2CUL:
A Partnership Between
Columbia University Libraries and
Cornell University Libraries

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2CUL

A transformative and enduring partnership between two major academic research libraries based on a broad integration of resources, collections, services and expertise.

Context for Collaboration

- Rapidly shifting user behaviors/ expectations
- Redundant, inefficient Library operations
- Aging service paradigm in an era of ATM/ smartphone expectations
- Increasing emphasis on unique resources
- Need to achieve scale and network effects through aggregation

Context for Collaboration

- Era of perpetual beta
- Move to open architecture
- Need for systemic change
- Acceleration of collective innovation
- New economic conditions

2CUL: Columbia & Cornell University Libraries

- Major research libraries
- New York State
- Private, Ivy League institutions
- Similar academic characteristics
- Record of collaboration, innovation
- Budget challenges
- Will and interest

2CUL Project: Mellon Grant

- Project management
- Work plan development
- Data collection and analysis
- Governance, business planning, legal
- Travel and conferencing support
- 2012 - Phase 2 grant in process

2CUL: 8 Goals

- <u>Improve the quality</u> of collections, services and expertise available to key constituencies

- Lay the foundation for a <u>permanent selective integration</u>

- Achieve <u>significant integration of operations</u>, services, collections, and resources

- Achieve <u>significant cost savings</u> through shared services, joint collections, and elimination of redundancy

8 Goals (cont'd)

- Collaborate in <u>generating new resources</u>
- <u>Co-invest</u> in critical under-supported areas and innovative new services
- Build understanding and support among stakeholders
- Share experiences and findings

Challenges

- Distance – 4 hour travel b/w campuses
- Technical – disparate systems, staffing
- Structural – administrative, financial
- Cultural – union/non-union, selector autonomy

Communications

- In-person meetings
- HD video conference system
- Phone, Skype, Email, Wiki
- Food

By 2015…

- Consolidate Library Management System
  - Single shared system
  - 2CUL shared database(s)
  - Options: Kuali OLE, Ex Libris Alma
- Technical Services Integration (TSI)
  - E-resource management
  - Original cataloging and metadata
  - Print resource management
- Collective Collection

Consolidate LMS

- Early 2011 – Initial analysis of potential options and vendors

- Late 2011 into 2012 – Extensive review of Ex Libris Alma

- Back–end integration planned

- Discovery integration not in scope

LMS Integration Challenges

- Two distinct financial systems
- How many databases?
- Two distinct campus IT infrastructures
  - Identity management
  - Networking
- Multiple, distinct extensions to current systems

Preliminary Timeline

- 2013 – finalize plans for joint LMS development
- 2014 – implementation phase
- 2015 – LMS deployment

Technical Services Collaboration

- Two decade-long trend of doing more with fewer staff
- Merge duplicative operations
- Standardize efficient practices
- Ratio of management to production

TSI Steering Committee

- Co-chaired by Directors of Technical Services

- Unify operations as far as possible

- Identify local practices that must remain institution-specific

Examples of Early Wins

- Shared Specialist Librarians – Latin American, Slavic, Southeast Asia, South Asia
- Successful joint vendor negotiations
- Consolidated book plans – saved $70,000, plowed back into buying more rare and unique materials
- Consolidated pre-order workflow (POOF)
- Shared infrastructure for student newspaper

Summary

- Early benefits from working together to achieve 2CUL goals

- Major efforts to integrate Technical Services and deploy next gen. LMS

- Continue to identify new collaboration opportunities

- Share results

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Questions