A Framework for Building and Developing ALI’s Resource-Sharing Community
Prepared and submitted by Matthew C. Shaw, Chair of the Resource Sharing Committee
April 4, 2011

As the Academic Libraries of Indiana continue to face the challenges created by economic instability, the Resource Sharing Committee (RSC) recognizes the need for the establishment of a thriving resource-sharing network built on a strong sense of community, mutual trust, and a shared collection philosophy.

The current environment suggests new opportunities for reimagining our institutional relationships and invites innovation and collaboration as we work together to maximize access to our rich teaching and learning resources that are in Indiana.

Following the initial success of the Resource Sharing Committee’s Conference, held Friday, March 11, 2011, and the adoption of the Academic Libraries of Indiana Resource Sharing Code, the Resource Sharing Committee proposes the following objectives:

- further formalize its work through formation of an Executive Committee
- increase Committee membership to reflect more closely ALI’s constituencies
- strengthen communication among ALI resource-sharing personnel
- develop a volunteer program of regional technology and training
- align Committee programs and services more closely with ALI’s strategic plan

Committee Scope:
The definition of resource sharing reaches well beyond the borders of traditional interlibrary loan services. Consequently, the Resource Sharing Committee must give greater consideration to emergent issues, trends, and technologies that will affect the ways ALI members share information resources.

Areas of short- and longer-term interests and investigations may include:

- Open access/digital repositories
- Format conversion and licensing
- Patron-initiated acquisitions, and interlibrary loan, and integration of collections development.
- Union catalogs/remote circulation/knowledge base sharing
- End user delivery

While traditional interlibrary loan services will continue to be a major piece of resource-sharing activity in the foreseeable future, the changing landscape of scholarly communications invites an expanded vision of information access and sharing, which encourages the Resource Sharing Committee to continually investigate ways to maximize resource discovery and leverage new technologies and service innovations to meet user needs.
**Current Resource Sharing Committee Structure and Membership:**
The Committee will seek to increase its membership to be more reflective of ALI’s constituencies. The Committee’s current membership demographics are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALI’s Permanent Member Institutions</th>
<th>2 Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rita Rogers (IU-Bloomington)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collette Make (University of Notre Dame)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Institutions</td>
<td>4 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew C. Shaw (Ball State University)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elaine Nelson (Ball State University)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holli Moseman (Indiana State University)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tina Baich (IUPUI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PALNI</td>
<td>1 Member</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brad Matthies (Butler University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-PALNI</td>
<td>1 Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Tribble (Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To develop a Committee membership that is more reflective of ALI’s seven constituencies, the Committee actively will seek qualified and interested volunteers from currently under- or unrepresented constituencies, such as PALNI, non-PALNI private schools, Ivy Tech State Colleges and Vincennes University, IU regional campuses, and independent professional schools.

By expanding the Resource Sharing Committee’s membership, the Committee will benefit from the members broader perspectives, innovative ideas and energy, and their valuable operational experience. A broader membership of small, medium, and large libraries will allow the Committee to realize its potential as a forum for exploring possibilities for a future based on a shared vision of user needs, state-of-the-art information exchange, and ubiquitous information access.

Additionally, to facilitate its work, the Committee will implement an Executive Committee, consisting of the Committee’s Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. This organizational development will also result in leadership succession that will strengthen the Committee since membership changes from time to time.

**Resource Sharing Committee and Networking:**
The Committee’s programs and activities seek to realize an environment where there is a robust resource-sharing community involving various stakeholders, such as deans and directors, administrators, librarians, technologists, and support staff at ALI member libraries. Resource sharing is, in many ways, a joint effort dependent upon administrative support and vision, strong technological infrastructure and support, and efficient and accurate librarian and support staff workflows.
The Committee will use the existing ALI-RESOURCE-SHARE-L listserv as a discussion platform to develop, promote, and expand meaningful networking relationships through:

- Collective problem solving and exchanging expertise
- Capture of innovative ideas and the identification of trends
- Collaboration opportunities
- Building community and furthering participation

The Committee will build a subscription list, identifying ALI participants from the recently sponsored conference, the contact list that was used to distribute the ALI Resource Sharing Assessment Survey, and other sources.

The Resource Sharing Committee will continue to seek opportunities to increase communication and participation with the Indiana State Library.

The Committee will continue vendor-neutral investigations into other paradigmatic resource-sharing models, both nationally and internationally, to gather innovative ideas and examples and to make informed and productive recommendations to the ALI Board for progressive resource-sharing activities and initiatives.

**Development of a Regional Technology/Training Volunteer Program:**

The Resource Sharing Committee’s Assessment Survey revealed that the interlibrary loan units at many ALI libraries are small and often do not have access to training and/or in-house technological support. The development of a Regional Technology/Training Volunteer Program would strengthen the ALI consortium and have a measurable impact on borrowing and lending among ALI members and beyond.

The Resource Sharing Committee envisions this program as a regional partnership program, coordinated by a subcommittee of the Resource Sharing Committee, that connects volunteers from ALI member institutions with personnel at other ALI institutions to provide practical and technical guidance, training, and implementation. These communications may take the form of phone calls, e-mail, and on-site visits that provide local training of short duration.

**Committee’s Name:**

The Resource Sharing Committee will expand its efforts to build meaningful and valuable connections between resource-sharing stakeholders throughout the membership of the Academic Libraries of Indiana and suggests amending the Committee’s name to reflect the new spirit of networking, community, and cooperation. A recommended new Committee name is *Resource Sharing and Networking Committee.*