The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative Inspiring Libraries. Empowering People.

Annual Report
July 2009 – June 2010

Sponsors

The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative receives support from many sponsors in the library community. Thank you to all who have made this Initiative successful!

ALA RUSA/STARS

BCR (Bibliographical Center for Research)

DBC (Danish Bibliographic Center)

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

Relais International Resource Sharing Services

University of Michigan Library

The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative

The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative (RRSI) seeks to create pandemic change inspiring libraries to meet user expectations through innovative resource sharing service.

The Initiative started in the United States in 2005 with a white paper written by a group of librarians, product vendors, and library technology specialists. They recognized that the information seeking and retrieval behaviors of users and the technological infrastructure in which those users lived had progressed beyond the scope of existing resource sharing processes. Rather than adding layers of improvements to resource sharing functions, they considered an environment with a clean slate and a fresh start to building resource sharing services. They release a white paper encouraging the library community to rethink resource sharing.

After the release of the white paper, the conversation grew. It appeared that much of the library community was ready for a revolution in resource sharing. A Forum was convened in 2007 to further explore the idea. A second forum followed and, soon after, the governance for the ad hoc group for Rethinking Resource Sharing took shape.

A Manifesto for Rethinking Resource Sharing

If libraries want to expand and promote information accessibility, and to continue to be valued resources, we believe that libraries must improve their information delivery system. Aligning resource sharing workflow, collection policies, and discovery-delivery systems by significantly reducing service barriers and cost, and offering user service options are critical pieces that promote information access.

We believe that the user should be able to get what s/he wants on the terms that s/he chooses without undue hurdles from the library community. As libraries are making their collections visible on a global scale, so should they provide an international resource delivery system or a service model that combines the strengths of all participating libraries. Toward that end, we believe the following principles embraced by libraries and librarians will encourage the sort of resource sharing and delivery that will enhance the role of libraries in the expanding information environment:

1. Restrictions shall only be imposed as necessary by individual institutions with the goal that the lowest-possible-barriers-to-fulfillment are presented to the user while maintaining the integrity of the institution's mandate and collections.
2. Library users shall be given appropriate options for delivery format, method of delivery, and fulfillment type, including loan, copy, digital copy, and purchase.
3. Global access to sharable resources shall be encouraged through formal and informal networking agreements with the goal towards lowest-barrier-to-fulfillment.
4. Sharable resources shall include those held in cultural institutions of all sorts: libraries, archives, museums, and the expertise of those employed in such places.
5. Reference services are a vital component to resource sharing and delivery and shall be made readily accessible from any initial "can't supply this" response. No material that is findable should be totally unattainable.
6. Libraries should offer service at a fair price rather than refuse but should strive to achieve services that are not more expensive than commercial services, e.g. bookshops.
7. Library registration should be as easy as signing up for commercial web based services. Everyone can be a library user.

Governance

The Initiative is led by volunteers. In June 2008, the structure of the Steering Committee was revised to include a Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair, and 3 at-large members. Additionally, committee Chairs and representatives from sponsors service ex-officio on the Steering Committee.

Committees

Delivery

The Delivery Committee will collect, analyze and consolidate information about the resource sharing delivery needs of academic, public, school and special libraries and formulate recommendations for best practices based upon their findings.

Interoperability

The Interoperability Committee analyzes discovery to delivery technology frameworks inside libraries and outside on the open Web to identify best of breed solutions to improve resource sharing. This committee does not develop solutions, but rather defines and encourages development in the greater Web community.

RRS Policies Committee

Affiliated with the Sharing and Transforming Access to Resources Section (STARS) of the American Library Association's Reference and User Services Association, the goals of the Policies Committee is to develop a policy framework for an expanded resource sharing ideal.

User Needs

The User Needs Committee conducts research on user behavior for the purpose of defining user needs in the areas of information access and resource sharing.

Steering Committee Members
July 2009 – June 2010

Poul Erlandsen, Chair
Head of Section, The Royal Library – Copenhagen University Library & Information Service

Gina Persichini, Vice Chair
Networking Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries

Anne Beaubien, Past Chair
Director, Cooperative Access Services and Grants Officer, University of Michigan Library

Mary Lehane
Manager, Resource Sharing Department, York University

Beth Farmer
Assistant Director, Tampa Bay Library Consortium

Robert Krall, IFLA Representative
Director, Departmental Libraries, Resource Sharing and Delivery Services; University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Committee Leadership

Delivery
Russell Palmer
Educational Services Librarian
Lyrasis

Interoperability
Gail Wanner
URSA Product Manager, SirsiDynix
&
Margaret W. Ellingson
ILL Team Leader & ILLiad System Manager

RRS Policies Committee (ALA)

Evan D. Simpson

Head of Reference and Instruction

Tisch Library, Tufts University

User Needs
Beth Posner
Head of Interlibrary Loan Services, Mina Rees Library, CUNY Graduate Center

2009-10 Accomplishments

- Presented two Innovation Awards June 2010
- Held Rethinking Resource Sharing Europe Forum in Hanover, Germany in October 2009 with delegates from 18 countries
- Partnered with colleagues from Australia on program for RRS Forum in Brisbane, Australia September 2010
- Held pre-conference co-sponsored with ASCLA at ALA Annual in Chicago, June 2010
- Appointed Russell Palmer new chair of Delivery Committee.
- Appointed Beth Posner new chair of User Needs Committee; revitalized committee and added new non-US members. The Committee is developing brief user needs surveys
- Developed a RRS Star checklist for best practices
- Appointed Margaret W. Ellingson co-chair of Interoperability committee
- Facilitated working group meetings for ALA Midwinter 2010
- Updated 2010-2012 Strategic Plan
- Anne Beaubien represented the RRSI SC in the planning committee for the 12th IFLA ILDS Conference to be held in Chicago, September 2011

Presentations

- Policies for Resource Sharing: Why they Matter and How to Rethink Them, by Anne Beaubien presented to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin, TX, October 9, 2009
- The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative – Achievements and New Goals, by Poul Erlandsen presented to the Rethinking Resource Sharing Europe Forum in Hanover, Germany, 19 October 2009
- "Rethinking Resource Sharing in Europe Forum" with presentations by Ed Davidson, Raymond Berard, Clare MacKeigan, Ursula Zängl, Poul Erlandsen, Helle Brink, Silvana Mangiaracina and Sara Stavaas Virkelyst, Hanover, Germany, October 2009
- Rethinking Resource Sharing, by Anne Beaubien presented to the COLD Michigan ILL Group in Ann Arbor, MI, May 21, 2010
- "Giving People What They Want: Information Access in Libraries and Beyond" ASCLA/RRSI preconference with presentations by Lee Rainie, Marshall Breeding, Kyle Banerjee, Cyril Oberlander and Brian Skib, Washington, DC, June 25, 2010

Goals for 2010-2011

- The Delivery Committee hopes to launch a direct delivery logo
- The User Needs Committee will distribute surveys
- The Policies Committee will release the checklist for best practices and develop toolkit
- The Steering Committee will continue to present Innovation Awards
- The Steering Committee seeks to have papers on RRSI accepted for presentation during the 12th IFLDS Conference
- The Steering Committee will work for having articles on the initiative published