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- University of Chicago ◆ University of Illinois ◆ Indiana University
- University of Iowa ◆ University of Maryland ◆ University of Michigan ◆ Michigan State University
- University of Minnesota ◆ University of Nebraska—Lincoln ◆ Northwestern University
- Ohio State University ◆ Pennsylvania State University ◆ Purdue University
- Rutgers University—New Brunswick ◆ University of Wisconsin—Madison

Big Ten Academic Alliance



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the BIG Collection

library directors' commitment to an **interdependent future**

move the 15 independent collections of
the Big Ten to be

ONE collection - SHARED - FULLY NETWORKED

BTAA CONTEXT

Join our strengths

Create something more powerful than the sum of our parts

Articulate the needs of the whole

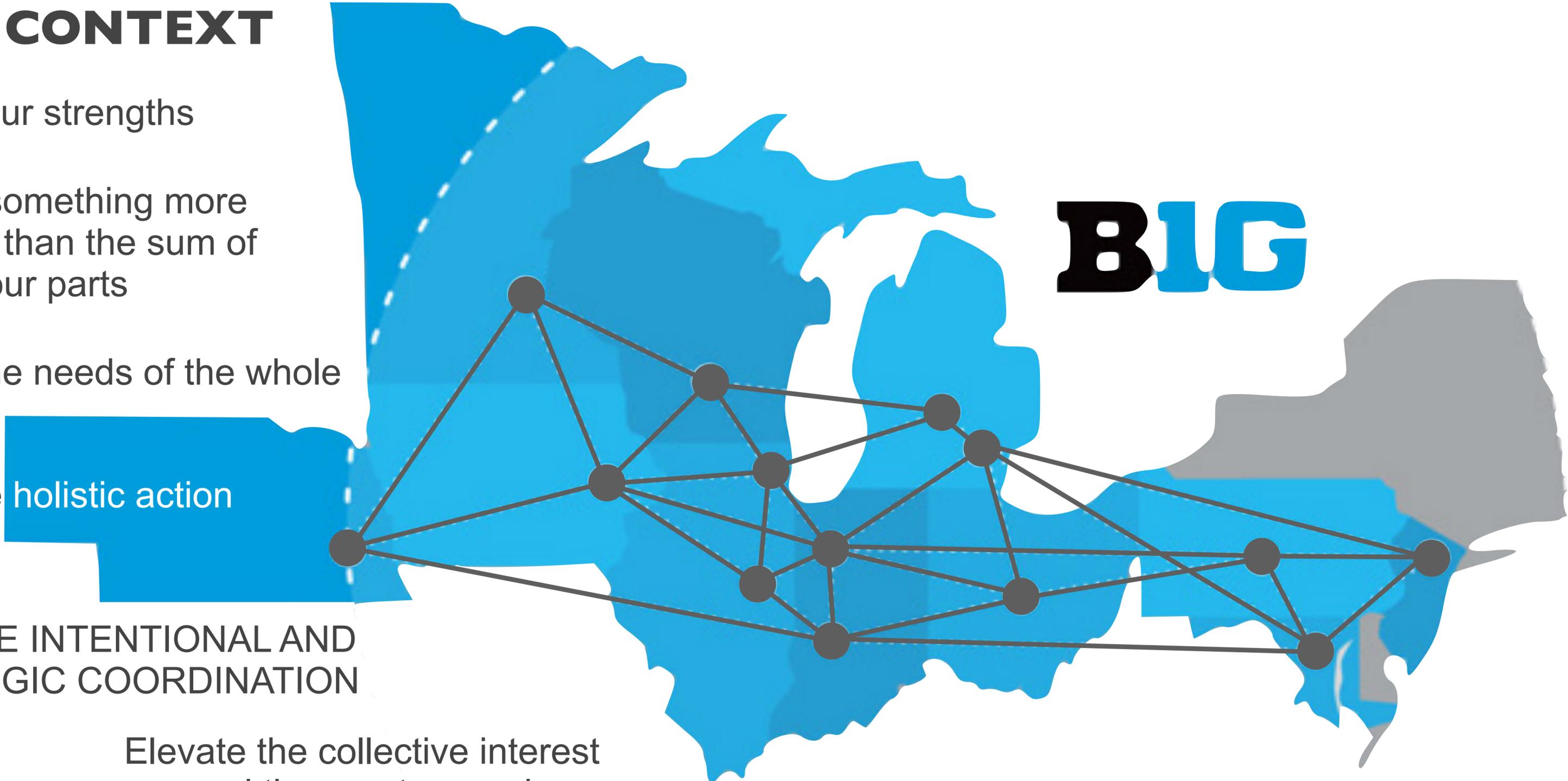
Coordinate **holistic action**

ENGAGE INTENTIONAL AND STRATEGIC COORDINATION

Elevate the collective interest and the greater good

BIG

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION - THE POWER OF THE BIG COLLECTION



institutional culture and character

collective action

does not mean, we expect
each other to behave the same

—rather—

what are our respective strengths,
what do we each bring to the table,
what can we each be counted on for,
and count on each other for

PROGRAMS

INITIATIVES

SHARED PRINT REPOSITORY

UBORROW

ACCESSIBILITY

LARGE-SCALE ACQUISITIONS

CATALOGING

TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

ACQUISITIONS

PROSPECTIVE PRINT

SHARED LICENSING

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL PRESERVATION

BIG COLLECTION

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

DEI

PRESERVATION

IT DIRECTORS

PUBLIC SERVICES

COOPERATIVE CATALOGING

GEOPORTAL

SUSTAINABLE PUBLISHING

TECHNICAL SERVICES

PEER GROUPS

CADRE DATA PLATFORM



- PROGRAMS ●
- INITIATIVES ●
- PEER GROUPS ●

TIMELINE OF THE BIG COLLECTION CONCEPT

1964 **CIC report** titled “Observations on the Possibilities of Instituting Cooperative Automated Systems among CIC Libraries.” (only three years after the Alliance was formed!)

- At the time, a **combined total of 18 million volumes**
 - Two major benefits “to be derived from cooperation of the libraries”:
 1. “Easier access, and hence broader usage of rare volumes or notable collections”
 2. “The elimination of unnecessary duplication among the CIC libraries”
-

1990s **Virtual Electronic Library (VEL)**

- Project to create a joint electronic library. Joint collection stood at **58 million volumes**
 - “In a time when budgets are shrinking while demand for library services is on the rise, academic libraries have found that collaboration is vital.... Eventually, every member of the faculty, staff, or student population of the CIC universities will have seamless access to this universe of material.”
-

2019 **Commitment to the BIG Collection as a strategic direction**

- Partnership with OCLC on the study “Operationalizing the BIG Collection,” led by Lorcan Dempsey
 - All 15 University Librarians sign a commitment to an interdependent future in Fall 2019
 - “Silent phase” follows - a year of studying what we have committed to, what does this mean
 - Total collection now at **114 million volumes**
-

2021 **The action phase begins**

- BIG Collection Steering Committee announced
- Initial project structures are being created and to begin the first pilots

the BIG Collection

What are we talking about?

let's start with...the “circulating” collection of books

114 million volumes distributed over 15 research libraries

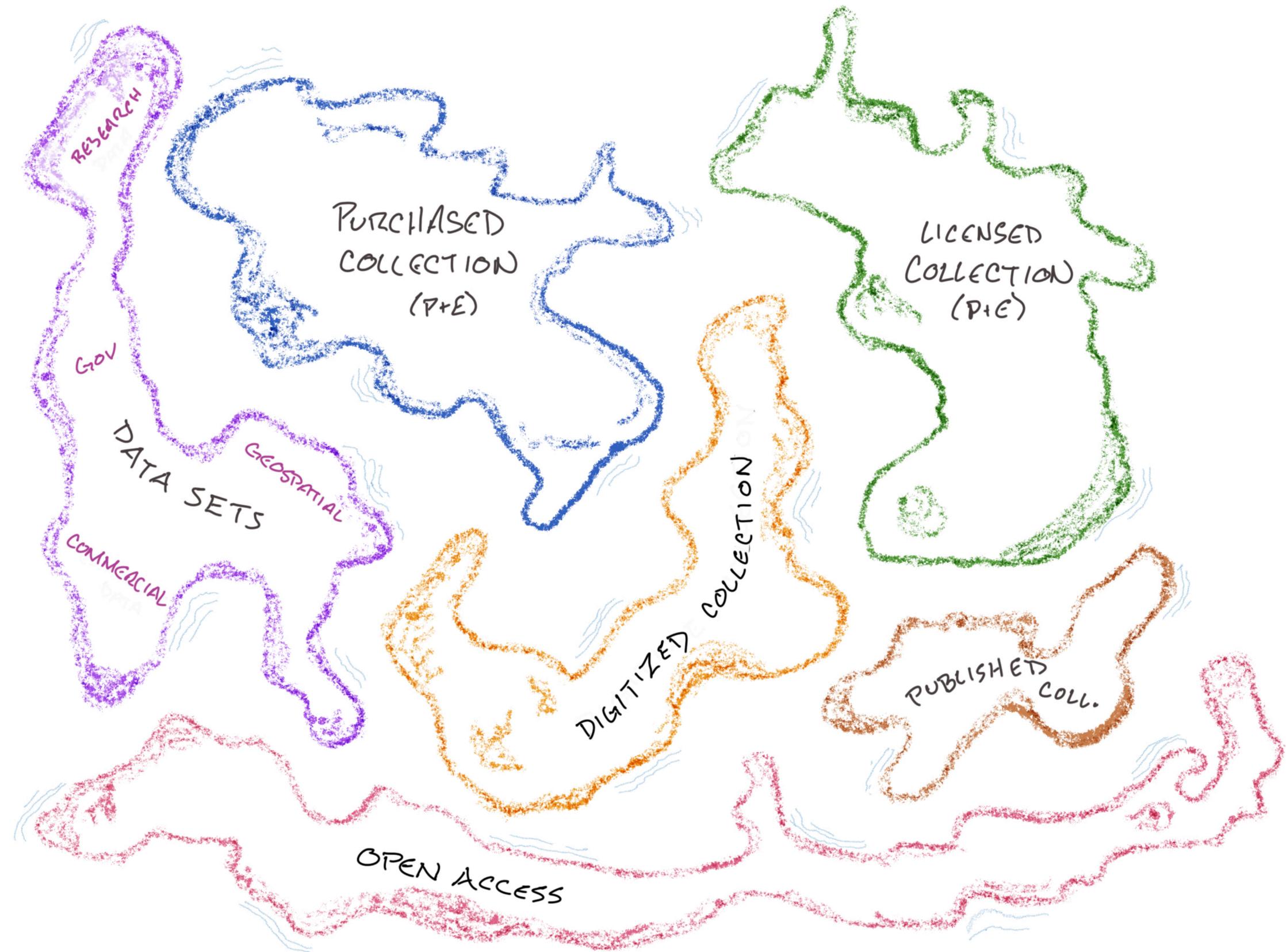
22% of all printed content in North America

more than half held by only a single BTAA library

only 6% duplicated in ten or more BTAA libraries

What is the scope of the BIG Collection?

What are its dimensions?



Libraries: First Principles

- Community investment in a shared resource
- Egalitarian access to the tools of knowledge creation
- Provider of domain expertise to empower researchers
- Facilitator of interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration
- Long-term guardian and preserver of the research products of the institution

systems analysis

The Tools & Systems exist

but

they are a **KIT OF PARTS**

not

SOLUTIONS

This is not

an

implementation problem

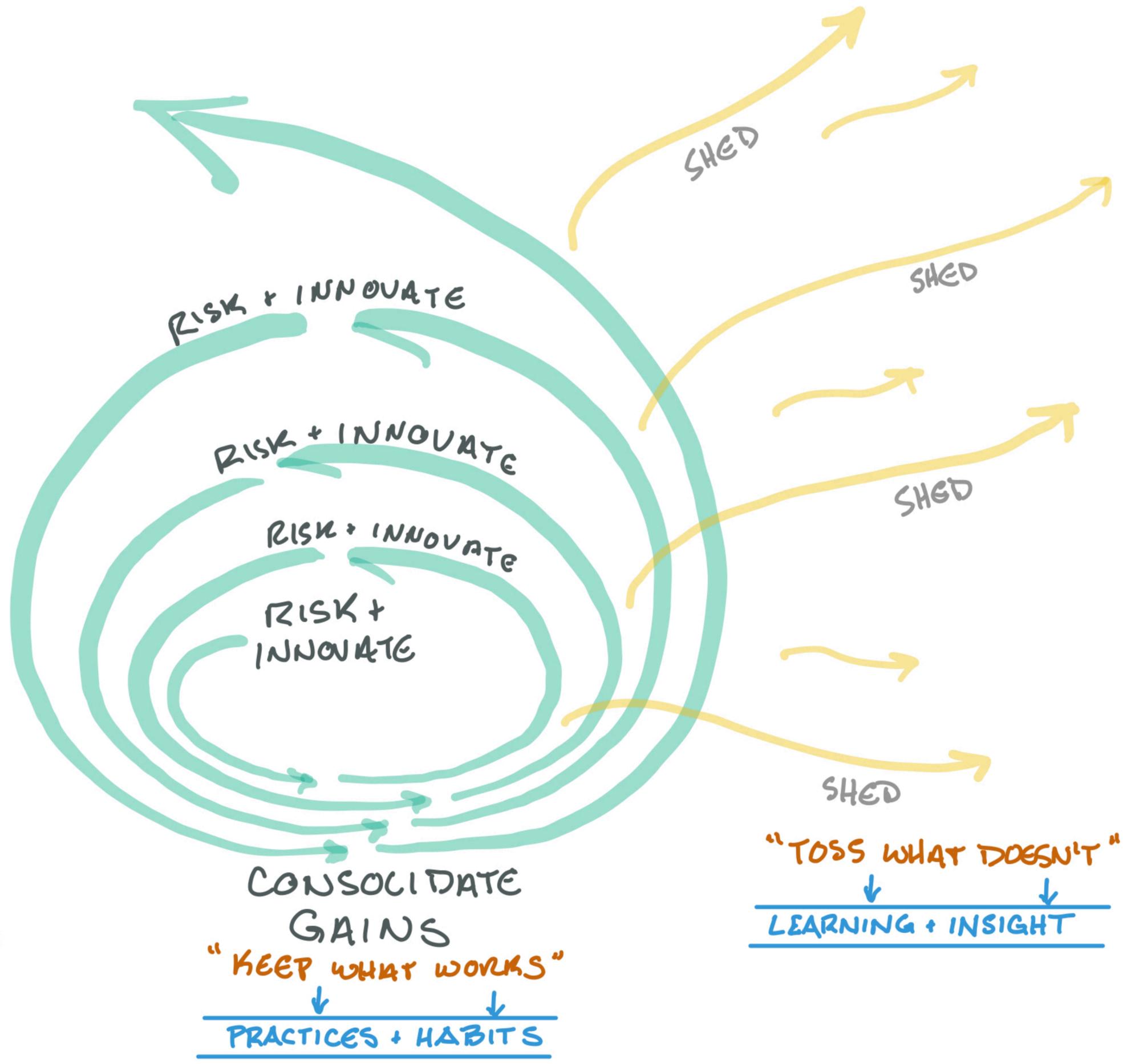
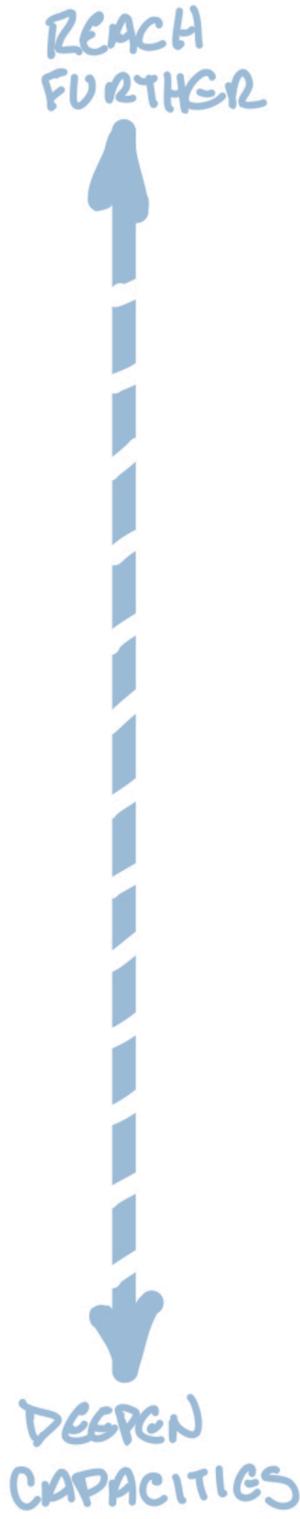
it is an **opportunity**

for

Artful Design

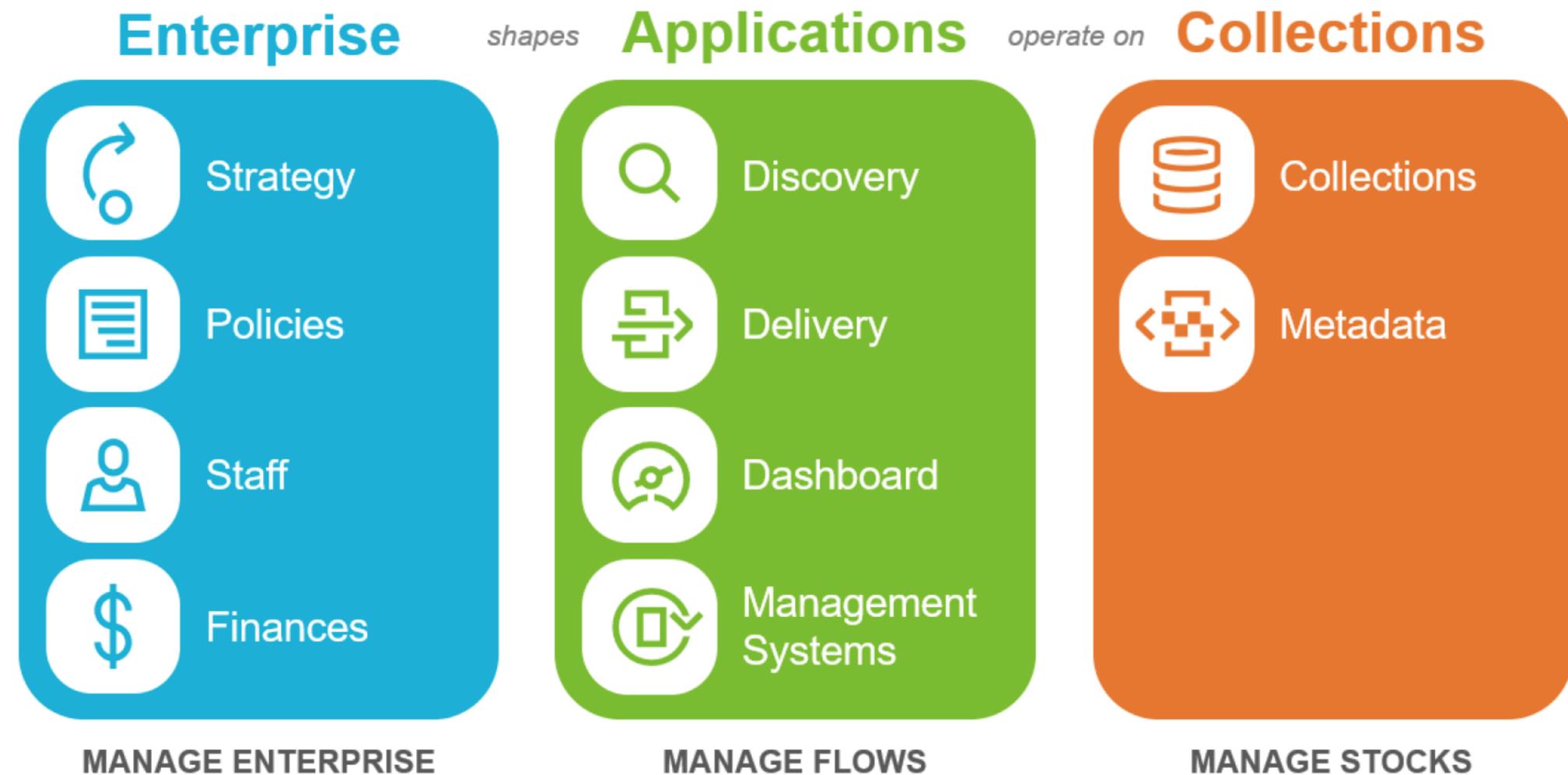
Innovation Model

- produce**
early visible
victories
- build**
long term
capacities
- balance**
investment & risk



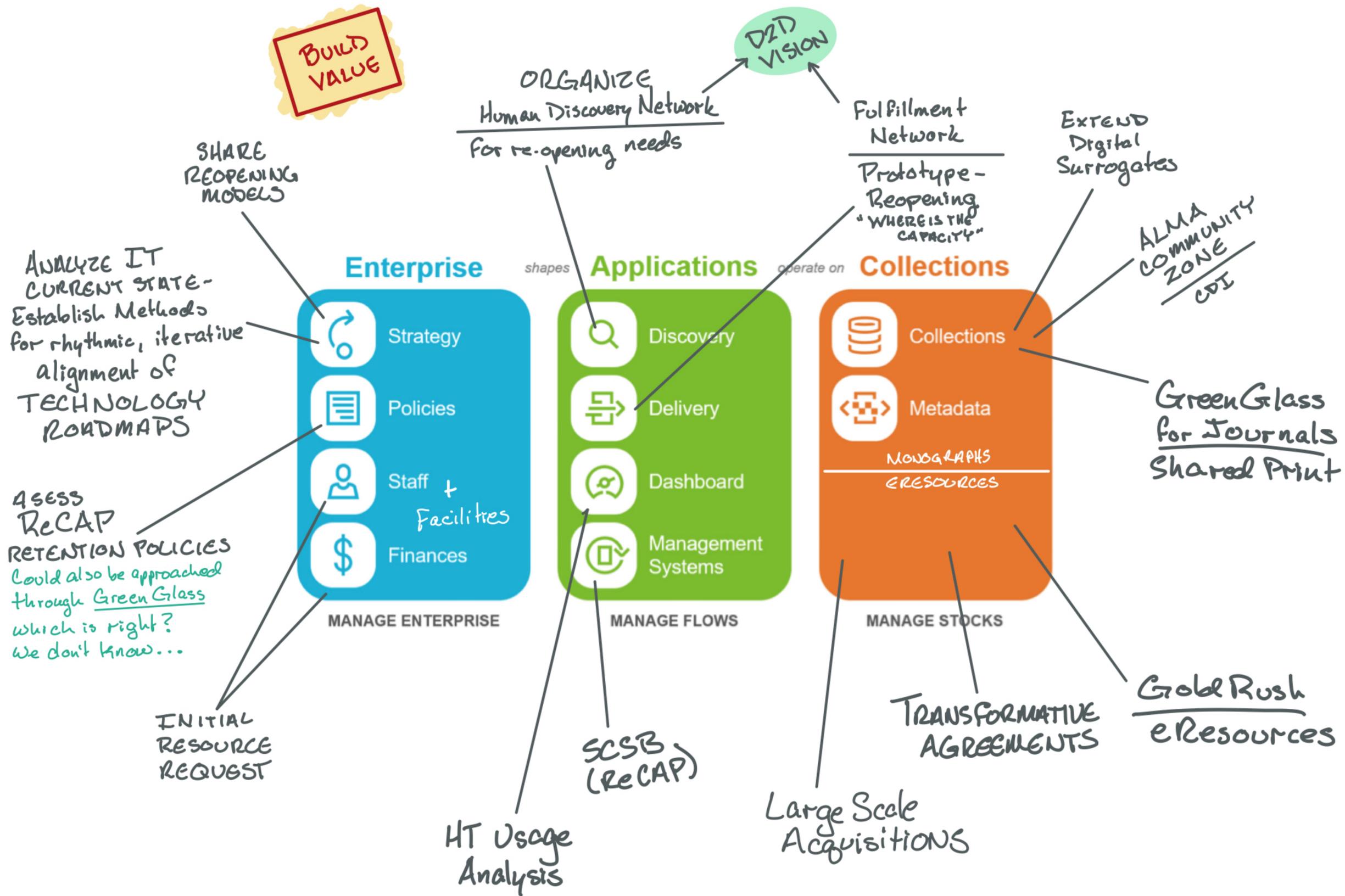
Coordinated prototyping in parallel with a purpose

Lorcan Dempsey's
“pillars” of
operationalizing the
BIG Collection

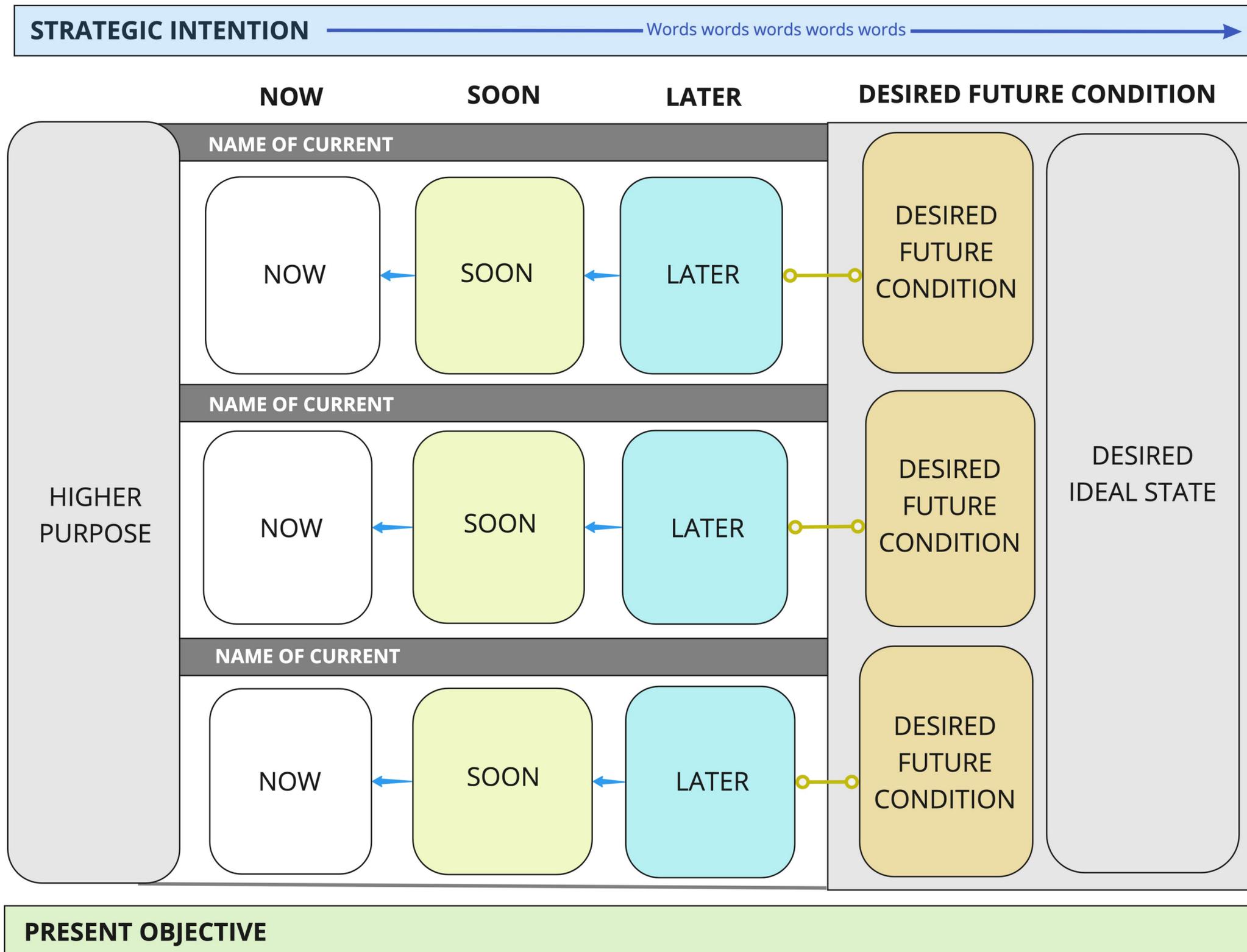


Dempsey, Lorcan, Constance Malpas, and Mark Sandler. 2019.
Operationalizing the BIG Collective Collection: A Case Study of Consolidation vs Autonomy.
Dublin, OH: OCLC Research. <https://doi.org/10.25333/jbz3-jy57>

Coordinated prototyping in parallel with a purpose



Charting the Strategic Roadmap

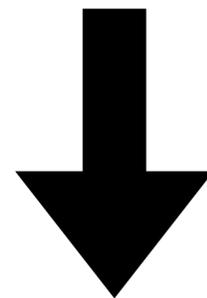


Immediate Direction: Invest in the Innovation & Prototyping Model

the **LIBRARY DIRECTORS**
have committed a **SEED INVESTMENT**
for the **FIRST YEAR** of startup costs
toward achieving the
GOALS of the **BIG COLLECTION**

DOLLARS

PEOPLE

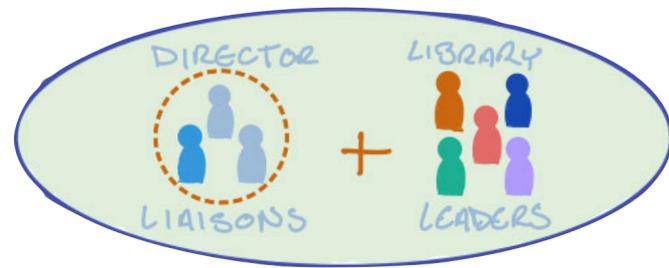


support the costs of
the pilots



LIBRARY DIRECTORS

INITIATIVE SPONSORS
SET VISION + DIRECTION
HOLD COMMITMENT



BIG COLLECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

STEWARD STRATEGIC ROADMAP
ALLOCATE RESOURCES
ALIGN POLICIES

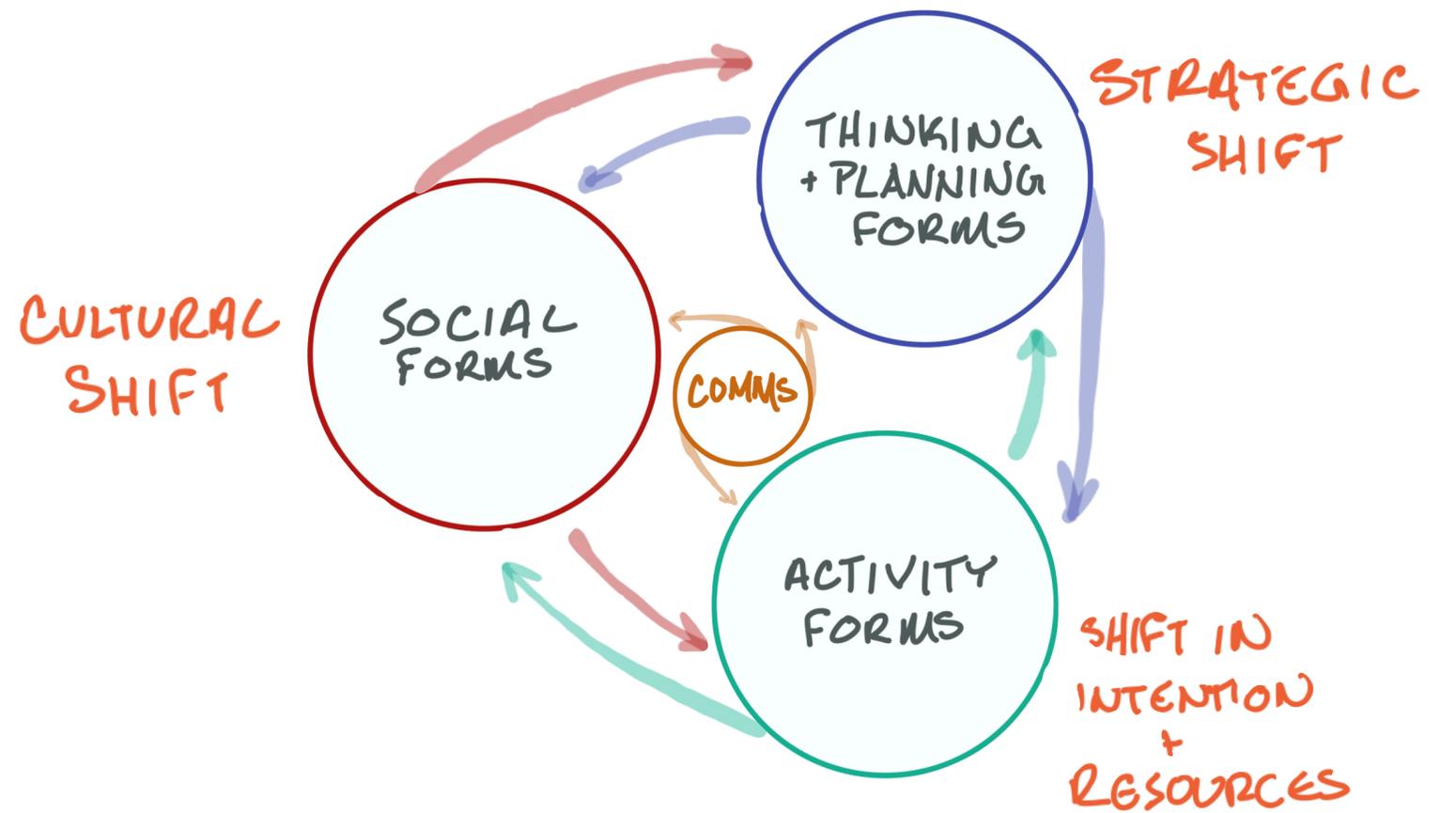


BIG COLLECTION

BIG COLLECTION PILOTS

CREATE PRACTICAL PROJECTS
ARTICULATE OBJECTIVES
STEWARD RESOURCES
REPORT ON OUTCOMES

THE BIG COLLECTION AS THE LEAD IDEA, THE CENTER OF GRAVITY



SHARED STRATEGY

BIG Collection Steering Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Qiana Johnson**, Interim AUL for Collections (Northwestern U.)
- **Kate McCready**, Interim AUL for Content & Collections (U. of Minnesota)
- **Rebecca Richardson**, Assistant Dean for Collections & Access (Purdue U.)
- **Babak Hamidzadeh**, Associate Dean for Digital Services and Technologies (U. of Maryland-College Park)
- **Emily Campbell**, Director of Document Delivery (U. of Michigan)*
- **Rachael Cohen**, Discovery User Experience Librarian (Indiana U.)*

LIBRARY DIRECTOR LIAISONS

Joe Salem (Michigan State University)

Claire Stewart (University of Nebraska—Lincoln)*

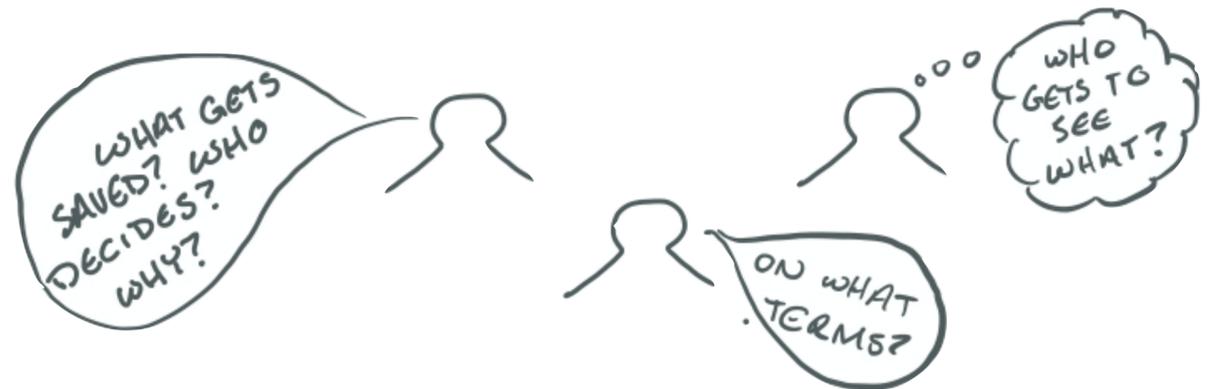
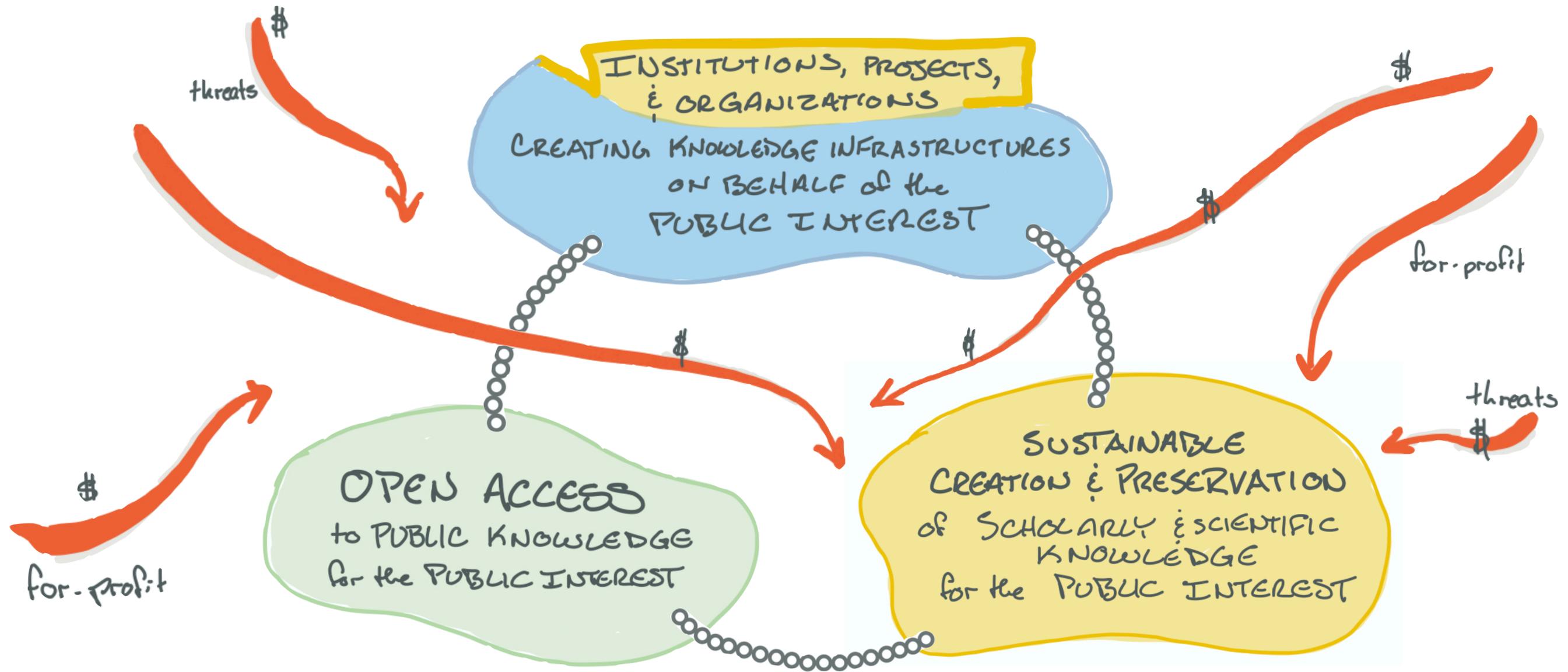
Krisellen Maloney (Rutgers University)*

* Names with a star represent continuity from the initial BIG Collection committees active in FY20

so what are we trying to do?

where do we start?

THE KNOWLEDGE COMMONS



BIG COLLECTION

KNOWLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

DISCOVERY

- the total pool of resources across 15 research libraries

DELIVERY

- rapidly, anywhere
- regardless of “who owns,” where it is held

KNOWLEDGE CREATION

- radically expand publishing opportunities
- advance open scholarship
- prioritize freedom of choice

KNOWLEDGE PRESERVATION

- durable, scalable
- open, trustworthy

the big collection is what we **must do**

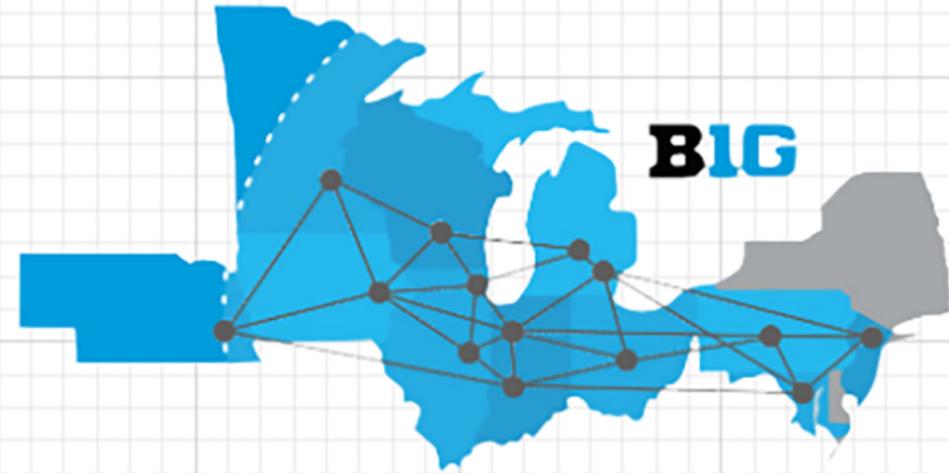
it is the **action** we are called to

To learn more:
www.btaa.org/library/big-collection/

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THE

BIG



COLLECTION

BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE COMMONS
FOR THE BIG TEN ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

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