YOURS, MINE AND OURS

Experiences of Two Academic Libraries in a Consortium with Ten Public Libraries
GMILCS, Inc. is a nonprofit consortium of public and academic libraries in NH

We share an integrated system
We share experiences
We share resources
From our mission statement:

- “By sharing, we offer more to the communities we serve”
Joined GMILCS as an original member in 1984. Currently 52,000 items in the collection. Serving a population of 13,700.
H. Raymond Danforth Library
New England College, Henniker NH

Joined GMILCS in 2001. Currently 108,000 items in collection. 1,000 undergraduate and 850 graduate FTE, 30 undergraduate programs; 13 graduate programs.
Teti Library
New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester NH

Joined GMILCS in 2001. Currently 16,447 items in collections. Roughly 500 FTE; 6 BFA programs and 5 Master level graduate programs –MFA and MAAE.
GMILCS, Inc. Current Membership

- Amherst
- Bedford
- Derry
- Goffstown
- Hooksett
- Manchester
- Merrimack
- Milford
- Salem
- Windham
- New England College (Henniker)
- New Hampshire Institute of Art (Manchester)
GMILCS Resources

- Shared Polaris ILS with over a million item records, and roughly 552,000 bib records
- “Open Borrowing” from all libraries, including multiple van deliveries weekly
- Many user education and support groups that are relevant to academics
- Negotiated discounts from book vendors and library suppliers
- Shared ebook collection with 3M’s Cloud Library
GMILCS Staff

- Full-time staff of two library professionals, based in Hooksett Public Library
- GMILCS staff visit each library monthly or as-needed
- GMILCS staff attend every meeting/group/educational event
- Our local librarians and staff are not burdened with ILS and tech related issues
- It is wonderful to have tech support who know us and understand our needs, personally!
GMILCS Beginnings

1984: NH Statewide Union List
1986: Regional union list databases created, including the Greater Manchester Integrated Library Cooperative System
1991: First library goes live with automated circulation system
1992: GMILCS, Inc is created
NEC and NHIA participate in roughly half the groups that are active in GMILCS: Acquisitions, BIC, Board, Catalog Review, CIRC/ILL, Databases, E-Book, Finance, Marketing, Membership, Personnel, RefNet, TechNet, TeenNet, YouthNet, VIP (Van Issues and Problems).
Beyond the obvious savings of the shared ILS and collections, the group has negotiated discounts with Ingram (up to 40%!) in which the academic libraries are eligible to participate.
The 3M Cloud Library was launched in January of 2013. Currently there are 2,569 titles in the collection, all owned jointly by the consortium.
Collection began with an initial investment by each library (total $7,625 start-up cost), plus a $15,000 grant from the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation to purchase content.

There is no minimum amount that any library has to contribute in order to have access and select titles to be purchased.

Shared ebook collection

- Formula for collection development: 50% fiction; 25% non-fiction; 25% juvenile and young adult titles.
- Each library has a designated shopper who makes selections; each quarter librarians from 2 libraries make purchases.
- Titles are checked out to individual patrons; no multiple users. Certain publishers limit ownership to number of views or period of time held.
So what’s working... and what not so much...
First, the ‘not so much’...

- A shared catalog creates challenges in library instruction – students need to be better trained in searching, and how to identify appropriate resources.
- Meetings! You aren’t just traveling across campus; you and your staff are on the road quite a bit.
- Many of the meetings are taken up with non-academic library business.
- Consensus-driven decision-making... good + bad.
But there is MUCH to love!

- Cost savings are significant: NHIA paid $6,000 this year to be a member (and contributed $1,000 for ebooks); NEC paid $19,800; Hooksett paid $19,300.
- Access to collections; real ability to make internal collection development decisions knowing what other libraries collect.
- Seamless borrower-generated ILL reflected in savings of staff time.
- Discounts for book acquisitions MUCH greater than given to strictly academic consortia.
..and MORE to love!

- Excellent tech support from the GMILCS staff.
- Excellent educational/training opportunities at no cost within the consortium.
- Collegiality - it’s great to be part of an effective and supportive group.
- *Appreciation and understanding of public libraries.*

The 183,717 patrons that we serve.
Consortia are Critical

- Think about what consortia can do for you.
- Take another look at the public and school libraries in your area.

**SHARING WORKS!**