

CELEBRATING THE STATE'S INVESTMENT IN WASHINGTON'S FUTURE: THE COOPERATIVE LIBRARY PROJECT

Report to the Interinstitutional Committee of Academic Officers
by the Interinstitutional Committee of Chief Librarians

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I. Foundations

In the early 1990s the provosts, librarians, and computing technology specialists of the Washington state's public baccalaureate institutions began, under the sponsorship of the Council of Presidents, to develop a vision for a **Cooperative Library Project**. The **CLP** enables sharing of library resources among the six institutions, their various campuses and centers, and their distance learning students throughout the state. In partnership with the State Legislature, a phased project was created and funded in the 1995, 1996 and 1998 supplemental budgets.

II. Investment

- \$7.1 million in non-recurring funds
- \$2 million (biennial) base dollars
- In keeping with the original CLP vision, nearly all of the remaining card catalog records at each institution were converted to electronic form. The libraries built a joint catalog that is updated continually. The text-based catalog implemented in 1996 was succeeded in 2000 by CASCADE, a web-based catalog.
- In 2000, the libraries installed Innovative Interfaces INN-Reach software that allowed students, faculty, and staff at any one of the campuses to check out books electronically from any of the other libraries and to have the books delivered to their home library within 72 hours.
- The libraries jointly licensed a large electronic full text database (ProQuest) representing a core set of general-purpose, full text periodicals. Additional jointly licensed databases included American Chemical Society Web Editions, American Mathematical Society: MathSciNet, and ISI Web of Science.

III. Return on Investment

- All six public baccalaureate institutions now have Innovative Interfaces systems that provide online catalogs and allow for effective management of the acquisition and circulation of print, multi-media and electronic resources.
- Improved telecommunications capacity expanded users' access to Internet resources and made CLP's continuing development possible.
- CASCADE was such a beneficial service that COP and the libraries looked for ways to build on its success. CASCADE and its counterpart Oregon-based library consortium merged in 2002 to form the Orbis Cascade Alliance, and in 2003 began its highly successful Summit catalog and delivery system.
- Orbis Cascade Alliance provides the system and structure for expedited resource sharing within 48 hours, and a mechanism for adding new members, including Washington State's community and technical colleges.
- Orbis Cascade Alliance leverages the purchasing power of over 30 academic libraries resulting in volume discounts for electronic resources and services.

Enhanced research and learning for faculty and students

- "Pick up anywhere" supports mobility of our students and faculty, including distance learners
- Direct borrowing saves time
- Merged catalog doubled the number of volumes available for easy access
- Access to and delivery of unique materials not previously available
- Faster and more reliable interlibrary borrowing
- Greater use of collections for research and learning

Cost avoidance and cost savings

- Through shared licensing of electronic resources and leveraged purchasing power through the Orbis Cascade Alliance, the COP institutions realized **\$3,583,271 in cost avoidance** during the current year:
 - ISI Web of Science: \$66,056
 - Proquest : \$85,717
 - JSTOR: \$81,799
 - E-resources purchased through Orbis Cascade Alliance: \$437,150
 - E-journals purchased through Orbis Cascade Alliance: \$2,994,339
- Significantly lower costs per transaction for borrowing and lending in Summit compared to traditional interlibrary loan. From 2000-2006, COP institutions realized **\$8,004,505 in cost avoidance**.
- Individual libraries maximize collection funds by avoiding unnecessary duplicate purchase of books and other materials
- Cooperative collection development

Capacity for a constant price

- A shared infrastructure
- Larger more robust systems
- Structure for adding new members, including community colleges
- Easy access to the collections of over 30 academic libraries
- Distributed print repositories for preservation and access