
Library Networking in North Carolina: The Sharing Mission

Marjorie W. Lindsey

Why Networking?

Consider the following projections for North Carolina by the year 2000:¹

1.8 million people will be added to the state, for a total population of 7.7 million.

1 million households will be added, increasing the number of households by 47 per cent, while population increases by 30 per cent.

72 per cent of total state growth will be from people entering from outside the state.

The number of persons over age 65 will increase by 70 per cent, from six hundred thousand to one million.

How do we propose to serve this potential user population with our 2,639 libraries of some fifty-two million volumes? This is the sharing mission of coordinated multitype library cooperation using appropriate technology—in short, networking.

Each type of library—public, school, academic, and special—has a distinct mission in meeting the diverse needs of North Carolina citizens.² It is this diversity of patron demand beyond the capacity of a given library that sparks the sharing mission of interlibrary cooperation.

How are North Carolina librarians fulfilling this mission? Through personal networking with associations, committees, round tables, and user groups; through membership in SOLINET/OCLC, processing centers, and Zones of Cooperation (ZOCs); and through heavy use of the reference and interlibrary services of INWATS and the Information Services Section of the State Library. All of this works well, but with improvements in communications technology and the affordability of computers, there is a strong interest in making fuller use of these technologies for the enhancement of our sharing efforts statewide.

The Steering Committee

Building on the work of earlier committees³ and on the recommendations of two studies,⁴ the North Carolina Library Networking Steering Committee was organized in October 1982, with representatives from the North Carolina Library Association, the North Carolina Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and from all types and sizes of libraries from all parts of the state. (See Appendix A.) The deliberations of the committee are supported by the many hours of hard work by several task forces. Each steering committee member serves on a task force; each task force includes representatives of at least two types of libraries. The steering committee and the task force chairs meet quarterly; the task forces meet as often as required to fulfill their charges, submitting quarterly reports to the steering committee. The committee submits an annual report to the State Library Commission. Minutes of steering committee meetings and all reports are on file at the State Library. All members of the committee and task forces serve voluntarily for a minimum of two years.

The Task Forces

The Task Force on the Bibliographic Database has produced a document developing a building-block concept for the growth of a statewide data base, recommending a MARC or MARC-compatible communications format, and encouraging libraries using OCLC to catalog materials at OCLC level I standards. Accompanying this document are three papers on (1) conversion of bibliographic records to machine-readable form; (2) MARC formats; and (3) automation options for nonautomated libraries. Copies are available from the State Library on request. Currently the task force is studying the feasibility of producing a North Carolina statewide union list of serials, one among its several charges.

In October 1983, the Task Force on Continuing Library Education recommended that a more closely defined Task Force on Education and Training would be more useful for the networking

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effort. The steering committee approved the recommendation to dissolve the original task force and to activate and staff the new group when appropriate.

The Task Force on Document Delivery has looked at several commercial and governmental delivery systems currently in use in the state, as well as facsimile transmission. To determine the effectiveness of present interlibrary loan and document delivery processes, the task force has developed a survey instrument to measure the time required for completion of each transaction. The instrument will also gather data allowing for study of the subject areas and type of document borrowed and the form of document supplied. Efforts are currently underway to test this survey instrument with the thirty-eight libraries participating in the western ZOC project, the *Union List of Periodicals in Libraries of Western North Carolina*. Consideration of broader use will follow test evaluation.

The 1983 Task Force on Funding developed a brief manual to assist in funding a ZOC. Presently the task force is studying initial and continuing costs that may be incurred, funding requirements, and possible strategies needed to establish a statewide network.

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The Task Force on Public Information developed a promotional brochure in time for distribution at the October 1983 North Carolina Library Association Conference. Currently the task force is preparing exhibit materials for use at various library meetings across the state and will be responsible for brochures, briefing papers, and other media needed to inform librarians, trustees, library users, governmental officials, and the general public about statewide library networking.

The Task Force on Technology, building on earlier reports, is identifying several basic assumptions regarding the purpose, services, and products of a statewide network. For example, the network should provide access to a master data base for all interested libraries; should provide a means of conducting interlibrary loan transactions and a mechanism to facilitate document

delivery; should provide for future developments in electronic mail and possible personal or home access. The network is not envisioned as a bibliographic utility. The task force is examining several possible configurations and will draft a technological design and schedule for a phased development of a statewide library network.

The Task Force on ZOCs is perhaps the most visible at the present time. Grants for two pilot ZOCs, funded by Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act, were awarded in 1983, and it is hoped that by the summer of 1984 at least two more grants will be awarded. Through the 1984-85 term the task force will draft for discussion a design of the organizational structure of a statewide library network and coordinate the work of the other task forces to develop a discussion draft of a total network design with phased implementation.

How You Can Be Involved

What network configuration do you think is most feasible? What should a network offer you? What do you think is a reasonable cost for the benefits derived? What are some realistic funding strategies? What is the relevance of this enterprise for library service in North Carolina?

Now, during the period of brainstorming, discussion, design, and planning, is the most appropriate time for you to send your comments and suggestions, and those of your users, to the Steering Committee and task force chairs.

Let us hear from you; be involved; think networking!

References

1. "NC 2000, Our Future Begins Now..." brochure (Raleigh: Commission on the Future of North Carolina, 1981).
2. *North Carolina Libraries, Their Role: Statements of Mission and Purpose* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1983).
3. The North Carolina Library Association Networking Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Multitype Library Cooperation, and the Technical Subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Committee.
4. Alberta Smith, *Access to Information for North Carolinians, Multitype Library Cooperation* (Raleigh: Division of State Library, 1981). Jose Marie Griffiths and Donald W. King, *North Carolina Library Networking Feasibility Study* (Rockville, Maryland: King Research, Inc., 1982).

Appendix A

North Carolina Library Networking Steering Committee 1983-1985

Representative of President of NCLA	Arial Stephens, Director, Richard H. Thornton Library, Oxford
Chair, NCLA Trustees Section	Representative Dorothy Burnley, High Point

TRLN Representative	I.T. Littleton, Director, D. H. Hill Library, N.C. State University, Raleigh
County Public Library	Douglas Perry, Director, Cleveland County Memorial Library, Shelby
Regional Public Library	Elinor Hawkins, Director, Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library, New Bern
Municipal Public Library	Mary Boone, Director, Chapel Hill Public Library
Academic Libraries (East N.C.)	Ruth Katz, Director, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville
Academic Libraries (West N.C.)	Louise Rountree, Livingstone College Library, Salisbury
Community Colleges	Betty Williamson, Associate Dean of Instruction, Learning Resource Center, Fayetteville Technical Institute
Public Schools	Elsie Brumback, Assistant State Superintendent Area Support Services, Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh
Special Libraries Association	Anne Stringfield, Librarian, Lorillard Research Center Library, Greensboro
Director, Division of State Library	David McKay
Assistant State Librarian	Jane Williams
State Library Consultant for Multitype Library Cooperation	Marjorie Lindsey

Task Force Chairs

Task Force on Bibliographic Data Base	Carol Myers, Head, Technical Services, Public Library of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County
Task Force on Document Delivery	Nell Waltner, Head, Acquisitions, D. H. Hill Library, N.C. State University, Raleigh
Task Force on Funding	I.T. Littleton (see above)
Task Force on Public Information	Carol Lewis, Director, Division of School Media Programs, Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh
Task Force on Technology	William Gosling, Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services, Duke University, Durham
Task Force on ZOCs	Ruth Katz (see above)



Robert N. White, administrator of the Utah Personnel Review Board, will be the featured speaker at a workshop entitled "Documentation—the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." The workshop will be held July 26 and 27 at the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem and is sponsored by the Round Table on the Status of Women in Librarianship.

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