

## BLC Resource Sharing Strategic Priority: Best Practices for Monograph De-selection

(NOTE: This document was withdrawn as of September 18, 2017 and has become inactive. However, it remains available to libraries who may want to use it as a guide for local de-selection and withdrawal.)

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### Problem (or Purpose) Statement

The libraries in the BLC maintain redundant collections. For any given title, there may be only a single copy within the consortium, or there may be ten or more; for most, that number will probably be somewhere in between. In part this is a reflection of each institution's long history of growth and the concomitant need to build collections to meet the requirements of the local community. Over the past decade, the BLC libraries have attempted to reduce the redundancy in collections:

- For current acquisitions, using cooperative collection development, and
- For retention of older materials, specifically reference materials and print journal backfiles.

The benefits of these strategies are twofold: They allow libraries to reduce their expenditures on duplicative materials, and they increase the overall availability of materials within the BLC. In addition, they give libraries a tool for handling increasing pressures on space in a sensible and deliberate way.

Extending such efforts, the Resource Sharing committee is investigating guidelines for monographs held by consortium members. In doing so, we face a number of challenges:

- Unlike journals, an electronic version may not be available for most monographic titles,
- Unlike consortium such as the Five Colleges or TRLN, the BLC does not have a shared repository, and
- Unlike our efforts in cooperative collection development or print journal retention, in order to gain wide acceptance from the BLC members, the successful policy should not require formal agreements such as memorandums of understanding.

We must also recognize that while the aim is to ensure diversity of holdings with a low amount of duplication, every library makes their collections available for interlibrary loan not just to the BLC but to libraries across the country, and even around the world, just as we all rely on libraries both within and beyond the BLC to satisfy our borrowing needs.

### Proposed Policy

No library will discard/withdraw the **last copy** of a monograph edition in serviceable condition, and deemed to have intellectual or research value, held within the consortium unless there are **more than 50** holdings reflected in OCLC.

No library will discard/withdraw a copy of a monograph edition in serviceable condition, and deemed to have intellectual or research value, held by only one other BLC member (i.e., a total of **2 copies** within the BLC), unless there are **more than 30** holdings reflected in OCLC

For all monographs with **less than 30** holdings reflected in OCLC, it is recommended that at least **three copies** be retained within the BLC.

Retention copies shall continue to circulate locally and via ILL as allowed by the owning library.

This policy shall stay in effect for 10 years, and will be reviewed after 5 years.

This policy should in no way restrict any individual institution or library in meeting the needs of its own campus or user community or fulfilling its mission.