President’s Message

The contents of this month’s newsletter indicate a high level of activity at the Center. Cataloging of the dissertations collection and other scholarly resources proceeds at a furious pace. And we continue to make important additions to the corpus of newspapers, journals, archives, and other foreign-language materials. With money in short supply CRL is maintaining a vigorous acquisitions program so that member institutions can devote more of their own scarce acquisition funds to purchasing core materials.

Because the universe of important scholarly materials is far too large for one institution to preserve single-handedly, our efforts to build and preserve resources for advanced research go beyond the Center’s walls. CRL is providing leadership in this area by launching two initiatives to promote the strategic preservation of research collections community-wide. The first is a study of depositories that we are undertaking with support from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). In this study we are gathering information about the various regional depositories in the U.S., their practices, economics, and governance models. Depositories like the University of California’s Northern and Southern Regional Library Facilities and the Five Colleges Library Depository in Western Massachusetts, involve more than off-site storage. They involve cooperative management of individual libraries’ low-use holdings under the auspices of inter-institutional consortia. In some instances these facilities are the loci of coordinated collecting and retention by the participating libraries through programs designed to reduce redundancy. Other facilities house shared “collections of record” that have been developed cooperatively. The efforts represent a new and promising stage in management of library materials in North America, and our analysis will identify key strategies and determinants of success.

The second initiative builds upon the depositories study. In July 2003 the Center will host a conference on the preservation of the nation’s printed collections, funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. (The conference abstract is available at http://www.crl.edu/content/Conference_Abstract_PAPR.doc.) The conference will focus on the potential contribution of the regional and national-level repositories to the more rationalized preservation of print resources nationwide. Coordinated collection management at the regional level might yield wider benefits if linked to the programs of national-level depositories like the Center, the Library of Congress, American Antiquarian Society, and others.

Through activities such as these, we believe that our efforts here at the Center and in the field will result in more effective and economical management of knowledge resources throughout the research libraries community.

Bernard F. Reilly
President
Global Challenges; International Opportunities

From January 23-25, 2003, the Coalition for International Education sponsored a conference hosted by Duke University, entitled: “Global Challenges and U.S. Higher Education.” The conference was planned in response to the impending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act by the U.S. Congress. Conference participants, ranging from representatives of language programs and National Resource Centers, professional school and undergraduate educators, librarians, coalition members, and Department of Education administrators gathered to provide a renewed assessment of the adequacy of international education in the U.S. in relation to emergent national needs in a global era. The full conference description, papers, and deliberations may be found at: http://www.duke.edu/web/cis/globalchallenges/

One commissioned paper and breakout session was devoted to library and information resources for international education. Deborah Jakubs (Duke University) and Dan Hazen (Harvard University) contributed a thoughtful and comprehensive assessment of current needs of and challenges to the profession, trends and opportunities that have emerged in the past several years, and areas in which external funds and efforts could be helpful to libraries as they seek to support international education.

The paper (http://www.duke.edu/web/cis/globalchallenges/pdf/jakubs.pdf) and subsequent discussion (http://www.duke.edu/web/cis/globalchallenges/pdf/simon_rapp.pdf) provide ample background to these issues and will not be detailed here. This article attempts to address how the Center for Research Library is participating in the national effort to meet these needs, described in terms of budgets, collection building, intellectual access, preservation, cooperative efforts, and strategic directions for CRL.

Budgets

As library budgets face increasing strains, CRL proves to be a strong investment for research institutions. Membership fee increases have been kept to a minimum over the years, far below average increases in acquisition and operation costs of its individual members. Yet CRL continues to combat the reduced buying power of the library dollar through emphasis on maintaining its collection spending while achieving savings through staff reductions, technological efficiencies, and external support.

In times of fiscal pressure, we contend it is even more imperative to invest in cooperative programs like CRL, which provide spending efficiencies and enable cost avoidance for member’s own collecting activities. As one library director recently noted, “For $55,000 in CRL dues I get $200,000 worth of new microfilm each year, and I don’t have to catalog or store it.”

Collection building

The Center’s collection continues to be central to its mission. From area studies material to foreign dissertations, global newspapers and scholarly journals, CRL’s international materials are strongly valued by its membership. The wide range of highly specialized material, focusing on less commonly held items, directly addresses the need for information providers to collect “from the periphery.” This sentiment was validated by the participants of CRL’s recent historian’s conference (see last issue of FOCUS), who characterized and praised the Center as an institution that “still cultivates the obscure.”

CRL views as an opportunity rather than crisis the “inevitable demise of the completeness syndrome” (as put by Ross Atkinson at CRL’s recent cooperative collection development conference). With the cascading explosion of information produced in print and electronic form, individual institutions cannot and should not attempt to amass comprehensive collections for their local patronage. Instead, institutions must be encouraged to take advantage of synergies and negotiate arrangements with other information providers to develop complementary and codependent collections (see best practices of institutions already doing this). CRL’s four-plus million volumes of material can already be considered a part of this shared national collection of research material. Members’ reliance on and integration with CRL’s collecting strengths will only serve to aid this shift to a national “information commons.”

Intellectual Access

The Jakubs/Hazen conference paper discusses the crisis of access to material through bibliographic control and intellectual property. As cataloging arrearages persist and grow, foreign language materials are often over-represented in...
these backlogs. The Center, always known for its high quality work in creating and enhancing bibliographic records, continues to make unprecedented gains in its own cataloging priorities. With assistance from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CRL is processing its renowned foreign dissertation collection, surpassing 100,000 records in the first year of work. Other collections such as its Turkish, Russian, Chinese, and Thai materials have undergone major cataloging, while other unprocessed collections such as the foreign bank publications and textbooks are described in detailed guides available via the Web. CRL plays a part in indexing foreign language serials through the work of the Digital South Asia Library (DSAL) and Latin Americanist Research Resources Project.

Preservation

Preservation of intellectual and cultural heritage remains a critical issue for research libraries, even as new technologies enabling broad access compete directly for vital internal and external support. The Center remains committed to preservation of international materials in print and alternative forms. Projects such as the Area Microform Projects (AMPs) and the International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) acquire material to preserve in durable formats, while new efforts at the Center seek to provide recommendations for a national cooperative framework for the long-term retention and maintenance of artifactual collections, whether in hard copy (see Distributed Print Archive Model in the last issue of FOCUS) or in digital formats (see Political Web archiving project elsewhere in this issue).

Cooperative efforts

Perhaps the most significant progress in providing new access to international resources has been made through collaborative efforts among libraries and research institutions in recent years. The ARL/AAU Global Resources Program and the Department of Education’s “Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access” (TICFIA) program provide focus for international cooperative efforts to provide access to foreign language research collections. CRL plays a crucial role in several of these projects, including the administration and management of DSAL and the Cooperative African Newspapers Project.

However, CRL’s commitment to cooperative efforts for international access stretches back to its founding. The Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project (FNMP) and preservation of foreign official gazettes are key examples of early projects that harnessed the collective will and expertise of the nation’s foremost research institutions. These efforts continue today, alongside the aforementioned AMPs, as models of successful cooperative collection development.

CRL has also long been a champion for institutional linkages with overseas partners. From its exchanges with European universities for foreign dissertations to the partnerships with national libraries to acquire and preserve unique historical research material, CRL is a key player in forging new connections with our distant colleagues. A notable recent example is the Center for South Asia Libraries (CSAL), which was formed as an independent non-profit organization with the assistance of CRL as a mechanism to facilitate scholarly research and teaching on South Asia in all academic disciplines through improved preservation of and access to the heritage of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. CSAL is composed of member institutions in the U.S. and the Indian subcontinent and is based on the principle of mutual benefit to U.S. and South Asian scholars.

CRL’s Strategic Direction

The newly created International Resources division of CRL is closely coordinating its efforts to advance CRL’s strategic plan (approved April 2002). It is aggressively pursuing strategic collection development on a cooperative basis through its coordination of the AMPs as well as through the use of its Area Studies Council. It has pursued mechanisms to facilitate the work of the cooperative projects (staffing needs, infrastructure) and is exploring strategic partnerships and opportunities through existing programs (like the Global Resources Program) and with new partners (such as the Council on American Overseas Research Centers).

It helps optimize resource sharing with and among CRL
member institutions and end-users through the continual development of subject-based resources and through its assistance in evaluating and publicizing cooperative initiatives of the international resource community (for examples, see CRL’s hosted TICFIA project and cooperative collection development mapping project pages). It is also assessing the efficacy of the growing movement towards metadata exposure and interoperability through the Open Archives Initiative, preparing to lend its metadata created by the Digital South Asia Library and related efforts of federated South Asian research institutions.

It promotes and supports action for the cooperative preservation of print and digital scholarly materials through the implementation of such projects as the aforementioned Political Web Archive and ICON. It is exploring additional opportunities along this vein through its international preservation initiatives (such as the Title VI African archives cooperative projects and its assistance with the Social Science Research Council-supported Hemingway Collection Preservation Project in Cuba).

Finally, it is assisting with the diversification of sources of CRL revenue and resources through its continuing improvement of its newspaper microform sales program, exploration of cooperative activities with publishers and university press establishments, and providing program and content management experience to other projects seeking assistance.

These efforts, naturally, are not the ultimate solution to the crises facing academic research libraries in the new millennium. However, they do serve to demonstrate that the community is able to pool its efforts through well-proven mechanisms such as CRL to address the changing needs of our profession and, as a direct relation, the needs of the international scholarly community.

James Simon

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**CRL Cooperative Preservation:**

CRL Conducts Political Communications Web Archiving Study

Within the past decade the World Wide Web has emerged as a vital medium of political communication. It now serves as a global message board through which political activists, parties, popular fronts, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) communicate with constituents and the world community. These communications are the digital-era counterparts of the pamphlets, posters, and other forms of “street literature” that have long provided historians and others indispensable data on political activities, trends, and ideologies. Despite their value such materials tend to be produced sporadically and to change and disappear rapidly.

The Center for Research Libraries, with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is coordinating an investigation and planning effort regarding the preservation of political Web materials. The effort will develop effective methodologies and a viable conceptual and organizational framework for the systematic, sustainable preservation of these kinds of materials. Four universities are participating in the investigation: Cornell University, New York University, Stanford University, and the University of Texas at Austin; along with the San Francisco-based Internet Archive.

The Mellon-funded effort will produce not a collection or an archive per se, but rather a framework and general specifications for three components of ongoing, sustainable archiving:

1. **Long-term resource management** - the economic and organizational model, or models, best suited to support the ongoing archiving, management, and preservation of political Web materials.
2. **Curatorship** - the optimal curatorial regimes and practices for identifying, securing, and presenting the
materials to be archived.

3. *Technology* – the general technical requirements, specifications, and tools best suited to the capture and archiving of political communications.

Investigators will address such matters as the appropriate locus of the various processes (such as selection, fail-safe archiving, rights management) critical to preserving political Web resources; how those processes should be subsidized and administered to ensure long-term availability and control by the research community; who the eligible participants in these activities would be, and their roles; the appropriate quality and extent of capture for political Web materials; optimal frequency and periodicity of capture for various kinds of political sites; and the appropriate balance of human and automated/robotic targeting of resources to be harvested.

The project is linked with a closely related investigation by the California Digital Library (CDL) that is also being supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The CDL project focus is the capture and persistent management of a type of resource comparable to Web political communications – notably web-based materials produced or disseminated by U.S. state and federal governments.

Additional information about the project is available from James Simon, Director of International Resources at the Center for Research Libraries. Progress reports will be available as the project moves forward on the Center’s web site, at http://www.crl.edu.

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**CRL Governance:**

**CRL Council of Voting Members to Meet on April 22 – Security of Knowledge Resources, Libraries Role in Emerging Nations to be Discussed**

Representatives from all CRL member institutions are invited to attend the 54th annual meeting of CRL’s Council of Voting Members, to be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. The meeting will take place at the Sofitel Hotel at 5500 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL, adjacent to Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport. The keynote speaker for the meeting will be Kennette Benedict, Senior Advisor on Philanthropy at the John and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation. Dr. Benedict will discuss the MacArthur Foundation’s current development agendas in key emerging regions of the world, and roles that North American research libraries might play in supporting those agendas. Given the growing globalization of information resources, Dr. Benedict’s perspective should be highly enlightening and valuable.

The program session of the meeting will focus on the security of knowledge resources, a topic prompted by recent pricing decisions by e-journal publishers and the resultant pressure on libraries to discontinue purchase of print titles for Elsevier’s Science Direct and other electronic resources.

The program session of the meeting will focus on the security of knowledge resources, a topic prompted by recent pricing decisions by e-journal publishers and the resultant pressure on libraries to discontinue purchase of print titles for Elsevier’s Science Direct and other electronic resources. Three speakers will discuss approaches to print archives. Beverlee French, Director, Shared Digital Content, California Digital Library, will describe the University of California System’s project to archive Elsevier Science Direct titles in print. Edward Shreeves, Director, Collections and Information Resources, University of Iowa Libraries, and project leader for the CIC’s print archiving of Elsevier titles.
will explain their approach. Melissa Trevvett, CRL, will update members on the Center's Distributed Print Archives project, funded by the Mellon Foundation, and address how this project's objectives could apply to Elsevier print archiving.

The meeting will begin with the annual business session at 8:00 AM. CRL Councilors (directors and designated non-library councilors from CRL Voting Member institutions) will hear operational reports and register votes for new directors and the approval of the FY04 operating budget. (Continental breakfast will be provided.) The program session will commence at 9:00 AM. Lunch will follow, and we expect to adjourn by 1:30 PM.

For those who arrive the evening before the meeting, there will be a welcoming cocktail reception at the Sofitel Hotel from 5:30-7:00 PM. Additional information about the format, agenda and keynote speaker will be posted on CRL's web site in coming weeks.

We request that attendees notify Yvonne Jefferson (jefferson@crl.edu) as soon as possible if they are planning on attending the reception and/or the business/program sessions. Room reservations should be made directly with the Hotel Sofitel. CRL has obtained a special guest rate of $149 single/$169 double per night; however, hotel rooms at this rate are limited. Contact the Hotel Sofitel at 1-800-233-5959 for overnight accommodations also by March 23, 2003 (The hotel has complimentary shuttle service from O'Hare Airport or parking is available for $12.00 per day.)

We sincerely hope that all our member institutions will be represented at this meeting, to discuss and offer their perspectives on these issues and CRL's current directions. If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Jefferson (jefferson@crl.edu) at the Center.

CRL Communications:

1st Phase of CRL Website Upgrade Nears Completion

Within the next few weeks, CRL will officially switch over to its upgraded and redesigned website. This shift will mark the culmination of the first phase of a longer-term project to greatly enhance the quality, quantity, and accessibility of the information provided through this site. While this first phase aims to provide greater ease of navigation to existing web-based CRL resources, subsequent projects will include the expansion of subject-based collection guides, expanded patron-based access tools, and implementation of an online collaborative workspace for increased cooperative capabilities for area studies and other projects.

We are doing everything possible to effect a smooth transition, but know that some difficulties may not be apparent until after the changeover. We appreciate your forbearance for any short-term dislocations, and if you have comments or suggestions about the site, please feel free to contact either Jim Green, CRL VP for Member Services at green@crl.edu or Punya Rawal, CRL Systems Manager at rawal@crl.edu.
CRL to Exhibit at ACRL on April 10-13

CRL will host an exhibit booth at the upcoming biennial conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) to be held April 10 – 13 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Melissa Trevvett and Jim Green from the Center will be available to answer questions, discuss current projects and initiatives, and receive feedback and suggestions from staff from our member institutions. We will also be distributing our newly designed membership information packet, the first of series of new brochures to be developed in the next several months.

So if your plans include attendance at this important event, be sure to stop by Booth #724 for a chat. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

CRL Latin American Collections Subject of Recent Journal Article

An article entitled, “Colonial Latin American Resources at the Center for Research Libraries” has recently been published in volume 11, issue number 2, 2002 of Colonial Latin American Review on pages 317-323. The article gives a brief overview of resources at CRL that may be of interest to Colonial Latin American Scholars.

CRL Program and Services:

Posted Status Information on Special Dissertation Orders

The Demand Purchase service at CRL provides for the purchase of publications (including foreign doctoral dissertations, and archive microfilm titles or newspaper titles in which the Center has partial holdings) to fill a member request, when the requested materials are not already owned by the Center. This service is provided at no additional cost to the member or user, but the time period required to fulfill such requests (especially dissertation requests) is longer than the normal interlibrary loan fulfillment period.

When CRL places an order for a dissertation requested for purchase by a member, CRL staff add information on the process to the bibliographic record in the OPAC. Members and faculty or students at their institutions can check online to learn where the order is in the process. Below is an example of one record for a dissertation order in process:

http://catalog.crl.edu/search/a?SEARCH=Enhammer

Z39.50 Connections to CRL OPAC Available

Many members have asked how they can make CRL resources more visible at their institutions. Z39.50 makes it possible for a user in one system to search and retrieve information from other computer systems (that have also implemented Z39.50) without knowing the search syntax that is used by those other systems.

The Center has developed Z39.50 configuration information for Endeavor’s Voyager and ExLibris’ Aleph software systems. Additionally, we are testing with some other library vendors as well. Please refer to http://www.crl.edu/info/z3950.htm for detailed configuration information. These configurations have been tested by libraries using each of these systems. For Innovative libraries, the Partners software is available.

For questions, please contact Punya Rawal at systems@crl.edu or 773-955-4545, ext. 341.
New Materials Received By CRL -
November 2002 thru
January 2003

OCLC record numbers are supplied as reference to more complete bibliographic information when possible. If there is no OCLC number supplied material is still being processed. The Center's holding symbol (CRL) may not yet be attached to the record cited.

**Dissertations**

Doctoral Dissertations titles in all formats received as a result of demand purchase, exchange, and deposit: 1,464.

**Area Studies Microforms – Africana (Through Camp)**

- Le Républicain. (Bamako, Mali) 1998 Gaps [no. 291-462]. This reel fills in missing issues from previous reel. 1 reel (OCLC #33975814)
- Les Échos (Bamako, Mali: Daily) (Bamako, Mali: Daily) Jan 4 - Dec 31, 1999 [no. 1132-1384]. 2 reels. (OCLC #51508852)
  - Cahiers Ecole William Ponty. [Dakar: Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire, c1989?] 5 reels (OCLC #51505905)

**Latin America (Through Lamp)**


**Slavic and Eastern European (Through SEEMP)**

- Russian right-wing extremist press microfilm collection. Continuation of Part One. 4 reels. (OCLC #43974959) (Reels 20-23 contain 48 titles, with issues mainly from 1999. These holdings will be added to Web site listing these titles.)
  - Russian right-wing extremist press microfilm collection. Part Two (96 new titles, 1990-1999); 7 reels.

**Southeast Asia (Through Seam)**

- Hanoi báo. [no. 1-52] (Jan - Dec. 1936). 2 reels (OCLC #51512709)

**General Archives in Microform (Acquired Through the Demand Purchase Program)**

  - Central Treasury Records of the Continental and Confederation Governments, 1775-1789. M 1014 23 reels. (OCLC #13991977)

**Newspapers in Microform (Acquired Through the Demand Purchase Program)**

- The Daily Gleaner (Kingston, Jamaica) 1945-Jun. 1948. 21 reels (OCLC #17646389)
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Accounting Department  
Membership Information Jim Green  
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Meeting/Schedules Yvonne Jefferson  
Communications/Public Relations/Marketing Jim Green

Loans/Photocopies/Demand Purchases  
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Mary Wilke

Collection Deposits  
Mary Wilke

CRL Bibliographic Records on Magnetic Tape  
Mary Wilke

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