Sharing Cataloging expertise Alternatives

Magda El-Sherbini

ALA Midwinter 2010

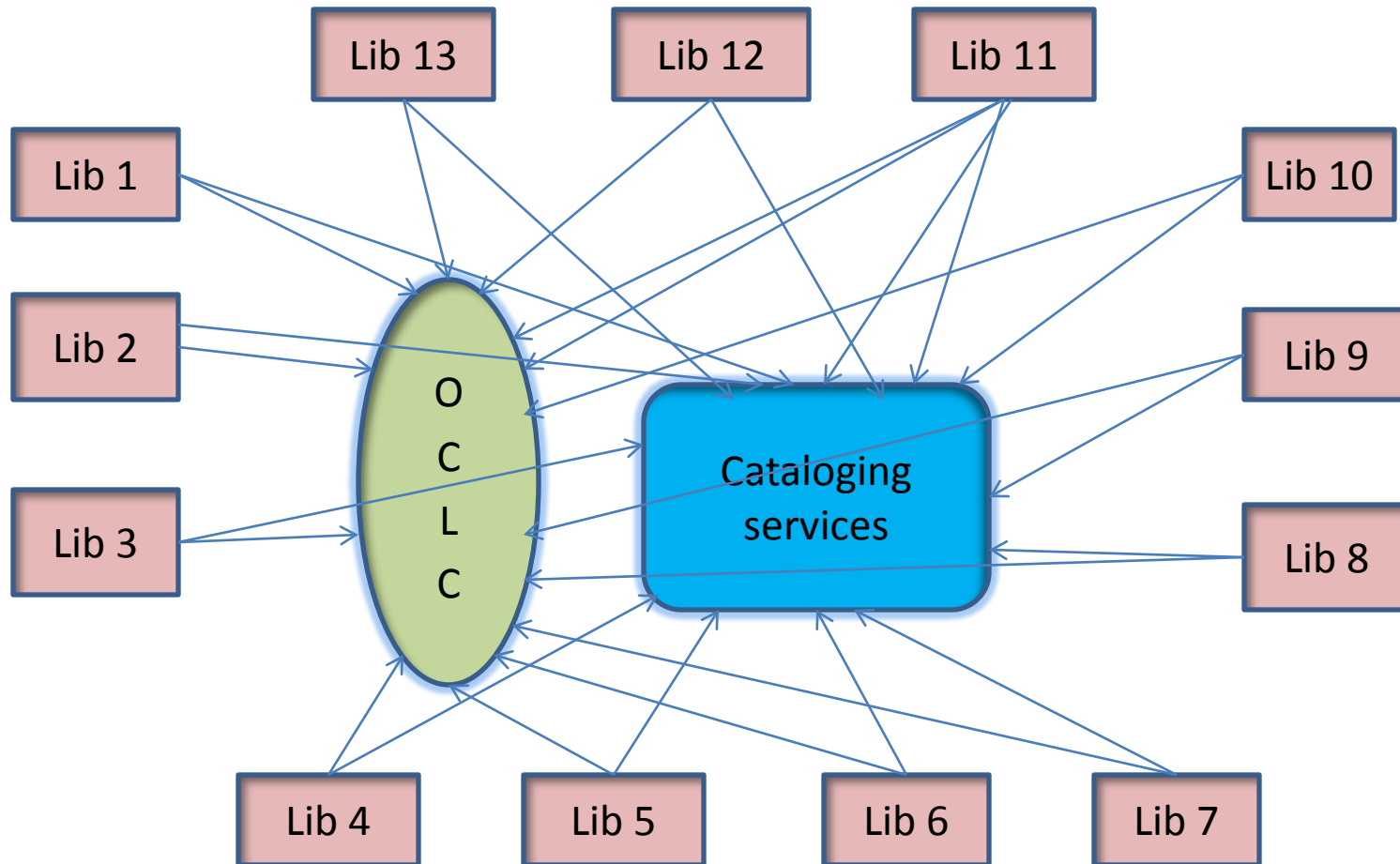Catalog Management and Discussion IG

Outlines

- Introduction
- Current scenario
- Some assumptions
- Alternatives
- What is next

Introduction

- administrators continue to seek solutions

- High cost of cataloging

- Cataloging and library literature

Current scenario

Some assumptions

- Major libraries select, acquire and process a substantial amount of identical materials, acquired from almost the same vendors. (50%)

- All libraries catalog almost the same materials. (Original or copy)

- Therefore, there are numerous institutions and catalogers cataloging the same materials approximately at the same time.

- All libraries acquire a percentage of materials that are unique to their own collections.

- Some libraries maintain expertise in specific area such as foreign languages and special formats.

- Some libraries are acquiring materials where they do not have expertise to process them.

Alternatives

Scenario 1

SCENARIO 1: SHARING OF CATLOGING RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO THE STRENGTH OF EACH LIBRARY'S COLLECTION

Advantages

- It eliminates the cost of each library cataloging the same items.

- Perhaps it will eliminate the cost of vendor services.

- It will eliminate each library's local practice and move the library to true cooperative sharing efforts.

- Strengthens the catalogers' expertise and shares them beyond their institutions.

- It will help each library to focus on cataloging the materials they are assigned to and subsequently eliminate redundancies.

- It will also assure that the records will be input into the OCLC WorldCat once.

- The cataloging library might participate in and contribute records to the Library of Congress Cooperative Cataloging Program (PCC) and all its components (BIBCO, NACO, SACO, and CONSER).

- The cataloging library will be responsible for all authority work

Disadvantages

- It may be difficult to coordinate policies and procedures.

- Libraries are not using the same ILS systems, and that could be a problem, unless they all agree to redesign the architecture of their online system. This could become a cost factor.

- It may be difficult to maintain specialized cataloging staff. This will require commitment from participating libraries.

SCENARIO 2: CATALOGING FOR A FEE

Advantages

- Libraries will be able to maximize the use of their expertise.
- Libraries will obtain high quality bibliographic records.
- Cataloging costs are greatly reduced for each library.
- Cataloging-based fees will be much lower than contractor or vendor fees.
- A sense of sharing and cooperation among the participating libraries.
- It can be viewed as a win-win situation for both the cataloging and the client libraries, because both have the same shared goals and objectives.

Disadvantages

Commitment on the part of the cataloging library to maintain expertise in particular areas and to support the cooperative cataloging initiative.

SCENARIO 3: THE CATALOGING TRIANGLE: LOCAL OR REGIONAL CATALOGING COOPERATIVE

Advantages

- Simple to implement.
- Easy to manage and coordinate.

Disadvantages

- Commitment to maintain expertise.

- If the partners are not using the same ILS, sharing of records will be difficult.

What Next

OhioLink Model

Ohio State University Libraries Model

Conclusion

Questions?