



The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative

Inspiring Libraries. Empowering People.

Annual Report

July 2010 – June 2011

Prepared by the Rethinking Resource Sharing Steering Committee

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 2010 – June 2011

Gina Persichini, Chair
Networking Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries

Beth Posner, Vice Chair
Head of Interlibrary Loan Services
Mina Rees Library, The CUNY Graduate Center

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

Mary Lehane
Manager, Resource Sharing Department, York
University

Pat Boze
Consultant, Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Beth Farmer
Assistant Director, Tampa Bay Library Consortium

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

Anne Beaubien, IFLA Forum Liaison
Director, Cooperative Access Services and Grants
Officer, University of Michigan Library

Delivery Committee Chair
Russell Palmer
Educational Services Librarian
Lyris

Interoperability Committee Chair
Margaret W. Ellingson
ILL Team Leader & ILLiad System Manager

Policies Committee Chair
Evan D. Simpson
Head of Reference and Instruction
Tisch Library, Tufts University

User Needs Committee Chair
John Klima
Assistant Director
Waukesha (WI) Public Library

2010-2011

Rethinking Resource Sharing STARS

Auburn University
College of William and Mary
East Carolina University
Emory University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Mississippi
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University

Presentations and Publications

- Rethinking Resource Sharing Poster Session, 2010 Information Delivery Services Project (IDS) Conference, August 3-4, 2010
- "Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative," Tenn-Share Conference, Nashville, TN, October 29, 2010
- "*The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative: Education, Advocacy and Inspiration for Libraries*," **Interlending & Document Supply**, Volume 39 issue 3, Beth Posner and Evan Simpson

2010-11 Accomplishments

- Appointed Beth Posner Vice Chair of the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative
- Relocated Rethinking Initiative administrative functions to the Tampa Bay Library Consortium.
- Relocated www.rethinkingresourcesharing.org to a new server hosted by Tampa Bay Library Consortium
- Appointed John Klima Chair of the User Needs Committee
- Published online User Needs Bibliography
- Created sample User Needs survey questions for use by library community
- Participated in the planning of the IFLA Interlending and Document Supply Conference.
- Initiated partnership with Moving Mountains for joint sponsorship of a delivery event in 2013.
- Presented 2010 Innovation Awards to COKAMO and DataCite
- Released Rethinking Resource Sharing STAR Checklist
- Recognized 17 libraries as Rethinking Resource Sharing STARS
- Translated *Manifesto for Rethinking Resource Sharing* to Chinese

RRS Innovation Awards

COKAMO

COKAMO is an interstate library delivery service linking regional courier services in Colorado, Kansas and Missouri, It reduces the costs of inter-state borrowing while speeding up the delivery of materials to library patrons.

DataCite

DataCite is an international database registration initiative supporting researchers in locating, identifying, and citing research datasets. It includes members in North America and Europe.