

**Orbis Cascade Alliance  
Collection Development and Management Committee**

**Proposal:  
Pilot Project for a Distributed Print Repository  
September 2005**

*Summit*, the union catalog of the member libraries of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, is a powerful tool. Its utility to enable efficient and cost effective resource sharing for monographs among member libraries is well developed and widely recognized. Its potential to enable the member libraries to manage their local collections with a regional perspective is still largely untapped. In order for member libraries to begin using *Summit* more intentionally as a tool for collection management, the Collection Development and Management Committee (CDMD) proposes a pilot project to create a distributed print repository of some important journal runs. If this pilot project is successful, the scope can be expanded to include additional journal runs as well as monographs.

Many consortium libraries hold duplicate materials that might be discarded if such withdrawals were made in a deliberate fashion to ensure continued access to these titles for all member libraries. Planning for a consortium storage facility is well developed. Since funding is not yet available, however, it may be several years before a jointly-owned and managed storage building becomes available. Meanwhile the shelves at many member libraries are over-filled. The present lack of a storage building should not prevent consortium libraries from beginning to manage their collections collectively. If the consortium could identify “archival” copies of journal runs that would be kept at member libraries in perpetuity, many libraries could, at their discretion, safely withdraw duplicate runs from their overcrowded shelves to make room for new materials.

**Description of the pilot project:**

The CDMC proposes to create a distributed print archive of the paper backfiles of three widely owned electronic journal packages: the American Chemical Society (ACS) journals (33 titles); JSTOR Arts and Sciences I journals (117 titles); and the JSTOR Arts and Sciences II journals (124 titles). (See <http://pubs.acs.org/pressrelease/pricing.html> for information on the ACS titles and <http://www.jstor.org/about/collection.list.html> for information about the JSTOR collections.) These packages were selected because a broad spectrum of the consortium membership owns paper backfiles as well as electronic subscriptions to these journals. They include key titles with long runs in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

The CDMC would seek to identify two complete runs of each title in the collections of member libraries. The two most complete runs in good condition would be identified as consortium archival holdings to be held in perpetuity and not to be withdrawn. One copy would become a “dark archival” copy that would not circulate. The second copy would be a “bright archive” that would circulate to member libraries when a paper version of an electronic file is needed for some reason. Since two archival copies of each title would

be kept on behalf of all consortium libraries, other libraries should feel free to withdraw their copies, although this is of course a local decision.

**Proposed procedures:**

The CDMC will develop a tool to gather information about each journal run in the three collections. Members of the Collection Development and Management committee will serve as liaison to the project and work with their library directors to secure staff participation in the project. Each member library will examine its own serial records to report its holdings. The CDMC will identify a handful of complete or almost-complete runs for each title and ask the holding libraries to do a further examination at the shelf of the paper backfiles. Bound volumes should be examined for condition as well as inspected for missing issues. After this second round of reporting, two runs of each title will be identified as the “archival” copies. An effort will be made to distribute this archive among all member libraries so each assumes responsibility for some titles.

It will be important to keep good records as archival runs are identified. The CDMC will draft a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the responsibilities of the libraries that agree to hold runs of bright and dark archives. It will also establish a Website that identifies each title and its archival owners. The owning libraries will affix bookplates, supplied by the consortium, to identify each volume as an archival copy to be held in perpetuity on behalf of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. In addition member libraries will add notes in their catalog to identify archival journal runs.

**Antecedents:**

A number of other library consortia are also working on similar projects. Those with storage facilities have developed deposit policies to enable member libraries to withdraw duplicate runs of serials. The CIC libraries in the Midwest are working on a similar project to archive current paper issues for Wiley and Springer journals as the members switch to electronic-only subscriptions. The Center for Research Libraries is working on a cooperative project to obtain a complete file of the print journals in JSTOR. SOLINET libraries are working to establish a distributed archive of monograph “last copies.” OCLC may begin work on a last copy registry for WorldCat. Cooperative projects like the one CDMC is proposing are on the development horizon for many consortia.

Given an established track record for cooperation with an excellent union catalog and delivery service in place, the Orbis Cascade Alliance can be a leader in beginning to manage its member library collections cooperatively.