

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES and RESEARCH LIBRARIES, Part II

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This issue of *Focus* reports on the outcomes of “The Global Dimensions of Scholarship and Research Libraries: A Forum on the Future,” held at Duke University in December 2012. The event brought together librarians, faculty, university administrators, and representatives of scholarly societies and associations to explore the perceived problem of decreasing acquisition of foreign language materials by US research libraries and the potential impact on scholarship, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, in light of the trend toward “globalization” at US universities.

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and co-sponsored by Duke University Libraries and CRL, the forum identified some new challenges libraries face in supporting international studies and research agendas at the post-secondary level, particularly at a time when federal support for higher education is declining. The Forum produced a set of recommendations for action, urging libraries to aggressively expand digital access to international information resources and broaden library services and cooperation in these areas. In turn, those recommendations provided the basis for a “prospective action agenda” for research libraries.

Area and international studies have always been at the heart of CRL’s identity. The Global Dimensions action agenda lays out an ambitious new course that will inform development of CRL collections and resources for years to come.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President

Fine Art Printery, College Street, Kolkata.
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Global Dimensions of Scholarship and Research: Community Response and Outcomes



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Main Reading Room, The National Library of China, Beijing, 2012.

The *Global Dimensions of Scholarship and Research Libraries: A Forum on the Future* took place at Duke University December 5–7, 2012. Supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and cosponsored by Duke University Libraries and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), the event brought together some 50 individuals—librarians, faculty, university administrators, and representatives of scholarly societies and associations—from 15 states, from both public and private institutions.

The principal objective of the Forum was to “bring an international focus to the current conversations regarding the future of research libraries, and to consider how our mission to collect, preserve, and provide access to a wide array of materials created and published around the world, and thus to support scholarship broadly, can be achieved in the present environment.”

The Forum was intended to propose strategies to address the principal challenges affecting research libraries and their role in support of international scholarship, in light of ongoing fiscal pressures on collections budgets, shifts in research priorities and funding support within international and area studies programs, and the trend toward “globalization” on many campuses.

The proceedings of the Forum were summarized in the Winter 2013 issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources* (Vol. 32, Num. 2), and a preliminary report, “*Global Dimensions of Scholarship and Research Libraries: Finding Synergies, Creating Convergence*,” was posted on [CRL’s event description page](#) as well as on a [Duke blog space](#) created to invite comments and feedback on the report.

The report was circulated broadly to academic libraries, library and scholarly associations, area studies library groups, and other internationally focused institutions supporting higher education and research. Additionally, members of the Forum Steering Group attended meetings of area studies and library organizations, and convened groups of librarians, web and digital scholarship specialists, and technologists on several campuses, including Stanford, University of Illinois, UCLA, Cornell, University of California, Berkeley, and others. The Forum sparked or contributed to other follow-up events, including a conference at Indiana University in October 2013 and a gathering for New York-area librarians in early 2014.

Based on the written responses and discussions among the community, this article summarizes some of the key points of consensus at the Duke Global Forum, and opinions and reactions from attendees of the subsequent forums.

Forum Recommendations and Responses

The Forum report was intended as an initial framework to be expanded in collaboration with stakeholders, drawing from specific examples of achievements and best practices. The report makes strategic recommendations and proposals for action in three closely linked areas:

1. [Aggressively pursue broad digital access to international information resources.](#)
2. [Internationalize research library services and perspectives.](#)
3. [Broaden and internationalize library collaborations.](#)

DIGITAL ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

The report highlights the inexorable trend (both in terms of student preference and library response) toward digital resources. The call for building and linking comprehensive collections of public domain digital resources from around the world drew comparisons to the [Digital Public Library of America](#) and [Europeana](#), but respondents questioned whether such a model could apply to the global digital collections held by libraries in North America and elsewhere. Both DPLA and Europeana aggregate metadata about digital objects held by libraries, museums, and archives and serve as a platform and catalyst for concerted action. [HathiTrust](#) endorsed the report and commented that building a comprehensive, shared collection “can be accomplished much more effectively by consolidating our efforts” now, rather than in a reactive, clean-up effort in the future.

Commercial providers are playing an increasingly prominent role in the provision of digitized and born-digital resources. Respondents suggested that better coordination among consortia and national database licensing programs could expand acquisition and licensing of databases and e-resources from—and about—problematic world regions. However, high prices for subscriptions and licenses are difficult to support with area studies budgets, and we need to think differently about how to “trade in materials” for international and area studies.

The Forum participants acknowledged that the digital information ecosystem is growing more complex, and libraries have yet to fully adapt to new forms of publication and dissemination. And yet, for international and area studies, the report emphasizes “a great deal of material is still issued exclusively in print format and remains very difficult to acquire.” Libraries and university administrations must acknowledge and support efforts that provide access to these resources, including non-English resources.

At the same time, models of collecting should be examined and enhanced with new approaches to accommodate technological developments and new forms of dissemination of born-digital resources, such as news, government publications, and ephemera. Such enhancements can best be accomplished through partnerships and coordinated efforts.

INTERNATIONALIZING SERVICES AND PERSPECTIVES

The report calls for greater attention to the mandates of globalization on campuses, but stresses that such imperatives must recognize the inherent “foreign-ness” of international collections and that libraries must maintain specialized language and area expertise in order to identify, acquire, and make accessible resources beyond traditional English-language collections.

Discovery technologies have yet to bring to scale solutions that take into account the complex issues of scripts, character sets, and languages.

Some respondents suggested that technological developments have all but solved the “language issue” in library computing. Others, however, strongly argued that most discovery technologies have yet to bring to scale solutions that take into account the complex issues of scripts, character sets, and languages. Closer collaboration among area studies librarians and other experts in information technology, web and data services would be fruitful.

Training staff to broaden awareness of global perspectives was the subject of a recent panel hosted by the ACRL International Perspectives Discussion Group, at which Paula Smith, Reference Librarian at Pennsylvania State University discussed the “Global Awareness Dialog Project” at PSU libraries. The series, borne of Smith’s interest in the impact of globalization on education, focuses on pedagogy and global awareness, and engages faculty in the exchange of ideas about contemporary global issues in education.

Many commenters took issue with the report’s perceived position that research libraries are transitioning from “area studies” to “global studies.” The report maintains that libraries must grapple with globalization and its cross-cutting themes. However, the intent of the report authors (and those presenting at the Forum) in focusing on the “global dimensions of scholarship” is that librarian specialists must increasingly serve the needs of global scholars in addition to serving area studies constituencies in their varied and interdisciplinary domains. Rather than pitting globalization against area studies as a dominating mode of scholarship, the report sought to make clear that area librarians and programs must contend with the needs of both in their ever-evolving roles.

INTERNATIONALIZING LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships on small and large scale have helped to expand access to research materials from outside North America. CRL’s [Area Studies](#) and [Global Resources Network](#) programs, for example, now engage institutions in Europe and from other regions of interest (including Uganda, South Africa, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel). Project partnerships, such as the [Digital Library of the Caribbean](#) (dLoC) and Texas’ [Human Rights Documentation Initiative](#) (HRDI), support regional capacity building and extend access to cultural, historical and other research materials otherwise inaccessible to mass audiences. Institutions engaging in bilateral partnerships, such as Cornell University Library and [Tsinghua University Library in China](#), identify and develop joint opportunities for enhancing scholarship and learning at both universities through collaborative collection building.

One major focus should be new global collections relationships that result in productive projects and partnerships. For example, connecting with:

- large-scale foreign collections programs (such as the Special Collection Areas [SSG] system of German research libraries);
- selected national or central bank libraries, to explore mutually beneficial uses of surplus legal deposit materials as well as e-resource deposits and rights;
- small and/or independent specialty publishers, NGOs, local organizations and societies, etc.; and
- strong scholarly communications consortia in other parts of the world (including the Latin American Council of Social Sciences [CLACSO], Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa [CODESRIA], etc.).

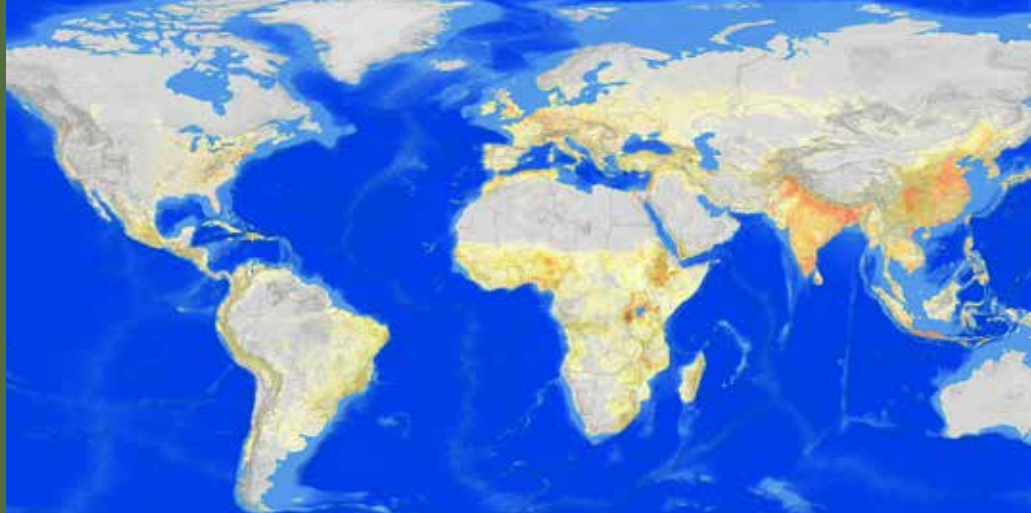
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Future Plans

Through the initial framework and follow-on discussions, the Forum organizers sought to develop an action agenda for research libraries, identifying major areas where the concentration of new resources can affect high-impact change within the next five years. The following article, *A Prospective Action Agenda*, is a synthesis of the major themes from the Forum and follow-on discussions, and a set of concrete steps that might address some of the challenges identified. This agenda will serve as a guide in shaping CRL's international collection development activities in the years ahead.

Broader dissemination of these ideas is a basic building block for progress in achieving the goals of enhancing digital access in support of global scholarship, and actively forging broader international collaborations. The organizers hope that the findings of the Global Dimensions Forum will encourage librarians, library administrators, faculty, and university administrators to see the importance and desirability of internationalizing their perspectives, collections, providing services in the service of scholarship. ❖

Global Dimensions: A Prospective Action Agenda



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LandScan Global ambient population map, from the LandScan database. Courtesy of East View Information Services.

Some key points of consensus that emerged at the December 2012 Global Dimensions Forum suggested measures CRL and its constituent libraries might take to strengthen library support for area and international studies (AIS). Three key points were:

- **General pessimism about the future of federal support for area and international studies.** Cuts in Title VI, TICFIA, and other programs in 2011 and 2012 signaled a decline in federal resources for area studies and humanities collections, even before the sequestration and partial shutdown of the federal government occurred in October 2013. [James Nye's paper](#) for the Forum urged that “the highest priority should be placed on expanding non-governmental support to achieve goals identified by the Global [Dimensions] Forum . . . The Forum should develop plans which will encourage sustenance and expansion of nongovernmental support from universities, corporations, foundations, and individual donors to expand library and archival resources supporting area and international studies.”
- **The existence of a newly enlarged audience in academia for foreign library materials.** Traditional area studies are no longer the exclusive domain for the study of world regions at the post-secondary level. To a large extent, globalization is internationalizing the curriculum and research agendas of the professional schools: Law (trade, human rights, and IP); Medicine (epidemiology and public health); Finance (international/multinational business); Engineering (civil infrastructure, computer science); Communications (broadcast and journalism); and the Sciences (agricultural development, energy). From the [Africana Librarians Council response to the preliminary report](#): “We need to build collections which support all approaches to research. To create a polarization between local versus global seems unnecessary when both depend on each other and co-exist.”
- **The need to coordinate and better leverage the multitude of existing but dispersed area studies initiatives and assets.** Over a half-century of library and scholarly investment has generated a wealth of resources for international research that are not adequately known or accessible. [Charles Kurzman advocated a new cooperative model](#) that can “track the numerous decentralized, local efforts . . . and endow infrastructure for collaboration, not just short-term project-based funding.”

Outlined below are ways that new support and renewed or expanded action, in some instances building upon existing activities, could help address these new realities.



Jamaica Times, February 1905. Digitized for the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC).

I. Strategic Data-gathering and Analysis

Given the scarcity of resources available for collecting to support area and international studies (AIS), libraries need more and better data to inform their local and cooperative decision-making. Information is needed about new and emerging fields of research in international studies, such as cultural geography, social network analysis, economic history, and migration and human rights studies. Those fields require rich primary data and documentary evidence, which is available in a growing array of commercial and open access databases.

Moreover, major bibliographic utilities like OCLC provide ample data on published materials cataloged by libraries in the developed world, but provide little useful information about library holdings of primary source materials from world regions—many of which are uncataloged—to inform acquisition decisions and planning. Nor do they provide reliable tools for measuring library success in supporting current research methodologies in area and international studies, where ephemeral publications, data sets, and web-based information are critical source materials.

Reliable data, for example, are needed on:

- The nature and scope of publishing, broadcast, and web output in strategically and historically significant regions;
- The scope of active and planned projects to digitize international materials, and what content is available in major existing open-access and commercial databases of international materials, particularly IGO and government-produced materials, where overlap is common;
- The scope, strengths, and gaps of current programs that harvest international web-based materials, including those undertaken by the Library of Congress, Internet Archive, University of Texas, Columbia, Harvard, and others.

ACTIONS:

1. Support the ongoing analysis of important trends in the research of new scholars and researchers in international studies defined broadly, focusing on applicants and recipients of ACLS, CAORC, SSRC, Fulbright, and other appropriate fellowship programs, and the work of visiting scholars at policy institutes like Brookings, RAND Corporation, the Carnegie Endowment for World Peace, and others.
2. Provide research fellowships for systematic surveys and inventories of archives and collections in critical world regions, such as conflict zones, developing nations, etc. Where appropriate, build the requirement to inventory such collections into fellowship funding programs.
3. Support briefings for acquisitions librarians at North American research libraries by researchers and others who are “on the ground” in historically and strategically important regions.
4. Expand the analysis and evaluation of the major open access and commercial databases of primary source materials for international studies, and the harvesting, aggregation, and analysis of metadata about the contents of those databases. Make exposure of appropriate metadata a standard condition for licensing of commercial databases by academic libraries.
5. Support analysis and mapping of the original production and flow of electronic source materials for international studies, focusing on primary sources, including content and data produced by news media, governments, and IGOs in problematic and non-transparent zones of interest, such as North Africa, the nations of the Persian Gulf region, Russia, and Southeast

Asia. Use the mapping to identify the bottlenecks, logjams, and points where opportunities for evolving the supply chain arise.

6. Measure following against the aforementioned data and identified needs: the gaps and weaknesses of the LC Cooperative Acquisition Program and CRL Area Microform and Global Resources Projects; the gaps and weaknesses of the major area studies collections of record, such as those of the Library of Congress and National Agricultural Library; and the scope and gaps of the major extant web harvesting programs.¹

2. Access to Primary Source Analog Materials

ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIALS

Many Global Dimensions Forum attendees and respondents to the preliminary report noted the special importance to area and international studies (AIS) of primary source materials, i.e., materials produced outside the academic sector. They also observed that in many less-developed regions like Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, print is still the primary means of information exchange. Those who study such regions value newspapers, pamphlets, archives, government gazettes and reports, central bank reports, NGO and political party web sites, blogs, and other materials produced for non-scholarly purposes. The growing trend toward sophisticated, quantitative analysis of economies, industries, nations, and other global forces by historians and researchers in the social sciences is increasing the importance and usefulness of such materials.

To address those needs, Charles Kurzman called for “infrastructure for collaboration, not just short-term project-based funding,” “new models of collaboration and specialization,” and “place-based sharing of physical material and people, global-based sharing of digital material and distance learning . . . not just hoarding materials and expertise, especially removing them from poor countries, but upgrading them in place.”

Clearly the existing cooperative acquisitions programs at the national level do not fully accommodate the evolving realities of the information supply chain and new types of research. The institutions that built the world’s foremost collections for area and international studies in the twentieth century—the Library of Congress, British Library, certain major US research libraries, and cooperatives like CRL—were adapted to the media and research agendas of the mid-twentieth century. LC’s Cooperative Acquisitions Program, CRL’s Area Microform Projects, and the Title VI Centers, however, continue to yield important benefits, and their efforts in some areas are evolving.²

New infrastructure is needed to adequately serve today’s area and international studies, leveraging the significant logistical, intellectual, and financial existing infrastructure already in place.

ACTIONS:

1. Create a new international network of non-federal foreign acquisition “centers,” supported not by federal funds but by the North American, European, and UK research libraries community, to supplement the LC, CRL, and the other extant AIS acquisition programs, identifying and acquiring materials of a type and from regions not currently covered. The new network should be able to act quickly in response to—even preempting—crises that endanger important evidence, such as the Afghan War, Arab Spring, and the recent Islamist insurgency in Mali.³ The network could draw upon the existing network of AMPs and Global Resources Projects, and Title VI centers for the resources and expertise necessary to guide the effort.

1. The report of an internal analysis of the Library of Congress Overseas Operations, undertaken in 2009 at the request of the General Accountability Office, recommended that “The Library should lead a national review to determine the current state of [the Library’s area studies] collections and lead the effort to address whatever shortfalls are discovered.” The report also concluded that “Research interest in new geographical areas should guide the expansion of coverage by existing [OVOP] offices or the adoption of new collecting models to address these new areas,” and called for “more data on and analysis of the state of LC area studies collections” and “new models for foreign operations to acquire materials not covered by current LC OVOP and World Digital Library.”

2. LC, in particular, remains a critical part of the infrastructure for foreign acquisitions by US research libraries, although the 2009 report cited above identified a number of shortcomings in the LC OVOP program, and several developments have degraded the program’s effectiveness since 2001. Those include reductions in the levels of appropriated funds; lack of a presence in key geographical areas (China, Korea, Russia); and little or no coverage of new types of materials, such as data sets, broadcast, and web content.

3. UNESCO’s [Vancouver declaration](#), *The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation*, adopted in 2013, calls for the creation of “an emergency programme aiming at preservation of documentary materials endangered by natural disasters or armed conflicts, as well as a programme for the recovery of analogue and digital heritage that is under threat of becoming, or is already, inaccessible because of obsolete hardware and software.”

2. Focus the international network's efforts on acquiring materials of interest to a broad range of disciplines, serving a coalition of humanities, social sciences, business, economics, law, communications, and health research interests. Acquisition efforts should focus on materials produced by the news media, political organizations, governments, financial organizations, NGOs, and IGOs, and relevant to economic development, civil society, and demographics, and include ample materials published in English to maximize benefits to undergraduates and non-area specialists.

“UNLOCKING” EXISTING AREA STUDIES COLLECTIONS

North American, UK, and European research libraries already contain an enormous, latent body of primary source materials (much of it uncatalogued) from all world regions. Those materials, in paper and microform, represent an enormous, historic investment by the community that has not been fully exploited. Unlocking those materials through cataloging and digitization could have an immense, positive impact on American scholarship. Because much of this material was produced within the last 75 years, however, intellectual property issues make it unlikely to be digitized by commercial publishers, Google, or open-access efforts like the DPLA, HathiTrust, and World Digital Library, which focus largely on public-domain materials.

Numerous individual and cooperative efforts also digitize and expose primary source materials from world regions to the web. These kinds of initiatives, however, typically rely on one-time funds for initial support, and tend to lose momentum after initial local enthusiasm or funding ends.

The base of support for the serviceable components of this existing infrastructure needs to be broadened and enlarged. These efforts could benefit from the information and expertise of the larger research libraries community, and new resources could provide continued development and accessibility. Such support should be provided by an international alliance of research library organizations, perhaps led by JISC, DFG, CLIR, CRL, and other appropriate national initiators.

ACTIONS:

1. Identify the most “credible” existing web platforms that provide electronic access to digitized public domain, primary source legacy materials, specializing in materials from single or multiple related regions of the world. Designate those platforms “Global Resources repositories” and populate them with materials digitized by cooperative programs like CRL, JISC, Europeana, the Area Microform and Global Resources projects, and the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme.
2. Expand CRL's digital delivery system (DDS) platform to accommodate the large-scale hosting of materials *not* in the public domain or of uncertain copyright status, such as twentieth-century archives and published material digitized by CRL, and partner organizations.
3. To further populate the designated platforms, create a competitive awards program to underwrite the digitization of legacy materials, using grant funding initially and eventually member funding. Exploit the established networks, represented by the AMPs, Global Resources Projects, Title VI centers, and TICFIA participants, and the British Library Endangered Archives Programme recipients, to identify and prioritize materials for digitization.

3. Access to Born-Digital Resources

A large and growing number of online sources for area and international studies are available only through vendors in the commercial sector, like East View, ProQuest, and Brill. Of particular importance are databases of demographic, economic, and law-related content produced by media organizations, financial institutions, national and provincial governments, and others. These are high priorities for new research not only in professional schools like law, business, and journalism, but in the humanities and social sciences as well.

At the same time, governments, intergovernmental organization (IGOs) like the World Bank, United Nations, International Monetary Fund, and NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and FLACSO publish similar materials (and in many instances the same materials) directly to the open web. This complex and continually evolving cosmos of resources and tools for area and international studies is difficult to navigate, and libraries individually are at a disadvantage in making key investment decisions and transactions.

ACTIONS:

1. Strengthen and expand the site licensing of international e-resources at the national and international levels. Gaining leverage for academic libraries with commercial vendors through coordinated collective bargaining, involving NERL, JISC, Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), and others, could increase the return on library investments in major databases. Potential returns include not only cost savings but publisher concessions on Unicode compliance; new technology development to accommodate display and searching of non-Roman scripts; and greater disclosure of metadata about the contents of major databases, particularly when that content is also available openly on the web.
2. Support the identification, analysis, and evaluation of open access databases and datasets available through government agencies, IGOs, and NGOs. Such evaluation would identify strengths and gaps, as well as overlaps with commercially databases.
3. Expand library support for nonprofit aggregators of important digital content. Much unique data and documentation for AIS research are maintained by community-based efforts like the Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research and the Vanderbilt Television News Archive, which would benefit from broader support by academic libraries. Providing new support to those organizations, by expanding their subscription base to encompass an enlarged population of libraries, could enable them to expand their coverage and value. ❖

2012 Global Dimensions Forum Discussion and Background Papers

- Gibert W. Merckx, *International Studies in the U.S.: an Overview*: the political-historical conditions that led to the rise and success of the US Title VI interdisciplinary centers, and the case for continued support of the area, international, and foreign language (AIFL) studies model.
- Charles Kurzman, *American Scholarship and the Global Turn*: measures the extent to which American universities have supported knowledge of foreign languages and cultures since establishment of the Title VI National Research Centers in 1958, based on international content published in the major social science journals.
- Dan C. Hazen, *Provocations and Irritations for the Globalized Research Library*: developments in the academy, the publishing and information industries, and the library world that “may be at odds with fully effective approaches to global research and learning”; assertions and questions about how those challenges might be met.
- Lucinda Covert-Vail, *Globalization of Faculty, Students, Campuses—Challenges and Opportunities*: implications of the global expansion of US higher education for library collection-building, new issues raised, and how international collaborations between US libraries and libraries and content producers in regions of interest might be structured.
- Barbara McFadden Allen, *Bringing ‘Beginner’s Mind’ to Global Resource Collaboration*: reflections on the nature of collaboration in other sectors and lessons applicable to the world of higher education.
- James Nye, *Non-Governmental Sources of Support for Global Resources*: an overview of the importance of non-governmental support for global resources collection-building in the past, and the prospects for expanding such support in the future.
- James Nye, *International Collaborations in Support of Enhanced Global Resources*: a brief survey of government support for global resources abroad, and a call for “expansive international collaborations” among US research libraries, “engaging partners in the world regions being studied and collaborators in Europe.”
- Bernard Reilly, *The Evolving “Supply Chain” for Foreign Acquisitions*: general background notes on changes wrought by new technologies on the production, distribution, and use of source materials for research and international studies.
- *Global E-Book Snapshot*, compiled by members of the Global and Area Studies Department, Perkins Library, Duke University.
 - [Country Reports](#)
 - [Data](#)
- [Additional Readings and Background Documentation](#)

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