

# LIBRARY INITIATIVES

**CONNECTION ON A GRAND SCALE**

**BIG**  
ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

Advancing the excellence of member libraries through leadership, collaboration, and co-investment.

In an unprecedented collaborative gesture, the deans of the Big Ten Academic Alliance research libraries have committed to intentionally managing their core collections of books and digital assets as one collection to meet the growing needs of faculty, researchers and students on each campus. The BIG Collection is the overarching initiative to advance this commitment.

To meet this goal, the libraries will implement the necessary systems, policies, and services needed to create an integrated user experience of the networked collections, from discovery to delivery. Individual libraries will continue to offer distinctive collections and services focused on local needs, but enabling a networked approach will ensure the collective good, leveraging these remarkable libraries’ collections.

COLLECTIVE ACTION	
<p><b>Library Accessibility</b></p> <p>The Big Ten Academic Alliance, in partnership with several national library consortia, formed the Library Accessibility Alliance (LAA) to promote equitable access to library services and electronic resources. The LAA provides vendors with third-party accessibility evaluations and a Library Accessibility Toolkit, and advocates for the inclusion of standardized accessibility language in library e-resource contracts.</p>	<p><b>UBorrow</b></p> <p>Providing the backbone for interlibrary borrowing across Big Ten universities, the UBorrow network speedily moves tens of thousands of volumes a year into the hands of students, faculty, researchers, and the broader Big Ten community.</p>
<p><b>Consortial Library Licensing</b></p> <p>Advancing equitable, just, and open scholarship at significant cost savings.</p> <div><div>155 PRODUCTS LICENSED ANNUALLY</div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$53M</div><div>TOTAL SPENT ANNUALLY</div></div>	<p><b>BIG Collection</b></p> <p>The BIG Collection is a bold vision to unite the separate library collections of the Big Ten into one collection, shared and fully networked. The BIG Collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Advances a just, trustworthy, and sustainable open knowledge ecosystem with open, more equitable scholarship as its lead purpose.</li><li>■ Advances “open-publishing” agreements that allow faculty to make their research immediately open and available to the public.</li><li>■ Publishes scholarly monographs from Big Ten university presses with open content, published on open platforms, and distributed through open channels.</li><li>■ Is building infrastructure services to meet the goal of “any content, from anywhere, to anyone ... now and into the future.”</li></ul>

The power of the network

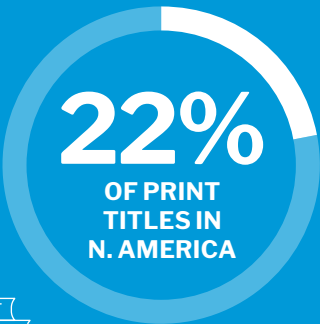
“I think that the Big Ten Academic Alliance is the single most important library consortium in existence...the sentiment behind the BIG Collection is spot on. The future is about leveraging intentional interconnectedness. It’s about networked collections and services. The Big Ten Academic Alliance is positioned to lead us into that future.”

**James Hilton, PhD**  
Authur F. Thurnau Professor, Vice Provost for Academic Innovation  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

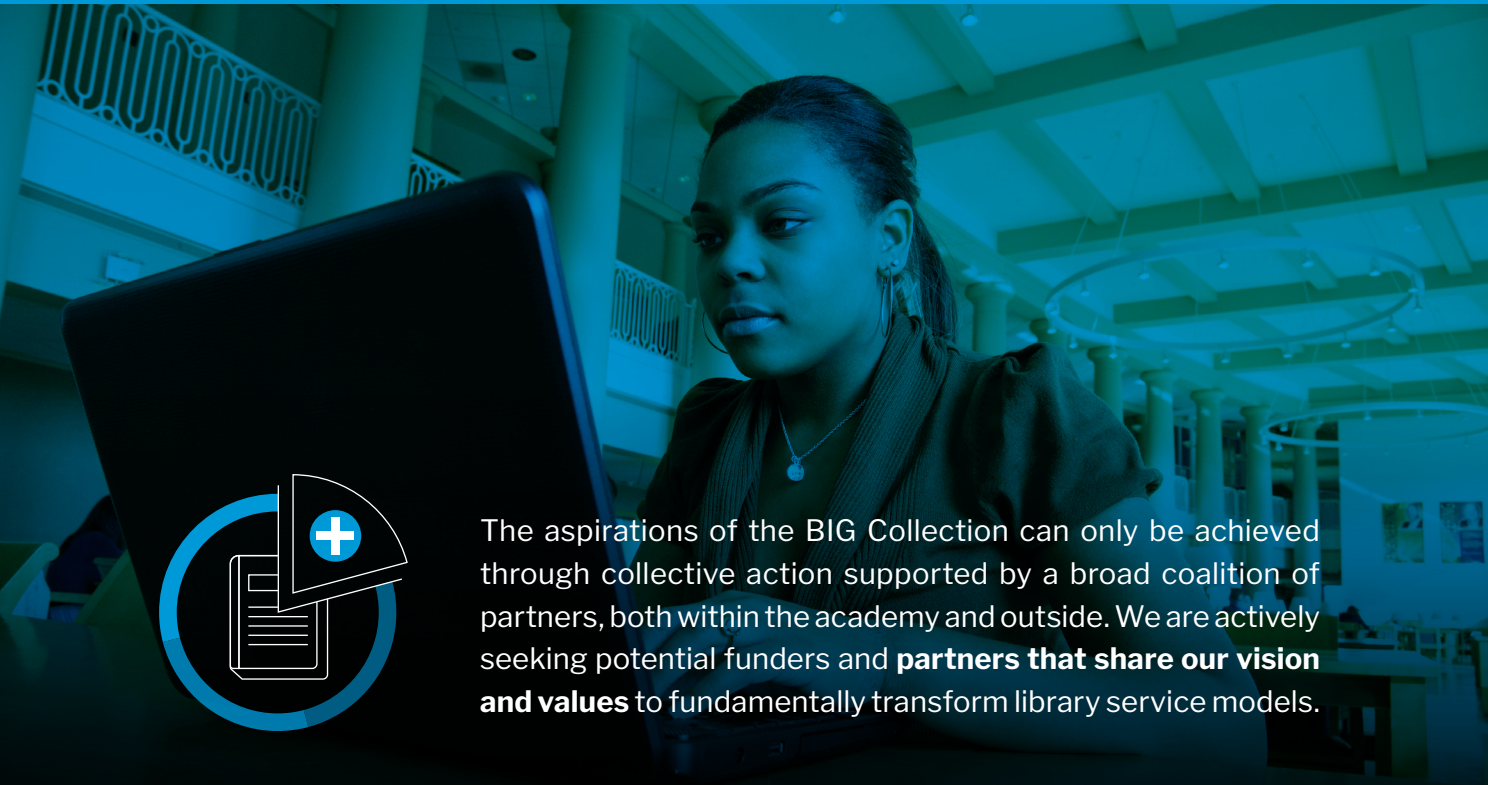
In 2022 BTAA negotiated an open publishing agreement with Wiley and tripled the Big Ten research output from **19% to 65%**.

**\$4.2M** 1 YR OF SAVINGS IN PUBLISHING COSTS

The libraries of the Alliance hold over



Once united as the BIG Collection it will embody the



The aspirations of the BIG Collection can only be achieved through collective action supported by a broad coalition of partners, both within the academy and outside. We are actively seeking potential funders and **partners that share our vision and values** to fundamentally transform library service models.

The Big Ten Academic Alliance is the academic consortium of the world-class research universities in the Big Ten Conference and the University of Chicago. By casting our collective futures together, we can fulfill our missions and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

#### **Core Member Groups**

- Provosts
- Chief Information Officers
- Deans of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Graduate Deans
- Senior International Officers
- Procurement Directors
- University Librarians
- Vice Provosts for Faculty Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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