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Big Ten Academic Alliance
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

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
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<th>Year</th>
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| 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

"Toss what doesn't" 
LEARNING + INSIGHT

"Keep what works"
PRACTICES + HABITS

CONSOLIDATE GAINS

DEEPEN CAPACITIES

REACH FURTHER
Lorcan Dempsey’s “pillars” of operationalizing the BIG Collection.

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

support the costs of the pilots
THE BIG COLLECTION AS THE LEAD IDEA, THE CENTER OF GRAVITY

**Strategic Shift**

- Thinking + Planning Forms
- Social Forms
- Activity Forms

**Cultural Shift**

- Shift in Intention + Resources

**Big Collection Pilots**

- Create Practical Projects
- Articulate Objectives
- Steward Resources
- Report on Outcomes

**Big Collection**

- Steward Strategic Roadmap
- Allocate Resources
- Align Policies

**Library Directors**

- Initiative Sponsors
- Set Vision + Direction
- Hold Commitment

**Director + Library Leaders**

**Big Collection Steering Committee**
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

Institutions, Projects, & Organizations
Creating knowledge infrastructures on behalf of the public interest

Open Access to public knowledge for the public interest

Sustainable Creation & Preservation of scholarly & scientific knowledge for the public interest

Threats

For-profit

What gets saved? Who decides? Why?

On what terms?
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

BIG COLLECTION

KNOWLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES
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

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