection development

Costs $  Makes $
2013 -- It’s not all bad news

15 Consortia Grew

“Our membership has seen steady growth since 2007”

“We will be two years old in November and have had rapid growth over that time”

“We did pick up a lot of work after [another consortia] closed”
10 Consortia
Merged or Consolidated

“...suffering from budget cuts in the last few years ... and we are now involved in a merger”

“We consolidation in spring 2010 from four Regional Library Cooperatives into one statewide cooperative...”
22 Lost Funding or Members

“Most of the programs are now ... funded with federal LSTA funds, and member fees have been increased by 35%.”

“All of the five cooperatives use reserve funds to remain operational.”

“Funding ... has decreased by approximately 50%. We have moved, renegotiated contracts, reduced staff and eliminated services.”
2007 Database

Abilene Library Consortium
Alamo Area Library System CLOSED
Alliance Library System MERGED
Amigos Library Services MERGED
Arizona Health Information Network
Arrowhead Library System
Association of Southeastern Research Libraries
Bay Area Library & Information Network
Bergen County Cooperative Library System
BCR Bibliographical Center for Research CLOSED
Big Country Library System CLOSED
Black Gold Cooperative Library System
Blair County Library System
Boston Library Consortium
Boston Regional Library System MERGED
Why? -- Recession

- Loss of state funding
- Loss of other funding (OCLC, LSTA, etc.)
- Libraries can’t pay for services
- Perception of consortia’s value
- Tension between centralization / decentralization
What about Member Attitudes?

“... members not realizing the degree to which we need to change. Many members are changing, but they want our organization to remain the same. We must cease certain functions to make room for new, currently relevant functions and create room for future functions.”
Why is Minitex Flourishing?

- Mostly stable State, LSTA, and Legacy funding
- University of Minnesota Libraries support
- Diversity: multi-type and multi-state
- Quality and experienced staff
- Diversified, strong service programs
- Regional culture of library support
New, Relevant, & Future Functions

1. Training
2. Group licenses
3. Group purchases
4. Shared catalogs
5. Delivery
6. Resource sharing
Shared Catalog Platforms

- Sierra
- Alma
- Evergreen
- Koha
- WorldShare
Standard Catalog Services
Collections

Shared print, online resources, & digital objects

Shared staffing in technical services, collection development, and administration
Resource Sharing Growth

INN-Reach

VDX

Relais

FulfILLment

OCLC WorldShare ILL
Digitization

Creating Collections

Consolidating Collections

Winona Newspaper Project
Georgia Historic Newspapers: Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

DPLA Digital Public Library of America
MN Digital Library Minnesota Reflections
DLSD Digital Library of South Dakota
Library as Publisher

Patron self-publishing

E-Textbooks
-- SUNY Geneseo

Online Journals

Monographs (ATLA)

Espresso Book Machine™
Maker Spaces

Photos courtesy of Detroit Public Library
School & Youth Services

Early Childhood Literacy

Common Core

HEAD START
Most Common Services

1. Training
2. Shared electronic content, e.g., group license
3. Group purchasing
4. Integrated library systems
5. Delivery
6. Resource sharing
7. Cooperative collection development
8. Shared digital repository, digitization services
9. Shared off-site depository (physical materials)
Minitex Comparison

1. Training
2. Shared electronic content, e.g., group license
3. Group purchasing
4. Shared integrated library system
5. Delivery
6. Mediated interlibrary loan
7. Cooperative collection development
8. Shared digital repository, digitization services
9. Shared off-site depository (physical materials)
Drivers Planning Model

The Drivers Model

Barriers

Current Where We Are Today

CSFs

Vision Where We Want To Be

The Drivers

Monitoring

CSFs
Questions Comments

“... whither I should bend my course...”  Robinson Crusoe