# Resource Sharing:
## *A Webliography*

— compiled by *Barbara Miller Marson, Guest Editor*

**W**hat is resource sharing? Traditional means of sharing resources have included reciprocal borrowing, interlibrary loan, shared cataloging, and joint collection development. Other methods include shared online catalogs and networks of various types, both national and local. We all recognize that cooperation among libraries is not new, but the emphasis on technology is a relatively recent phenomenon which affects all aspects of the library profession.

Access versus ownership — it's a never-ending battle. Access has been a buzzword among librarians for some time. In these days of downsizing and continuing budget battles, providing access has become more challenging. Therefore, the importance of resource sharing has increased with the passage of time. According to Jackson, "libraries can no longer fulfill all of the information needs of their primary clientele."[1]

Fortunately, this increased need has come at a time when electronic access is feasible and growing. Cooperative efforts among libraries now include technology as a means of sharing. However, this sharing is not without its problems — problems of money, staff, and time. The goal of resource sharing in the 1990s to allow us to meet the diverse needs of patrons more effectively and efficiently.

Resource sharing is a balancing act. We want to own; we want to share. Electronic access has added a new dimension to the balance; however, there is a human dimension to the process, and hopefully a commitment to develop a relevant and accessible library for our patrons, however we define them. Simpson discusses this balance, and warns of placing all hope on technology as a solution to all problems.[2] There is always the human element. In the final analysis, our most important resources are ourselves.

For those of you who are Web wanderers seeking additional information on resource sharing, the following sites might be of interest:

### Current Consortia

**gopher://lib-www.lan1.gov:80/hGET%20/alliance.htm**
The Library Services Alliance of New Mexico is a cooperative organization which promotes the sharing of research among its members to enhance access to scientific and technical research information.

**http://l98.111.64.10/**
The Metro Network Library Consortium is comprised of eight Detroit suburban public libraries at ten sites in Wayne and Oakland counties, Michigan.

**http: //snoopy2.tblc.lib.f1.us/**
The Tampa Bay Library Consortium has 82 member libraries that promote and coordinate sharing of materials, information and services among public, academic, school, and special libraries in West Central Florida.

**http://www.wrlc.org/**
The Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) is a regional library cooperative established in 1987 to support information and research needs of its seven member universities in the D.C. Area.

**http://www.texshare.utexas.edu/**
The stated purpose of Tex-Share is to support and enhance resource sharing among Texas academic libraries.

**http://www.cic.net/cic/cli.html**
The Committee on Institutional Cooperation Center for Library Initiatives will lead and coordinate the consortium's resource-sharing programs, including the Virtual Library project.

### General Library-Related Sites

http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/services/ill.htm
ILL, Document Delivery & Resource Sharing Information contains web links provided by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/services/diglib.htm
The home page of Digital Libraries Resources and Projects provides links to documents, conferences, projects, and organizations dealing with digital libraries.

http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/services/catalog.htm
The Cataloguing and Indexing of Electronic Resources home page contains links provided by IFLA.

http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/services/libdoc.htm
The Library and Information Science Electronic Resources page contains Web links provided by IFLA.

http://www.bookwire.com/
Bookwire, owned by Individual, Inc., provides book information on the WWW, featuring book reviews, calendar of events, discussion forums, and electronic editions of bestseller lists.

http://galaxy.einet.net/galaxy/Reference-and-Interdisciplinary-Information/
Library-Information-and-Catalogs.html
Galaxy provides links to various types of library information.

http://ltt-www.lcs.mit.edu/ltt-www/
The Library 2000 Group of the M.I.T. Lab for Computer Science explores the implications of largescale storage with the goal of a future electronic library.

http://www.sls.se/sls/newsO1.html
"Libraries Used To Be About Books" is a think piece by Richard Hudson, Chief Executive of SLS.

http://www.cs.colorado.edu/homes/schwartz/public_html/resource_location.html
The University of Colorado's Internet Resource Discovery Project is investigating the problem of discovering the existence of resources of interest on the Internet.

### Public School Related Sites

http://www.ncrel.org/ncrel/
North Central Regional Education Laboratory is a non-profit organization devoted to researching and implementing the best practices in public schools, including the support of its regional networks.

http://scholastic.com:2005/
Scholastic's Internet Center provides resources and links for public school professionals.

http://www.marshall.edu/~jmullens /edlinks .html?
This home page is a starting point for educators interested in researching educational topics on the Internet.

http://www.dpi.state.nc.us
North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction home page provides information relevant to public school educators.

### References

[1] Mary E. Jackson, "Resource Sharing and Document Delivery in the 1990s," *Wilson Library Bulletin* 67 (February 1993):35.
[2] Donald B. Simpson, "Resource Sharing = Access + Ownership: Balancing the Equation in an Unbalanced World," *Journal of Library Administration* 20 (1, 1994): 95-107.