1. EXPANDING COLLECTIONS AND ACCESS

The consortium libraries collaborate to increase the breadth of our holdings by reducing unneeded duplication and expanding access to electronic subscriptions. Each of the libraries has extensive and distinctive collections, most of which are broadly accessible for use by students and faculty members. Extensive and longstanding cooperation among the libraries since the early 1950s also gives researchers access to their combined strength, which currently totals more than 7.1 million bibliographic records representing some 10 million volumes. Members of the Five College community enjoy open borrowing privileges as well as increasing access to newer electronic collections and subscriptions, and may place their borrowing requests online.

Here are some quick numbers. We have more than 7.1 million bibliographic records, which represent some 10 million volumes. These include:

- 4.7 million books
- 1.8 million eBooks
- 3.1 million journals
- 440,000 film, video and music recordings/scores

The following graph displays the items loaned out by our campus libraries—to home-campus patrons and Five College patrons—and the items borrowed by home-campus patrons from their home-campus libraries and all Five College libraries.

In fiscal year 2015, 114,905 items were borrowed by faculty members and undergraduate and graduate students through interlibrary loan.

The Five College Access Committee coordinates policies and operational processes across the Five College libraries, endeavoring to provide a consistent and seamless experience for Five College library patrons by standardizing and synchronizing workflows and lending practices. Among the committee’s areas of responsibility are inventory management, borrower policies, interlibrary loan and resource sharing, billing and reconciliation, course reserve, and The Five College Library Repository Collection (FCLRC).
With the Five College Library Repository Collection, the campus libraries pioneered the concept of maintaining a shared collection of infrequently circulated materials. This has freed shelf space for new material and opens up library space for other uses, while keeping lesser-used materials readily available. Fifty-two colleges and universities pay annual dues to participate as affiliates of the repository collection.

Books and other materials at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the Yiddish Book Center, totaling nearly 14,000 volumes, are now available through the Aleph integrated library catalog system.

**EAST**

Eastern Academic Scholars’ Trust, a newly forming shared print-retention partnership of college and university libraries across the Northeast, grew out of a Five College Library Consortium initiative. The partnership supports a “distributed retention model” under which libraries are retention partners committed to keeping and sharing designated print copies of monographs and journals for use of the patrons of any of the libraries participating in EAST.

The mission of EAST is to ensure scholars, including faculty members and students in the Northeast have access to the scholarly record of print monographs and print journals and serials through multi-library collaborative arrangements that ensure copies of even infrequently used materials are retained in sufficient number to be readily available. While electronic copies of many of these materials are increasingly accessible and may more conveniently meet many scholarly needs, the occasional need for access to print copies requires collaborative agreements among libraries to ensure that individual collection-management decisions do not eliminate materials to the detriment of scholarly pursuits.

EAST, formerly known as the Northeast Regional Library Print Management Project, grew out of a series of discussions among more than 100 college and university librarians in the northeastern United States—facilitated by the Five College Consortium—beginning in the summer of 2011. In 2012, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded Five Colleges an 18-month planning grant to identify needs and develop business models for such a shared print-retention program. Details of the work of the planning grant, including the recommendations of the various working groups, are available on the Five Colleges website.
2. INCREASING ACCESS AND SAVINGS

The Five College Libraries have taken a leadership role in ensuring that their faculty and student scholars have access to the resources they need.

Five College Library Annex

The Five College Board of Directors decided in May 2014 to build and operate what would be called the Five College Library Annex with a shelving capacity of 2.1 to 2.5 million volumes. In May 2015, Five Colleges purchased land in Hatfield and began site work that summer. Construction is well under way and the facility will be available for use in May 2017.

The shelving in the Annex will serve library needs of any of the five campuses, but the decision to build it was motivated by particularly strong needs of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Smith College Libraries. Explorations of possibilities for this project began at the request of the Five College librarians and chief academic officers in 2011, and this particular plan was advanced by the librarians and gained endorsements of the chief academic officers and the chief financial officers before being approved by the board of directors.

The long-term purpose of the Library Annex is to house print materials for which there is no longer space in our campus libraries and to serve the expanding Five College Library Repository Collection, which now exceeds the capacity of its first location. The climate-controlled conditions in the Annex will be better for long-term preservation of the materials than are the conditions in the on-campus library stacks. The proximity of the facility to the campuses means that the materials will be readily available for return to campus-library patrons. The Five College messenger will make morning and afternoon stops at the two facilities of the Repository to retrieve requested items. Many requests, which can be submitted online, are likely to be for journal articles, which will be provided by Repository staff members as high-resolution PDF photocopies sent electronically.

Most immediately, this new facility will meet the offsite storage needs of Smith College while its Neilson Library is being renovated (construction expected to be complete by August 2020). smith.edu/libraries/redesign

It will also provide shelving for hundreds of thousands of volumes from the UMass Libraries, currently in inaccessible storage, that will be added to the repository collection.
Archives and Special Collections

The Archives and Special Collections Committee and the Digital Preservation Task Force made progress on needed improvements in collection preservation and discovery in several areas. They piloted the Archivematica digital-preservation ingest process, exploring a submission information packet (SIP) as a collaborative project. They completed a digital-preservation-readiness assessment of the Five Colleges using the Assessing Institutional Digital Assets (AIDA) Toolkit. They established an ArchivesSpace working group for four of the five libraries, adopting ArchivesSpace as an archives collection management tool. They drafted a Memo of Understanding with the University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries for the Asteria Finding Aid site. And they collaborated on a white paper advocating for a shared records-management position funded by Five Colleges.

Electronic Book Lending

A Five College Demand-Driven Acquisition pilot for eBooks went live in December 2013 with EBL (now owned by ProQuest). The goal was to provide users with a large, uniform pool of eBook titles, some of which were already owned in print. Usage has been extremely high, so in that sense, the pilot has been a success. Changes to both publisher pricing and policies have meant that the pool of titles had to be adjusted several times to control costs and respond to the unpredictable deletion of titles by publishers. The libraries decided in June 2016 to end this pilot and redirect funds to expand the “demand driven acquisition” eBook pilot with JSTOR that began in November 2015.

JSTOR

In the fall of 2015, the libraries began a pilot program with JSTOR eBooks. The libraries contributed to a shared deposit account with a trigger that provided an eBook to all five libraries at a 50 percent discount if certain numbers of chapter views or chapter downloads were met by a cumulative usage. Titles in JSTOR eBooks are free of digital restrictions management. Not only are titles in the online catalog but discovery is also possible from the JSTOR database, to which all five campuses subscribe. Use of these eBooks has exceeded expectations.


Total books used. .................................. 10,158
Total views ........................................ 28,924
Total downloads ................................. 24,464
Total views + downloads ...................... 53,888
Total books purchased on DDA .......... 400

Kanopy

Bibliographic records were loaded for a demand-driven acquisition streaming video collection (Kanopy) which all five campuses can access. For this model, there is no pooling of funds but the trigger is the same for each of us—the fourth access triggers a one-year, unlimited-user access license for that campus. As of 2015, the collection has 26,000 titles for students and faculty members, many of which have been linked to our course-management systems. The database includes titles from PBS, the BBC and Criterion, along with award-winning documentaries.

Subscriptions

The libraries have continued joint annual negotiations with the subscription agency EBSCO for discounts for electronic titles and databases held in common. The result is both lower prices and broader access.

Center for Research Libraries

Each of the Five College Libraries is now a member of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), which acquires and preserves “unique and little-known documents.” The collections, which number about five million items, are international in scope and made available to researchers at member institutions through interlibrary loan, electronic delivery and on-site use at CRL in Chicago.

The Five College Resource Management Committee also advocates for better lending models and practices from publishers. It registered serious concerns about the short-term-loan model with ProQuest after publishers began blocking front-list titles from short-term loans.
3. IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Discovery

The Five College Discovery Committee keeps its eye on critical developments in collection-discovery systems. The five campuses invested in the current Integrated Library System, Ex Libris's Aleph, in 2005. Now, 11 years later, the Discovery Committee advanced the discussion with “Next Generation Integrated Library System (ILS) Return on Investment Report,” a full analysis of options and arguments for adopting a next generation ILS for the Five College Libraries. Continued attention to this core collaborative technology will enable us to plan for an eventual upgrade. The committee is also examining the 70 tools in use across the Five Colleges contributing to our discovery infrastructure (see the Discovery Services Matrix) and constructed a technology system overlap diagram.

System Improvements

- Aleph Integrated Library System upgraded to Version 22
- Five College Repository holdings available through OCLC (MAFCI)
- Mobile Friendly Patron Notices (Access)
- One-click borrowing renewal
- Microform direct-request lending across the Five Colleges
- Help pages for “zero hits”
- Graphical (visual) browsing interface
- OCLC symbol for Five College Repository Collection

Digital Stewardship

Each of the Five College Libraries has led the way for the management, preservation, and stewardship of and access to our institutional digital assets. Yet due to varying levels of institutional readiness, a consortium approach had not been possible. A strategic redesign of FCLC committees and review of our FCLC consortial goals led to the creation of the Five College Digital-Library Task Force (2014–15). Its recommendation was for a collaboratively developed infrastructure, the result of which was the launch of the Three College Digital Library—now called Five College Compass.

Five College Compass: Digital Collections

Each year, the libraries at Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges acquire and support the creation of a rich and growing ecosystem of digitized and born-digital content. This content both generates and embodies the scholarly and creative production of students and faculty members. Archives and special collections, student capstone projects, theses, Division III projects and digital humanities projects are some of the most prominent facets of this “digital ecosystem”—unique and valuable resources awaiting use and reuse in the dynamic teaching and learning environment of the 21st century.

Based on a common need for a robust infrastructure to manage this vital content, the three colleges are now working together to implement a shared digital library using the Islandora repository platform. Five College Compass is currently in a “phase-one” planning and discovery stage. Staff members from the three schools have engaged local Web consultants Common Media to help prepare a comprehensive project plan that will address the technological, functional, resource and administrative requirements for implementation and ongoing success. sites.hampshire.edu/3cdl


4. PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important outcomes for all of us in the consortium is the benefit we derive from working together. The collaborative potential and the professional networks make the Five Colleges an excellent environment in which to work. The formal network of committees, and informal networks of peer groups and friendships are what lead to our more enterprising efforts.
Innovative Learning

The Innovative Learning Committee brings together librarians from across the Five Colleges to share strengths in the areas of teaching and learning. The committee supports librarians who partner with faculty members in teaching research skills, digital scholarship and information literacy. To further these aims, the committee has established a repository of shared lesson plans, teaching aids, and presentations. A prototype is in place: commons.mtholyoke.edu/infolit/teaching/. The repository uses the Mount Holyoke Wordpress installation and allows login through Shibboleth. Fourteen objects were added during a workshop add-a-thon in January 2016, and the committee plans future events to build the repository. Librarians are encouraged to add objects in both PDF and editable forms (Word, PowerPoint) so that they can be easily reused and adapted by colleagues for their own teaching.

Professional Development

Investment in professional development propels the consortium’s work. The new Professional Development Committee has provided library staff members with the following opportunities:

- The Innovative Learning Committee hosted a workshop on March 20, 2015 on the Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Framework taught by Elizabeth Berman and attended by 31 instruction librarians from across the consortium.
- In January 2016, the Innovative Learning Committee hosted a workshop sharing failures and successes in teaching. The event drew 43 instruction librarians who contributed 13 lightning talks with breakout sessions.
- The Access Committee hosted a Five College Interlibrary Loan Staff Meetup in December 2014.
- Access Services brought all access staff members together in March 2015.
- In October 2014, the Digital Preservation Task Force hosted a POWRR workshop titled “From Theory to Action: A Pragmatic Approach to Digital Preservation, Tools and Strategies” at Smith College.
- The Professional Development Committee hosted a Five College Libraries all staff meeting called “Transforming Physical and Virtual Library Spaces” with Elliot Felix from Brightspot Strategy in May 2015. More than 100 library staff members from across the consortium attended.
- In 2015, the Innovative Learning Committee hosted brown-bag programs on outcomes-based teaching, assessment and reflection.

blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2014/12/ndsa-new-england-regional-meeting-recap/

The Discovery Committee hosted a forum in fall 2015.

The libraries hosted Hokkaido University speaker Maxine Schmidt at UMass in November 2015.

The libraries held an FCLC networking event for new and seasoned staff members in February 2016.

The Innovative Learning Committee hosted Teaching with Threshold Concepts in March 2015.

5. GOVERNANCE

Five College Library Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces

The collaborative achievements of the libraries continue to prove the value of sharing resources and advancing access to collective resources. In 2013, the Librarians Council reviewed library needs, and revised and updated its committees and their goals.

Established to be forward-thinking, each of the Five College committees is charged with scanning the horizon to identify emerging technologies and trends. Anticipating and studying trends supports the Five College Consortium’s ability to “seek to ensure that major investments made by each campus are undertaken from the earliest point of exploration with advice and consultation with colleagues from the other campuses, enhancing the possibility of other campuses joining in any major endeavor either immediately or at a later date.” (Optimizing the Consortia Advantage by 2020: A Strategic Plan for Five Colleges, Incorporated 2010–2020, 3.c)

- Access
- Archives and Special Collections
- Digital Stewardship
- Discovery
- Innovative Learning
- Professional Development
- Resource Management
- User Experience

Five College Librarians Council (FCLC) for 2014–2016

Bryn Geffert, Librarian of the College, Amherst College
Jennifer Gunter King, Director of the Library, Hampshire College, FCLC chair
Alex Wirth-Cauchon, Chief Information Officer and Executive Director, Library and Information Technology Services, Mount Holyoke College
Christopher Loring, Director of Libraries, Smith College
Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Neal B. Abraham, Executive Director, Five Colleges, Incorporated

Smith’s Neilson Library