

Support for Collective Action Toward an Interdependent Future

Principles of Engagement Among the Libraries of the Big Ten Academic Alliance
Approved: February 2023

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

For the pathway to uniting the collections, to be reviewed annually by the Library Deans/ULs

1. Principles for acting together
 - a. Join our strengths to extend our collective capabilities
 - b. Create something more than the sum of our parts
 - c. Engage intentional and strategic coordination through collective action
 - d. Articulate the needs of the whole in order to elevate the collective interest and the greater good
 - e. Optimize for the whole first, leading before individual interests and priorities
 - f. Continually center equity, community, and transparency
 - g. Deepen trust and the spirit of collaboration through candor and accountability within the group.
 - h. Continually improve value at scale for the Big Ten community
2. All BTAA libraries agree to participate fully in the BIG Collection, including:
 - a. Making bibliographic and metadata records available
 - b. Planning coordinated collections, delivery, preservation, and access
 - c. Contributing staff time and energy to emerging and existing projects
 - d. Supporting and using central services as they are developed
 - e. Being part of the governance, evaluation and oversight structures developed
 - f. Providing funding to support the services and projects
 - g. Participating in cooperative agreements that may emerge, as needed, to support the core infrastructure (bibliographic access, delivery, and collections)
 - h. Clarifying core concepts relevant to the shift from institutional interests as driving motivational factors, toward more unity, interdependence, and collective action on behalf of the BIG Collection.
3. Allowing for institutional viewpoints, subsets of the 15 libraries may:
 - Participate differently in contracts for library materials and services
 - Participate differently in collection building, conservation, storage, and access

Voting and Decision-making

The Library Deans/ULs work toward 100% group participation. Collective action of the whole is our default assumption for negotiations, agreements, and initiatives. Absent unanimity, the guideline of the group is that if 11 or more institutions support an action, BTAA will move forward with it as a collective action of the Alliance of libraries.

Changes or adjustments to commitments

In the event that an institution needs to reconsider commitments to the group because of local financial, political, or social constraints or changes in direction, the member Dean/UL may choose to do any of the following in the interests of maintaining collective momentum:

- find another member of the group to carry the commitment
- seek the endorsement of the group to sunset the commitment
- otherwise host or participate in a conversation to seek alternate means of the group to achieve agreed collective objectives