



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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ASERL Endorses TRNLN's Intellectual Property Strategy Further strengthening bonds between two regional library consortia

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) has formally endorsed the "Intellectual Property Strategy for Digitization of Modern Manuscript Collections and Archival Record Groups" developed by the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN). This is the second partnership between ASERL and TRNLN in as many months.

"The TRNLN Strategy strikes a wise balance between providing better access to a larger number of rare materials and authors' rights," commented Sarah Michalak, Associate Provost and University Librarian for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Michalak currently serves as the Chair of TRNLN's Executive Committee and as ASERL's Board President. "There was a groundswell of support for this approach among ASERL libraries across the region. This endorsement passed unanimously – we felt that strongly about it."

"Many libraries are seeking ways to get their special collections materials – most of which have never been seen outside the library – available online, so researchers and the general public can find them and use them," commented John Burger, ASERL's Executive Director. "By providing an explicit strategy that allows for these rare materials to be digitized en masse, libraries' best collections can be available to the world."

The Intellectual Property Strategy was one product of a grant from the State Library of North Carolina to TRNLN, supporting the digitization of manuscript collections from the four TRNLN libraries (Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). During that effort, complex copyright issues emerged that required a clear, consistent strategy in order for the digitization work to proceed at a reasonably fast pace. TRNLN's strategy was co-authored by Laura Clark Brown, Judy Ruttenberg, and Kevin Smith.

"We developed this strategy to facilitate the responsible creation of free and openly available collections of rare materials, which will facilitate new scholarly collaborations across institutions," added Kevin Smith, Director of Scholarly Communications at Duke University and a lead author of the strategy document.

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“These new types of collaborations can support the development of educational tools for students, the use of primary sources in classrooms, and other ways of using these materials that we haven’t imagined yet.”

The TRLN Intellectual Property Rights Strategy for Digitization of Modern Manuscript Collections and Archival Record Groups can be found at <http://www.trln.org/IPRights.pdf>

About TRLN

Triangle Research Libraries Network is a collaborative organization of Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. TRLN’s purpose is to marshal the financial, human, and information resources of their research libraries through cooperative efforts to create a rich and unparalleled knowledge environment that furthers the universities’ teaching, research, and service missions. See www.trln.org for more information.

About ASERL

Founded in 1956, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries is the largest regional academic library cooperative in the country, with 40 members in 11 states. ASERL operates numerous projects designed to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. By working together, ASERL members provide and maintain top quality resources and services for the students, faculty, and citizens of their respective communities. More information about ASERL can be found at www.aserl.org.

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