# ADVANCING FROM KUMBAYA TO RADICAL COLLABORATION

## IN THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY

James G. Neal IFLA/ARL Standing Committee 14 August 2010

## THE CONTEXT FOR INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

- Rapidly Shifting User Behaviors/Expectations
- Redundant Inefficient Library Operations
- Increasing Emphasis on Unique Resources
- Need to Achieve Scale and Network Effects
   Through Aggregation
- Mandate for Systemic Change
- New Economic Context

## WHAT ARE THE CORE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LIBRARY?

- Information Selection
- Information Acquisition
- Information Synthesis
- Information Navigation
- Information Dissemination

- Information Interpretation
- Information Understanding
- Information Use
- Information Application
- Information Archiving
- In Support of Teaching and Learning
- In Support of Research and Scholarship

### CHANGING LIBRARY ROLES

- Libraries as Consumers
- Libraries as Intermediaries and Aggregators
- Libraries as Publishers
- Libraries as Educators
- Libraries as R&D Organizations
- Libraries as Entrepreneurs
- Libraries as Policy Advocates

### PROMOTE COOPERATION

- Library Systems
- Local and Regional Cooperation
- State Projects
- Multi-State Projects
- National Consortia/Projects
- International Partnerships

- Researcher Collaboration
- Publisher Collaboration
- Collaboration with Technology Organizations
- Corporate Partnerships
- Business Partnerships

REACHING OUT TO CULTURAL COMMUNITY

PROMOTING NEW COMBINATIONS THRU PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

## **CLOUD LIBRARY PROJECT**

- Print Repository
   Research Collection and Preservation Consortium
- Digital Repository Hathi Trust
- Digital Surrogate
   Google Books Public Domain Content
- Research Library User Services/Collection Management New York University Libraries

## NYCRL PROJECT Columbia – NYPL - NYU

#### Scope Statement

The three comprehensive research libraries in New York City— NYPL, Columbia and NYU—have a long history of cooperation and coordination. At the same time, that long history has also been, in some sense, stagnant and constrained. With major changes in the economy, in technology, in the patterns of library use, and in the expectations of library users, it's time to take an entirely fresh and more aggressive look at mutually-beneficial programs of shared collecting and access. What greater access can each institution provide to the user populations of the other? If we can bring access to a new level, how can we then benefit from truly collaborative collecting? The goal of our meeting will be to identify how we can take advantage of our shared New York City location and our shared mission as comprehensive research libraries to move beyond our traditional programs of connection and coordination to a new level. traditional programs of cooperation and coordination to a new level of deep collaboration that will actually change what we collect and how we do business with each other.

### What is 2CUL?

A transformative and enduring partnership between two major academic research libraries based on a broad integration of resources, collections, services and expertise.

#### Why the Columbia and Cornell University Libraries?

- Major research libraries
- New York state
- Private Ivy institutions
- Similar academic characteristics
- Record of collaboration
- Record of innovation
- Budget challenges
- Will and interest

Where have research libraries successfully collaborated?

- Licensing of electronic resources
- Cooperative cataloging
- Interlibrary loan/document delivery
- Information policy advocacy
- Offsite shelving facilities
- Digital archiving

## ARENAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Centers for Excellence
- Mass Production
- New Infrastructure
- New Initiatives

## RADICAL COLLABORATION SOME REQUIREMENTS

- Bi- and Tri-Lateral Combinations
- Sustainability/Business Plan
- Legal Framework
- Governance Structure
- Risk Capital
- Competitive Spirit

#### What are the goals of 2CUL?

- Achieve major integration of operations, services, collections and resources
- Reduce cost of overall library activities to direct resources to new priority areas
- Increase revenues through joint proposals for funding, new products and services, and business opportunities marketed to academic and research customers
- Establish an independent service entity and governance structure that supports 2CUL
- Expand 2CUL beyond initial partners, and model collaboration for other groups of research libraries and for other divisions at the university

#### What are some measures of success?

- Quality can we achieve better collections and services for our students and faculty?
- Productivity can we be more efficient and generate savings to be reinvested in new areas?
- Innovation can we do new and important things together more effectively than alone?
- Visibility can we inspire other groups of libraries and university units to work together?

#### Where are we initially focusing our work?

- Technical services (acquisitions, cataloging, e-resource management)
- Collection development/global resources
- Technology infrastructure/digital preservation
- Communications
- Resource development
- New services for students and faculty
- New business/entrepreneurial services for other libraries
- Business planning and governance