

FRENCH-NORTH AMERICAN RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP

Ad Hoc Committee of ACRL-WESS

Proposal for the creation of a French-North American Resources Partnership

Presented to Eudora Lo, Chair of the ARL/CRL Global Resources Network, and James Simon, Director of International Relations, Center for Research Libraries. March 15, 2005

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Increasingly interconnected cultures of the world result in a demand for efficient access to print and electronic resources irrespective of borders. This demand has inspired numerous international cooperative initiatives resulting in improved access to collections, improved bibliographic control, cooperative digitization projects, and cooperative preservation initiatives. In particular, the Global Resources Network over the past decade has spawned a number of projects that through the efforts of member institutions have produced successful models upon which future international projects can be based. Such models include the Cooperative African Newspaper Project, the Digital South Asia Library, the German-North American Resources Partnership, and the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project. IFLA too has engendered international cooperative projects, but in most cases these have been initiatives concerning philosophies and operating principles. Projects of the Global Resources Network, in contrast, in addition to numerous projects of ARL and CRL, have resulted in the creation of cooperative partnerships based on a desire to share resources.

If there is any one language that noticeably has not received the attention its international implications demand, it is French. The importance of all of the Francophone areas of the world is obvious (Europe, Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, North America, South Asia, South East Asia and islands in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific). Nonetheless, working relationships between North American librarians and those in Francophone countries remain limited in contrast to such relationships between North American librarians and those of other countries, such as Germany, Latin American countries, Korea, and Japan. At the WESS International Conference "Migrations, Society, Culture, and the Library" held in Paris in March, 2004, a resolution recommending that WESS investigate the feasibility of initiating a French-North American Resources Project was adopted. Consequently, this WESS Ad Hoc Committee was established at the ALA Conference in Orlando in June, 2004 to pursue this investigation.

We therefore present the following proposal for the formation of a French-North American Resources Partnership (FNARP). It is our intention that the word "French" can be substituted at any time by "Francophone;" however, the consensus of our initial meeting in Boston at ALA (January, 2005) was that initial use of the word "Francophone" might serve as a deterrent to potential contact partners in France. We see the participation of these partners in our work from the outset as paramount to the success of our project without excluding partnerships with institutions from other geographical areas.

The support of the Center for Research Libraries for this project will benefit both the FNARP and CRL. CRL will further enhance its global profile and increase recognition of the important role it plays in supporting research libraries. In addition, members of CRL will benefit from the resources shared by our foreign partners. FNARP will benefit from an established structure that may be used as a framework for our initiatives. We ask that CRL provide minimal administrative support while we raise external funding. We will have a greater chance of obtaining funding from the sources listed below if we are associated with CRL. Once we obtain external funding, CRL staff, under the leadership of its Director of International Relations, could provide financial accounting support as did ARL for the German-North American Resources Partnership (GNARP), broker library-vendor relations for consortial purchases, as CRL currently does for GNARP, support electronic mailing lists to facilitate communication among FNARP member libraries, and assist with conference planning, e.g., arranging site visits.

To inform this proposal, three Working Groups were established in Boston: Goals, French Partners, and Potential Sources of Funding. These reports are presented here as appendices.

APPENDIX I: GOALS

Working Group Members: Sebastian Hierl, Bryan Skib, Heather Ward, Susanne Roberts,
Sue Waterman, Kati Radics (Coordinator)

Goals of Cooperation among French and North-American Libraries

General goal of FNARP: improve access to French and Francophone resources for North American libraries and to North American resources for French libraries. Promote collaboration and resource sharing among North American libraries; make collections more interconnected. The following outline suggests a wide variety of activities, all of which we feel would be worth pursuing, but not all of which would necessarily have to be incorporated into our project.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

1. Build consortia and negotiate cost-effective consortial pricing for French digital resources for North American libraries. Facilitate communication between French library consortia and North American online publishers.
2. Exchange information on strong collections in the different subject areas among North American and French libraries.
3. Cooperatively acquire regional and local French research resources, publications of smaller/local institutions, smaller publishers, associations, local periodicals. Participants: North American research institutions and academic libraries.
4. Cooperatively acquire immigrant materials, political grey literature, materials in and on dialects and patois published in France. Participants: North American and French libraries.
5. Cooperatively acquire non-French language materials published in France, eg., in Arabic and other immigrant languages. Participants: North American and French libraries
6. Cooperatively acquire research resources from Francophone territories outside France. Establishment of formal cooperative contracts. Participants: North American research institutions and academic libraries.
7. Cooperatively work to maintain access to “endangered” materials, e.g., French dissertations. Coordinate this effort with CRL.

DIGITAL LIBRARIES

1. Cooperatively compile and enhance subject related web pages on the French studies pages of the WESS web, and the Liens et ressources en ligne page of the Association des Bibliothécaires Français (http://www.abf.asso.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=44).
2. Establish a clearinghouse of North American digital projects in the French (and Francophone) area(s). Participants: North American research institutions and academic libraries.
3. Establish a portal with a searching guide to the best clearinghouse of French dissertations (Thèsenet or else).
4. Exchange information and enhance access to North American and French digital projects on North American and French culture.
5. Promote cooperative digital projects between countries.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY

1. Support development of enhanced document delivery service for French journal articles not held in North American libraries and North American journals for French libraries.
2. Enhance book and microform interlibrary loan possibilities and techniques between countries.

ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION/ INTELLECTUAL ACCESS

1. Establish a clearinghouse of large microform sets on French culture. Enhance access to microform sets by:
 - a. analyzing cataloging records
 - b. digitizing indexes and guides

RESEARCH AND REFERENCE SERVICES

1. Establish a register of North American and French librarians who would provide reference on questions raised by librarians in the partner country
2. Strengthen cooperation among reference librarians in North America for providing digital reference for questions they need help answering in the French and Francophone studies areas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Provide help for librarians with funding to find hosting institutions in the partner country's libraries.
2. Provide help for library school students to find hosting institutions in the partner country's library schools and libraries.

APPENDIX II: FRENCH PARTNERS

Working Group Members: Sarah How, Jeffrey Larson, Beth Remak, Sarah Sussman, Sue Waterman, Sarah G. Wenzel (Coordinator)

Initially, we are seeking cooperative partners exclusively from France. We intend ultimately to broaden the focus to include partnerships with institutions in other Francophone countries. We will begin by contacting librarians at all levels, including library administrators, who are active in projects involving digitization, document delivery, preservation, collection development, and bibliographic control. It is crucial to demonstrate to French librarians that participation in the FNARP will benefit them by virtue of the enhanced access to scholarly research sources. Concrete examples of bi-national cooperation drawn from existing GRN projects, such as the subject-based partnerships in the German-North American Resources Partnership, can be cited as examples.

Collectively, we have identified French librarians and institutions that we believe are potential partners in the FNARP (list follows). Our strategy is to continue to identify contacts by querying a wider body of WESS members in a number of ways: through the FNARP Ad Hoc Committee, other FNARP Working Groups, individuals interested in working on the FNARP project, the WESS Romance Language Discussion Group, and WESS-rom.

Following this process, we will assign WESS members to contact the French names or institutions identified. Our spreadsheet should enable us to avoid duplication or multiple contacts of the same person. Contacts and levels of interest should be communicated to the Working Group, and from us to the FNARP Committee.

We will need to work closely with the other Working Groups to ensure that appropriate contacts are made and that projects of interest to our French partners are developed.

Initial contacts have been made by Sebastian Hierl. At this point, the Université de Rouen Site Flaubert has expressed an interest on collaborating on a digital project. Other librarians and publishers are reluctant to commit until we have set up clearer guidelines for cooperative projects; however, Sebastian will continue discussions.

Name	Title	Institution
Bernard Cerquiglini	Professor and Director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies	Louisiana State University.
Yves Gagneur	Conservateur en chef	Maison de Balzac
Jack Kessler		FYI France
Jean-Claude Kuperminc	Conservateur en chef	Bibliothèque de l'Alliance Israelite Universelle
Mireille Chauveinc	Curator, Brit/Amer studies	BNF
Dominique Bergouignan	Délégation aux relations internationales – Amérique	BNF
		ABF
		ENSSIB
Toby Stone	University Librarian	American University of Paris
see listings	see listings	Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la

		recherché, Direction de l'enseignement supérieur, Sous-Direction des bibliothèques et de la documentation
Karen Politis	Responsable Etudes	BIEF - Bureau international de l'édition française

APPENDIX III: POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Working Group Members: Dominique Coulombe, Kathleen Rutter, Sebastian Hierl (Coordinator)

To be successful, the French North American Resources Project (FNARP) will have to be able to generate revenue to fund its activities. This document summarizes some of the strategies we would like to pursue.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

1. FNARP may charge a membership fee. This fee would have to remain reasonable to encourage membership. Rather than request a higher fee that few institutions will be able to afford, it would be more advantageous to have a large membership base.

GRANT AND FUNDING SOURCES

A key source of funding may come through grant applications.

1. We would like to approach the Mellon Foundation to capitalize on the success of the Global Resources Network, possibly as a joint request with other Global Resources Projects.
2. Additional national foundations that we would like to approach:
 - a. Institute of Museum and Library Services
 - b. Delmas Foundation
 - c. National Endowment for the Humanities
 - d. Council of American Overseas Research Centers
3. Additional international sources of funding that we would like to explore:

France

- a. Alliance Française (Ministère des Affaires Étrangères)
- b. Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication
- c. Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, Direction de l'enseignement supérieur, Sous-Direction des bibliothèques et de la documentation
- d. Association des Bibliothécaires Français
- e. BIEF - Bureau international de l'édition française

Canada

- f. Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Canadian government
- g. Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec
- h. Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec
- i. Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec

Belgium

- j. Le Gouvernement Wallon
- k. Conseil interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique
- l. Association professionnelle des bibliothécaires et documentalistes

Switzerland

- m. Office Fédéral de la Culture

International bodies

- n. Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie
- o. George Soros Foundation

Furthermore, without presenting an opportunity for raising funds, FNARP's actions should be coordinated with IFLA; ACRL's International Relations Committee; ALA's International Relations Committee and International Relations Round Table; as well as other professional organizations.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

- 1. FNARP members could, collaboratively or at select institutions, pursue the cataloging of large digital, microfilm, or print collections or series and sell MARC records to non-participating institutions.

COOPERATIVE DIGITAL PROJECTS

- 1. FNARP members could, collaboratively or at select institutions, pursue the digitization of key resources and lease access to non-participating institutions. Collaborative digitization projects could take two forms:
 - a. A cooperation with publishers on existing electronic resources:
 - FNARP could negotiate preferential subscription fees for its members and provide access to non-members at a slightly higher fee level, using the difference to support its operations.
 - FNARP could collaborate with French publishers on making their resources accessible via the Web, at preferential rates to members, and full price to non-members subscribing through FNARP. French publishers have large collections on DVD-ROM. Collaboration on making these accessible on the net via IP recognition would open North American markets to French publishers. Since North American institutions are unlikely to subscribe to series on DVD-ROM or purchase individual DVD-ROM that cannot be networked, FNARP may be able to increase revenue for French publishers by providing Internet access via IP recognition to their products. FNARP members would receive a discount. By hosting such databases, FNARP could charge a yearly maintenance fee that could be applied to support its operations.

Similar cooperative relationships already exist. ARTFL is working with the Éditions Champion to provide Internet access to its database B.A.S.I.L.E. While ARTFL receives no financial compensation for this cooperation, ARTFL has the technical expertise to host full text electronic databases and would look forward to working with FNARP on exploring possible cooperative projects with FNARP and Francophone publishers.

- b. A cooperation on creating new electronic products:
 - FNARP members could collaborate on digitizing key French collections or large single titles. FNARP members would finance the project collaboratively and receive full access as well as the captured and encoded text files in XML TEI-Lite. FNARP or members who have contributed to the project could charge non-participating institutions a subscription fee. Materials/collections to be digitized would be selected by an editorial board, comprising librarians and faculty. The administration of financial resources could be assigned to the FNARP Digital Resources Working Group or, following established models, to CRL.

The cooperation on digital projects to increase access to rare and important collections and provide FNARP with a source of revenue could be implemented immediately. Successful examples of such collaborations already exist. Furthermore, ARTFL would like to explore a possible cooperation with FNARP. With its extensive expertise in digitizing and providing full text access to key French resources, ARTFL would be willing to serve as a technical center for such operations, providing staff and technical know-how. Several projects are currently being explored by ARTFL with North American institutions, as well as with partners in France. These could be developed within a FNARP framework and potentially provide FNARP with immediate revenue.