

December 21, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: OSU Library Staff & Faculty
UO Library Staff & Faculty

FROM: Karyle Butcher, University Librarian and Deputy Vice Provost for
Information Services
Deborah Carver, Interim University Librarian

RE: Building a Shared Collection

Our respective libraries have a history of working collaboratively--as the two largest research libraries in the state and as members of Orbis. Given our similar responsibilities and challenges, we believe it is wise, if not imperative, to take full advantage of our proximity and to build on this foundation of cooperation.

In a recent meeting of administrators from both libraries, the concept of "building a shared collection" was discussed with enthusiasm and commitment. Both libraries are ready to pursue a new model for developing and maintaining our collections, particularly in light of the current fiscal difficulties facing higher education in Oregon. This new model is based on the goals of increased collection diversity, reduced redundancy, and efficient resource sharing.

The vision of a shared collection includes the following objectives:

- **Creating a single print archive.** As we both develop our e-journal collections and reference databases, we must move towards a single print archive whenever possible. First steps should focus on *Project Muse*, *J-Store*, and *BioOne* titles. Backfiles of printed indexes should also be examined, and only one copy should be retained in most cases.
- **Reducing duplication.** Duplicate copies of expensive journals should be closely scrutinized. In some cases, one copy between the two campuses can satisfy the collective demand. First steps should focus on the commercial equivalents of SPARC titles and 5-10 of the most expensive, highly specialized journals.
- **Resource sharing.** Both libraries are committed to providing the most efficient methods of sharing journal articles and bound volumes. First steps should focus on joint participation in appropriate services, e.g., RAPID, and revising circulation policies to enable cost-effective document delivery.

- **Creating Diversity.** Adding titles that are not available in either library will enhance research on both campuses. First steps should focus on identifying mutual interests that can be served with a single subscription.

In January, a joint task force will be appointed to begin the process and establish additional goals and timelines. Implementation of these objectives will improve rather than diminishing access to information. Success will depend upon good communication, faculty confidence, and a willingness to push beyond technical and procedural barriers.

We look forward to this new level of collaboration and further discussions with all of you.

cc. Lorraine Davis, Vice President for Academic Affairs