Library Initiatives

The Big Ten Academic Alliance Library Initiatives focus on **three key objectives**:

- ◆ optimizing student and faculty access to the combined resources of our libraries;
- ◆ maximizing cost, time, and space savings; and
- ◆ supporting a collaborative environment where library staff can develop strategies for pursuing common goals.

Shared investments maximize the impact that Library Initiatives projects have in helping libraries to deliver services to faculty and students. Key library activities include:

Initiatives	
Shared Print Repository	**Accessibility Alliance**
Geoportal Geospatial Data Project	**CADRE Data Platform**

Programs	
UBorrow *Interlibrary lending network*	**Consortial Licensing** *Collaboration on content licensing*
Cooperative Cataloging *Increasing cataloging capacity through shared expertise in over 40 languages*	**Large-Scale Acquisitions** *Shared purchasing and investment for building library collections*
Sustainable Publishing & Open Access *Seeking sustainable business models for strengthening open scholarship*	**Prospective Print** *Pilot in purchasing e-book content universally available across institutions*

The BIG Collection

The **fifteen research libraries** of the Big Ten Academic Alliance have committed to intentionally managing their core collections of books and digital assets as one collection to meet the growing needs of faculty and students on each campus. Acting in concert to create models for stewarding the combined scholarly record, the libraries will operate as a single collection, bringing balance to inherent inequities, with the goal of expanding access to the total pool of knowledge resources to every student and faculty member across the Alliance. **The BIG Collection** is the lead idea, the center of gravity, for all BTAA library activity. The Library Directors are engaged in a strategic re-thinking of their shared activity aligned toward the ideal of the BIG Collection.

Collaboration Projects

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Collaboration Projects

Consortial Licensing

The Big Ten Academic Alliance libraries have developed a robust collaboration around content licensing. With this purchasing power, member libraries can expect to realize significant cost savings **($38.5 million over the past five years!)**, operational efficiencies, and substantial influence in the scholarly publishing market.

Google Book Search Project

In 2007, the Big Ten Academic Alliance entered into an agreement with Google to digitize as many as 10 million volumes across Big Ten libraries. To date, Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Penn State, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Purdue and have made available **more than 2.6 million library volumes** to Google; this in addition to **over 5.5 million volumes** scanned at Michigan and Wisconsin under separate agreements.
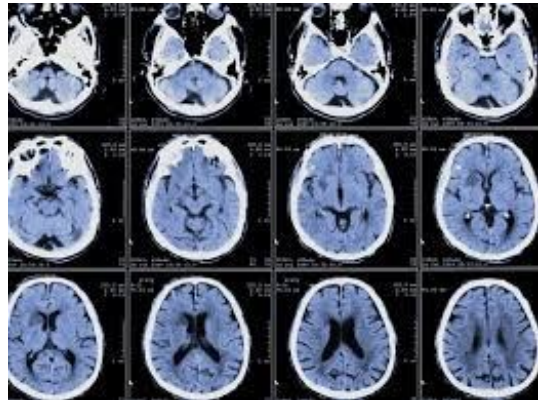
HathiTrust Digital Library

The HathiTrust Digital Library is managed by the University of Michigan and Indiana University, with ongoing operational and strategic input from other Big Ten institutions. As "founding members," along with the California Digital Library, the Big Ten Academic Alliance has strong representation on governance and policy-making for the repository. HathiTrust now holds over **17.5 million volumes** (nearly 7 million public domain volumes) scanned from the libraries of **237 national and international member institutions**. This initiative serves as a critical preservation function for our Big Ten research libraries; creates possibilities for rationally managing print holdings; aids in the discovery of needed texts; supports text analysis critical to scholars working in the digital humanities; and makes scholarly content accessible to those with print disabilities.

Library Shared Print Repository

The Big Ten Academic Alliance libraries are supporting an initiative to consolidate storage and service of print journal backfiles in a centralized collection, minimizing space and costs of maintenance for titles with widespread electronic access. With **more than 422,000 volumes** currently committed for long-term retention, the libraries are collectively and centrally ensuring the preservation of these print volumes (and guaranteeing delivery to those needing to consult them), member libraries save costs and have more options in managing their local print holdings.

Big Ten – Ivy League Traumatic Brain Injury Research Collaboration

Launched in 2012 as a research collaborative between the **Big Ten** and **Ivy League,** this initiative brings together researchers and athletic departments from the **22 participating universities** for the purpose of a better understanding of the causes and effects of sport-related concussion and head injuries. Coordinated by the **Big Ten Academic Alliance**, this collaboration partners in order to improve student-athlete well-being by leveraging scientific resources across disciplines, institutions, and conferences. To promote and support the collaboration's efforts, an annual TBI Summit is held providing an opportunity for networking, research/clinical partnership development, and highlighting the research and clinical work being conducted related to traumatic brain injury at the Big Ten and Ivy League institutions.

Ivy League – Big Ten Epidemiology of Concussion Study

A feature study of the TBI Collaboration is the Ivy League-Big Ten Epidemiology of Concussion Study. This multi-site, prospective, observational study seeks to characterize the epidemiology of concussions among student athletes. Established in 2013, the goals of the study are: to obtain epidemiologic data regarding the incidence, mechanism of injury, and return to academic and sport participation timeline of concussion for all varsity and some club sports endorsed by the Ivy League and Big Ten schools; to efficiently utilize the Study data to identify opportunities to improve the health and safety of current and future student-athletes; and to provide a Study infrastructure supporting a collaborative and participatory research community.

Student Success Initiative

This initiative brings together key leader in student success for the purpose pf sharing best practices and building networks necessary for successful cross-institutional collaboration around student success initiatives. Participating stakeholders include Advising Administrators, Chief Enrollment Management Officers, Senior Diversity Officers, Senior Student Affairs Officers, and Senior Undergraduate Education Officers.

Collaboration Projects

Collaboration Projects

OmniPoP/Fiber Optic Networking

The Big Ten Chief Information Officers (CIOs) co-own and operate a fiber optic network in Chicago that both builds IT capacity and reduces cost **(savings of ~$9,697,000 in 2018-19).** The network and its shared services allow member universities to connect directly to each other as well as to other research entities worldwide.

Collaborative Security Assessment Program (Riskonnect)

In 2018, the Big Ten Academic Alliance Chief Information Security Officers worked with the Procurement Directors Group to purchase jointly a software tool that could be used by member universities to collect information about the security risk of products or services slated for purchase. They collaboratively developed a standardized set of questions regarding vendor software or web services that will be used for a collective baseline security assessment of products. The platform went live in fall 2019 and has already begun to facilitate sharing of information collected from the vendors on a confidential basis among member institutions. Additionally, the use of this tool has furthered standardization of workflows, processes, scoring and metrics across the consortium, providing an opportunity for the Big Ten to leverage their collective power to impact the market.

Purchasing Consortium

The Purchasing Consortium is a collaboration of the procurement directors of Big Ten Academic Alliance member universities focused on delivering cost savings across campuses through **strategic sourcing initiatives, identifying approaches** to handle emerging issues and implementing best practices, and offering leadership and professional development opportunities.

Academic Leadership Program (ALP)

Established in 1989, this nationally recognized leadership initiative has produced more than **1,500 fellows,** many of whom have gone on to serve with distinction as college presidents, provosts, and deans. This intensive year-long leadership program consists of three seminars that rotate among Big Ten Academic Alliance universities. ALP develops the leadership and managerial skills, as well as provides an orientation for faculty, including those currently appointed as academic administrators, to gain a better understanding of university-level academic administrative leadership and its challenges at a research university.

Department Executive Officer (DEO)

Each year approximately **65 department heads and chairs** from Big Ten universities come together for a unique leadership development seminar. Topics at this three-day event range from conflict resolution, communication strategies, faculty and staff development, performance reviews, and group problem solving. Since its inception, DEO has served more than **850 faculty** at member universities.

Staff Development Program on Internationalization

The Senior International Officers initiated the Staff Development Program on Internationalization in 2019. This cohort-based program is **designed to give participants a better understanding of campus internationalization strategies** and mechanisms, and explore their own role in the context of their institutions' internationalization efforts. While Year 1 consisted of six webinars and travel to Mexico City to visit with various higher education partners, travel was suspended in Year 2 (2020) due to Covid-19 restrictions. Year 3 (2021) is currently underway with an expanded webinar series and newly designed virtual cohort-building opportunities.

Professorial Advancement Initiative (PAI)

The Professorial Advancement Initiative (PAI) is supported by an NSF AGEP Transformation Grant and has the goal to double the rate at which Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions hire underrepresented minority (URM) faculty members in STEM disciplines. For the past five years, member institutions have exceeded their goal and have averaged **61 U.S. citizen URM STEM faculty hires** each year. PAI Directors and faculty have provided mentoring and professional development programming for **over 180 Big Ten URM postdoctoral fellows**. At the same time, the PAI training team has **educated 1,900 faculty and staff** through workshops on unconscious bias and diversity hiring, while dozens more have received the content secondarily by campus administrators sharing the PAI video case studies. These resources, along with facilitation guides, are freely available via the Big Ten Academic Alliance website.

Faculty/Staff Opportunities

Student Opportunities

CourseShare

The Liberal Arts and Sciences Deans have sponsored and been the administrative home for course sharing across member universities since 2005. Begun with a focus on graduate education, the CourseShare Program narrowed its focus in 2010 to l**ess commonly taught languages (LCTLs)**. Capitalizing on distance-learning technology, CourseShare increases student access to specialized language and area studies courses from across the Alliance. **More than 700** courses have been shared since the beginning of the program. In addition to LCTLs, this infrastructure and partnership is leveraged by member universities to support three externally-funded initiatives. The Big Ten Academic Alliance Less Commonly Taught Languages Partnership, led by **Michigan State University**, focuses on intermediate language proficiency via online instruction. The Big Ten Academic Alliance-Nam Center Korean Studies eSchool and the Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum, both housed at the **University of Michigan,** expand course offerings in their identified area studies to students across the consortium.

FreeApp Program

The Big Ten Academic Alliance FreeApp program increases access to graduate education for underrepresented students by facilitating applicant requests for a graduate application fee waiver for Ph.D. or Master of Fine Arts programs at Big Ten institutions. In 2019-20, a **national pool of over 11,000 graduate applicants** requested a fee waiver for member universities.

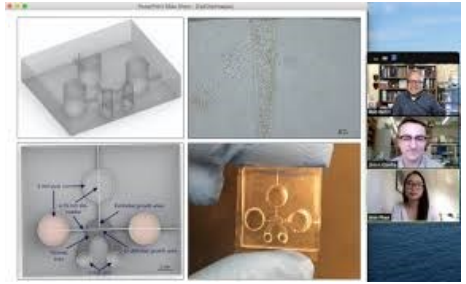## Graduate Degree Exploration Program (GRADx)

The GRADx program is a **Mellon-funded initiative between 29 member universities** of the Big Ten Academic Alliance and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). Through a series of biannual seminars hosted by Big Ten Academic Alliance universities, GRADx provides underrepresented ACM undergraduates an opportunity to learn about the benefits of graduate study and career paths for graduates within the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences.

Graduate School Exploration Fellowship Program (GSEF)

The GSEF Program is a Mellon-funded collaboration between 29 member universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) to **provide underrepresented ACM undergraduates** a summer research internship on the campus of a Big Ten institution following their junior year. To date, **146 ACM undergraduates** have participated in GSEF.

Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)

SROP is a gateway to graduate education for students from underrepresented groups. The program enables talented undergraduate students to experience intensive research opportunities while creating a pipeline for future graduate students, faculty, and professionals. Since 1985, **more than 16,000 students** have participated in the Big Ten Academic Alliance SROP. To date, 610 program alumni have earned a Ph.D. degree and are now preparing the next generation of SROP scholars as mentors and teachers. Thousands of others have completed graduate training and are pursuing successful careers in government, business, and non-profit agencies.

International Research Experience Program (IREP)

Piloted in 2018, the Big Ten Senior International Officers and the FIGURE Network have partnered together to create the International Research Experience Program (IREP). This program brings together **22 French universities and 14 Big Ten universities**, and allows French scholars who are enrolled in a FIGURE Network Curriculum in Masters of Engineering (CMI) program to apply for short-term research opportunities at participating Big Ten Academic universities. One of the goals of the program is to create similar research opportunities in France for Big Ten Academic Alliance students. The first two application cycles resulted in 61 FIGURE scholar applications and 23 placements at Big Ten universities. Due to Covid-19, the program was suspended prior to Year 2 scholars arriving in the U.S. and remains postponed at this time.

Smithsonian Fellowship

The Big Ten Academic Alliance Smithsonian Institution Fellowship provides **one-year fellowships** to Big Ten Academic Alliance doctoral students to support research in-residence at Smithsonian Institution facilities. This collaborative award is equally funded by the Smithsonian Institution and the fellow's home institution. Since the Fellowship's inception, over **45 doctoral students** have been awarded the Smithsonian Fellowships.

Student Design Challenge

In its inaugural year, AY 18-19, the Learning Technology Leaders' Student Design Challenge provided opportunities for student teams to submit design proposal to re-create campus space into an informal learning space. **Nine member universities** participated and **64 student design proposals** were submitted. Each university selected a local winner and those top 9 designs advanced to national judging, from which 3 finalist teams were selected to participate in a workshop at the Herman Miller headquarters in Grand Rapids, MI. The three finalists were teams from Ohio State, Indiana, and Nebraska. The workshop allowed the students an opportunity to work with academic and industry leaders to present, revise, and submit their final designs. The top team was from OSU and received funding to build the winning design on their campus. The 2nd Student Design Challenge kicked-off in October 2019 with ten member institutions participating.

Student Opportunities

Discovery Program

The Discovery Program provides resources to scholars who are interested in pursuing graduate education. This collaborative initiative among the graduate schools showcases **twelve online module sessions**. Topics include how to choose and apply to a graduate school, evaluating program offers, and mentorship, as well as additional information to aid students in making sound decisions regarding graduate school.

Smithsonian Fellowship

The Big Ten Academic Alliance Smithsonian Institution Fellowship provides one-year fellowships to Big Ten Academic Alliance doctoral students to support research in-residence at Smithsonian Institution facilities. This collaborative award is equally funded by the Smithsonian Institution and the fellow's home institution. Since the Fellowship's inception, over **56 doctoral students** have been awarded the Smithsonian Fellowships.

Traveling Scholar

Since 1963, the Big Ten Academic Alliance's Traveling Scholar program has enabled **more than 6,700 doctoral** students the unique opportunity to spend up to a full academic year pursuing specialized courses of study, researching unique library collections, and working in advanced laboratories and facilities at other Big Ten institutions — with no change in registration procedures from their home institution.

Please visit *www.btaa.org* for more information on Big Ten Academic Alliance **Collaboration Projects, Faculty/Staff OpportunitiesStudent Opportunities**.

Student Opportunities

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