



# **The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative**

**Rethinking Resource Sharing.  
Inspiring Libraries. Empowering People.**

**Annual Report  
July 2011 - June 2012**

Prepared by the Rethinking Resource Sharing Steering Committee  
[www.rethinkingresourcesharing.org](http://www.rethinkingresourcesharing.org)

## 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!*



## 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 serve 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 2011 – June 2012

### **Beth Posner, Chair**

Head of Library Resource Sharing, CUNY Graduate Center

### **Gina Persichini, Past Chair**

Networking Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries

### **Mary Lehane, Chair Elect. Innovation Awards**

Manager, Resource Sharing Department, York University

### **Pat Boze, Delivery Committee Chair**

Consultant, Lincoln Trail Libraries System

### **Beth Farmer, TBLC Rep, Innovation Awards**

Assistant Director, Tampa Bay Library Consortium

### **Poul Erlandsen, Past Chair**

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

### **Clare MacKeigan, Relais Rep, Interoperability Co-Chair**

### **Anne Beaubien, IFLA Forum Liaison**

Director, MLibrary Document Delivery and Grants Officer, University of Michigan Library

### **Margaret W. Ellingson, Innovation Awards, Interoperability Committee Co-Chair**

ILL Team Leader & ILLiad System Manager

### **Evan D. Simpson, Policies Committee Chair**

Head of Reference and Instruction, Tisch Library, Tufts University

### **John Klima, User Needs Committee Chair**

Assistant Director, Waukesha (WI) Public Library

### **William Gee, User Needs Committee Chair**

ILL and Document Delivery Librarian, East Carolina University

### **Tony Melvyn, OCLC Rep**

### **Mary Hollerich, IFLA Rep**

**2011-2012**  
**Rethinking Resource Sharing**  
**STARS**

70 libraries used the STAR Checklist this year to inventory their policies and practices and improve their services.

These libraries represent seven countries, including Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Slovenia and over 25 states in the US

## Presentations and Publications

- OCU (Ontario Council of University Libraries) Resource Sharing Day , Lehane, Mary "The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative and the RRS STAR Checklist", Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, December 8, 2011.
- ILLiad Conference 2012, Posner, Beth, "Checklist of Best Practices in Library Resource Sharing".
- Connecticut Library Association, 2012, Posner, Beth, "Checklist of Best Practices in Library Resource Sharing".
- SUNY Library Association 2012, Posner, Beth, "Checklist of Best Practices in Library Resource Sharing".
- 2012 ALA Annual program, Anne Beaubien, Beth posner, Evan Sipson, David Atkins, "Checklist of Best Practices in Library Resource Sharing".
- ILDS Conference, 2011, Posner, Beth, The Ethics of Library Resource Sharing in the Digital Age".

## 2011-2012 Accomplishments

- Appointed Beth Posner Vice Chair of the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative, Mary Lehane as the 2012-2013 Chair and Evan Simpson as the 2013-2014 Chair.
- Appointed John Klima and then William Gee as Chair of the User Needs Committee.
- Participated in the planning of the Nordic ILL Conference.
- Developed delivery event for ALA Annual Conference 2013.
- Presented Innovation Awards to Samaritan Health Services and UBorrow.
- Recognized ~70 libraries as Rethinking Resource Sharing STARS.
- Facilitated lunch table discussions at ILDS Conference on rethinking interoperability.
- Helped to draft the Euston Protocol to describe essential messages and statuses required to support resource sharing transactions.
- Reorganization for 2012 underway...rather than working through committees, we will focus on projects and sharing information about resource sharing.

## RRS Innovation Awards

**2011**

**Samaritan Health Services, "Access for All"**

Access for All consists of two web-based services - Scangrants.com and Researchraven.com - that dramatically improve access to health research information.

**2012**

**CIC, "UBorrow"**

UBorrow is the result of a unique, three-way collaboration among consortia members and resource sharing software developers and an innovative approach to consortial borrowing that had not been accomplished before.