

Appendix III

From Cooperation To Collaboration:
Seventy-Five years of Tri-College Library History:
Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore

- 1931: Librarians of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore are among the thirteen invited by the University of Pennsylvania to discuss ways whereby "Philadelphia's great libraries could find it possible to cooperate more closely and systematically than at present."
- 1936: With Tri-College participation, the Union Library Catalog of the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area is organized. By 1940, it is one of fifteen such local and regional union catalogs in the United States.
- 1936: The Classified List of 4800 Serials, Currently Received in the Libraries of the University of Pennsylvania and of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges is published. *It is never updated.*
- By 1941: As a result of Union Library Catalog project, Bryn Mawr acquires copies of main entry cards for all Haverford holdings. Bryn Mawr continues to file cards for new Haverford acquisitions until 1992.
- 1942: Unsuccessful attempt to unite the libraries of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges under a single library director.
- 1945: Rudolf Gjelsness, Fremont Rider, and Henry B. Van Hoesen serve as consultants to the Tri-Colleges on the question of library cooperation. They recommend:
- a) triplicate union author catalog
 - b) daily pick up and delivery-of library materials
 - c) informal, not formal, divisions of collection fields and no "self-denying ordinances" in the area of collection development
 - d) founding of a Joint Committee on Libraries
 - e) library conferences of faculty members to discuss collecting issues
 - f) joint decisions on certain expensive periodicals with a rotation system in which the titles would stay at each campus for a designated period
 - g) no merger in the short term of any acquisitions, cataloging, or

- 1952: Discussions held on the possibility of Tri-College deposit storage facility. *No action.*
- 1950s: Station wagon for weekly deliveries between Bryn Mawr and Haverford Libraries.
- Late 1950s: Occasional exchanges of publications and some shared purchases of expensive items between Bryn Mawr and Haverford. Bi-College joint acquisitions continues in the 1960's and accelerates after 1969.
- 1963: Central listing of the scientific and technical periodicals and serials holdings of the Tri-Colleges.
- 1970s: Use of the "Blue Bus" to ship approval-plan books from Bryn Mawr to Haverford.
- 1971: Bryn Mawr and Haverford Libraries hold staff picnic.
- 1971: Exchange of college shelf list cards for music. Ends a few years later.
- 1970s: Grant applications by Bryn Mawr and Haverford for a wide variety of cooperative projects. Richard King Mellon Foundation funds two-college joint approval plan. Proposal in 1977 to Kellogg foundation for cooperative reconditioning and maintenance of stacks includes Swarthmore but is not funded.
- 1972: Joint approval plan (using Baker & Taylor) between Haverford and Bryn Mawr begins.
- 1976: Use of Haverford library attic for storage of some Bryn Mawr materials as-start of a Tri-College repository for regional storage. Project goes no further and Bryn Mawr books are removed from Haverford stacks in 1986.
- 1975: Tri-College periodicals agreement to minimize duplication. Libraries decide to provide cancellation notification and notice of new subscriptions.
- Late 1970s: Tri-College Periodicals List.
- 1970s-1980s: Tri-College discussions on such matters as the formation of a tri-college periodicals bank, combining technical services operations, coordinating audio-visual resources. *No action.*
- 1984: Discussion of possible tri-college automated catalog and retrospective conversion.
- 1985: Pew Charitable Trust provides a \$1 million grant for retrospective conversion. Funds also used for Tri-College automation planning and funding of coordinator position.
- 1986: Three colleges begin retrospective conversion project.
- 1986: Visit by consultant Richard Boss, who advises library on budget, computer sites, system selection and governance. Visit results in consensus that the library automation project should proceed.

- 1987: Hiring of a Tri-College Automation Coordinator. Formation of Steering Committee to coordinate all aspects of the library automation project.
- 1987-1991: Colleges decide to pursue joint fundraising for Tri-College Library automation resulting in successful grants from the Department of Education (\$174,000), Keck Foundation (\$450,000), Culpepper Foundation (\$300,000), and Bell of Pennsylvania (\$50,000).
- 1988: Tri-College Consortium Agreement on Library Automation on matters of governance and division of costs.
- 1988: RFP is distributed to vendors.
- 1988: Innovative Interfaces chosen as vendor.
- 1990: Tripod becomes available to library staff. Troubleshooting begins.
- 1991: Tripod goes public. The three-college automated catalog, with nearly one million records, is accessible over the network. Delivery system begins.
- 1991: Steering Committee ends its work. Governing Board and various topical committees continue.
- 1992: Tri-College Libraries outsource indexed heading verification and updates to vendor. Still used today.
- 1993: Tripod offers access to five major indexes. Four periodical indexes and one index-to anthologies are available on-line, more than doubling the number of items in the Tri-College system.
- 1993/94: SMDS communications replaces T-lines.
- 1994: Hyperlink ILL request available on networked Macs.
- 1994: Philadelphia Inquirer loaded on server and accessed as client server system by the Tri-Colleges.
- 1994: Tri-College network access (client server) for the nine databases in the Silver Platter Electronic Reference Library. Consortium names the system "Trilogy."
- 1995: OCLC First Search added to Bryn Mawr and Haverford Gateways.
- 1995: Project Muse journals available on the Web to the Tri-Colleges (as part of Oberlin Group cohort-libraries action).
- 1995: An Index added to Wilson offerings on Tripod Gateway.
- 1995: Tri-Colleges receive \$15,000 grants from the Mellon Foundation. Acting as initial test site, JSTOR journals (backfiles of five journals each in history and economics) available on the Web to Tri-College community.
- 1996: Tri-College subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica on the Web. Anthropological Literature is added to Tripod Gateway.

- 1996/97: Libraries adopts WebPac (provides Web front end to OPAC with hyperlinks to Web resources) gets Z39.50 Client (provides Tripod-like access to other catalogs and databases).
- 1997: TLP Connection replaces stand-alone dedicated OCLC circuits.
- 1997: Patrons can place on hold items not located in their home campus libraries; the Tri-College van delivers these materials usually within a day to their favorite Tri-College library.
- 1998: Mellon Foundation grants \$850,000 (Mellon3) to Tri-Colleges to advance cooperative instructional technology initiatives. The libraries play vital roles, and eventually Mellon3 funds initial purchase of the BlackBoard course management system used on all three campuses. Mellon3 concludes in 2003.
- 1999: Tri-College Libraries implement an electronic reserves system; this will be retired in favor of BlackBoard's more comprehensive functionality in 2003.
- 1999: With Mellon funds, Tri-College libraries contract with vendor to provide electronic delivery of enhanced contents and summary data to Tripod bibliographic records, resulting in more access points in the catalog. Mellon funds pay for this service through 2001. The Libraries take responsibility for funding after 2001. To date, over 108,000 records in the Tripod catalog contain such data.
- 2000: Mellon awards \$450,000 (Mellon5); half funds "Talking Towards a Techno-Pedagogy," which brings together teams of faculty, students, librarians and technologists from Tri-Colleges and seven peer institutions to redesign existing courses utilizing newly available information resources and technologies; the other half advances Tri-College library collaboration and funds database-driven web page creation and innovative web development, virtual reference services, a videoconferencing system, training of student workers and staff development, and purchase of the SFX linking system that greatly facilitates user access to full-text online journals. Mellon5 concludes in 2004.
- 2000: A Tri-College librarians' working group evaluates and selects a general "aggregated" database of journal and newspaper citations with full-text content, and inaugurates a planned process by which Web-based electronic information resources are licensed consorcially.
- 2000: Inter-campus, twice-a-day delivery of books and articles service begins.
- 2001: Hiring of new Tri-College systems coordinator, temporary Special Projects position and Mellon5-funded web developer.
- 2001: Tri-Colleges license ScienceDirect, an electronic journals subscription database, from Elsevier Science.

- 2001: Mellon awards \$89,000 (Mellon7) for a comprehensive study of the Tri-College library facilities and collections. Mellon7 concludes in 2003.
- 2003: Following up on the facilities and collections study, Mellon awards \$450,000 (Mellon8) to further develop collaborative collections development and management and to seed digitization of book content and pedagogically useful images. Its work continues.
- 2003: Combining funding from a private grant to Haverford with Mellon5, Tri-College special collections librarians begin work on Triptych, a digital objects repository system using ContentDM software.
- 2004: Pilot Tri-College approval plan in English and Film Studies launches.
- 2004: Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awards Tri-Colleges Libraries \$100,000 to “process redesign” the management of electronic information resources and design a software system to maximize efficiency of associated tasks. Its work will conclude in 2006.
- 2005: TriDid, the first sustained experiment in managing a central repository of Tri-College pedagogical images, comes online using the MDID open source system created at James Madison University.
- 2005: CLIR Process Redesign Group convenes symposium with nation’s foremost electronic resources managers.
- 2005: Tri-College Library Blog debuts.
- 2005/06: Celebrating 15 years of Tripod, Consortium hosts panel of library leaders from three peer institutions in Fall, and library and information technology leaders from major research institutions in Spring.
- 2006: After 32 years, the Bryn Mawr-Haverford approval plan goes all virtual all the time.