“I should have ventured to sea, bound anywhere, I knew not whither.”
Robinson Crusoe
Sources

- Library Networks, Cooperatives and Consortia 2007
- OCLC’s 2012 U.S. Library Consortia
- Library Consortia in 21st Century 2013
  - Co-author: Greg Pronevitz, Massachusetts Library System
FIRST WAVE: 1960s-1970s

- Shared cataloging, rudimentary automation, ILL
- 1972’s *Directory of Academic Library Consortia*
  - 125 consortia since 1931
  - 90% formed after 1960
- Bibliographic Utilities: OCLC (71), WLN (78), RLIN (78), UTLAS (71)
- Networks & Consortia: Minitex (69), Amigos (74), WILS (72), Palinet (74), CO Alliance (74)
- Regional Library Systems
1991 Consortia Services

- Union Lists
- Collection Management
- Print Preservation
- Resource Sharing
- Cooperative Bulk Purchases
- Staff Training
- Communication

Anne Woodsworth, Library Cooperation and Networks, 1991
Second Big Consortia Wave
1990s-2000s

- Online database cooperatives
- Big Deal academic journal packages
- Shared ILS
  - Orbis Cascade (93), Prospector (99), OhioLink (92)
- Consortia become Mega-Consortia
  - Multi-state, many services, big $’s
  - Minitex, AMIGOS, SOLINET, NELINET
2007 ALA surveyed 204 consortia

- 61% were regional
- 26% local
- 12% statewide

Geographic limits
Mostly multi-type
2007 -- Big 5 Services

- Cooperative Purchasing/Discounts
- Resource Sharing
- Communication
- Professional Development
- Consulting and Technical Assistance
Great Recession

GRAMPA, TELL US AGAIN THE STORY OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE 2008

DAVE GRANLUND @ www.davegranlund.com
Critical Finding:
65 consortia closed or merged since 2007
1 out of 5 library consortia are gone...
LYRASIS formed in 2008 from SOLINET, PALINET, NELINET, and later BCR

"...suffering from budget cuts in the last few years ... and we are now involved in a merger"

“We consolidation in spring 2010 from four Regional Library Cooperatives into one statewide cooperative...”
“Most of the programs are now ... funded with federal LSTA funds, and member fees have been increased by 35%.”

“All of the five cooperatives use reserve funds to remain operational.”

“Funding ... has decreased by approximately 50%. We have moved, renegotiated contracts, reduced staff and eliminated services.”
Why?

- Loss of state or other (OCLC, LSTA) funding
- Library budget cuts limit ability to pay for services
- Perception of consortium value
- Tension between centralization/decentralization
15 Consortia Grew

“Our membership has seen steady growth since 2007”

“We will be 2 years old in November and have had rapid growth over that time”

“We did pick up a lot of work after [another consortia] closed”
1. Training
2. Group purchasing/shared content *
3. Integrated library systems *
4. Resource sharing/Delivery *
5. Cooperative collection development
6. Shared digital repositories/digitization
7. Shared off-site print repository
# Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Critical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trending lower</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consulting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Advocacy/PR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Professional collections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Still important</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Databases and coop purchases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resource sharing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Delivery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trending higher</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Integrated library systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Digital services &amp; repositories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cooperative collection development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trends</td>
<td>Cost $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Trending lower | • Communications  
                     • Consulting  
                     • Advocacy/PR  
                     • Professional collections |        |        |
| Still important | • Training  
                     • Databases and coop purchases  
                     • Resource sharing  
                     • Delivery |        |        |
| Trending higher | • Integrated library systems  
                     • Digital services & repositories  
                     • Cooperative collection development |        |        |
OCLC Study: 101 consortia

More than half had:

- over 40 members
- serve multi-type libraries
- 30 years or longer

88% employee full time staff
Use of services

3 MOST-USED SERVICES

- ILL/resource sharing/document delivery: 45%
- Shared online catalog (group catalog)/union list: 41%
- Cooperative purchasing: 38%

OTHER MOST-USED SERVICES

- Electronic content licensing: 33%
- Training: 31%
- Technology management services: 28%
- Professional and leadership development: 24%
## OCLC Study

### Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget/staff cuts in libraries</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of collaboration among members</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining relevant to members</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selecting a new “next gen” ILS system</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future of education and the library’s role</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing costs</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited consortia staff</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocating value</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource sharing in evolving electronic environment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Valuable aspects of membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional networking</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost savings</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-content purchasing</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared ILS</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource sharing</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology solutions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional development</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why is Minitex Flourishing?

- Stable with distributed funding
  - State, LSTA, Grants, and Legacy funding
- OHE – UMN Libraries – MDE support
- Diversity: multi-type and multi-state
- Quality and experienced staff
- Diversified, strong service programs
- Regional culture of library support
CONSORTIA
CASE
STUDIES
Enki (eBooks)
Califa (CA)

- Based on the Douglas County Model
- Goals:
  - Build relationships with *independent publishers*
  - Control (not lease) eBook collections
  - Use a discovery tool to link separate catalogs
- File storage, DRM, Discovery tool, Circulation system
- VuFind+ Discovery Tool (open source)
Does your child love animals? Are they learning to read but need to build confidence? In MY CAT IS FAT, a little boy loves (and loses) his fat cat. Come along and help him look for his fat cat and encounter a sad dog, a stinky skunk and more animal friends along the way.
Massachusetts eBook Project

1. Ownership vs. leasing options
2. Short-term loans
3. Subscription models
4. Ability to upload and curate local content either from authors or digitized projects

MA eBook Project Update

Here is an update on the MA eBook Project. The purpose of this pilot project is to explore alternative models that provide ownership of content, short term loans/leasing options and the ability to upload and curate our own local collections of materials.

MLS is still in the process of negotiating agreements with the three vendors chosen for this project. The three vendors are Baker & Taylor, BiblioBoard and EBZ. Once the project is launched, the pilot will continue for at least six months.
Vendor based solutions

Multi-type libraries

Centralized, statewide approach

Piloting with 50 libraries, 10,000 titles
  - Balanced size, location, and population served

Phase in 1,600 libraries over two years

RFP July 2013 - 13 responses

Baker & Taylor, BiblioBoard, and EBL
Collaborative Digital Initiatives

- Preserve history & culture
- Support use of primary source materials
- Enhance scholarship
- Shared story telling
  - Immigration: DPLA & Europeana
Collaborative Digital Initiatives

- 2005 >30 states
- Cultural heritage institutions partnerships
  - International: UNESCO’s World Digital Library
  - National: Digital Public Library of America - DP.LA
  - Regional: Digital Horizons
  - Statewide: Minnesota Reflections (MDL)
  - Subject: Bio-Diversity Heritage Library
Consortia Role in Digital Initiatives

- Grants for creation of digital collections
- Digitization
- Training
- Outreach, PR, Teacher’s guides
- Curation: story telling
- Preservation
- Server space
- Back-up strategies
- Supporting technological infrastructure
  - Digital asset management system (ContentDM)
Integrated Library Systems

- 8 private academics
- III system
  - Selection process
- Cost savings
- Committees of Interest
- Smaller public libraries
- Low cost
- Evergreen- open source
- 6 libraries moved to LYRAIS support for Evergreen
Human & Fiscal Agency

Colorado Library Consortium
Connecting libraries to better serve Colorado residents

MLS - Massachusetts Library System

- Temp Agency
- Library experience
  - Retirees
  - New MLS
  - Part-time work
  - From clerks to directors
- Making a profit

- Contract HR
  - Benefits packages
- Statewide systems
  - Virtual Reference
  - State Library tech.
  - Historic Newspapers
- Adds 30 staff
2CUL: Research Library Shared Staffing

- Columbia & Cornell University (2CUL)
- Integrating:
  - Shared delivery and borrowing privileges
  - Technical services operation
  - Technology infrastructure
  - Global collections & shared subject experts (Chinese)
  - Digital preservation of Ejournals
  - EBook purchasing
  - Shared Library Management System (LMS)
- Financial framework for tracking savings, costs incurred, costs avoided, and reinvestments
Other Case Studies

- Delivery (Minitex)
  - Multiple state not in the same consortium
- Wide deals – inter-consortial journal packages
- Shared print repository
- Resource sharing: ALIAS database of journal holding information, IDS consortium
- Online Continuing Education (Minitex)
- SUNY’s Open Textbook initiative
Consortia as Publisher

Support for Self-Publishing

- Espresso Book Machine™
- How do I create, share, and self-publish an ebook?

E-Textbooks
-- SUNY Geneseo

Online Journals
-- CLiC & CO Alliance

Monographs
-- ATLA

SUNY Open Textbooks
Finding: More & Deeper Collaboration

This co-operative apartment building will be torn down and replaced by a much more co-operative apartment building.

The Management
“... whither I should bend my course...”  Robinson Crusoe