



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: John Burger, jburger@aserl.org or 919-681-2531

University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University Join ASERL 40 Members in 11 States, Largest Regional Research Library Consortium in US

On October 26, 2011 ASERL members unanimously agreed to admit two new research libraries as members of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. With the admission of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, ASERL now consists of 40 research libraries across 11 states, making it the nation's largest regional research library consortium. They are the first new ASERL members since 2004.

"We are very excited to add these two outstanding institutions as our newest collaborators and partners," commented Sarah Michalak, ASERL's Board President and Dean of Libraries at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. "These libraries have programmatic interests that align with ASERL's Strategic Plan. It's a win-win for all involved."

The University of Maryland's Dean of Libraries, Patricia Steele, concurred: "Academic libraries must collaborate in order to create new programs and services to meet the changing needs of our users." Steele points to ASERL's collaborative collection management programs as examples of how ASERL libraries share responsibilities to provide access to materials that get little use but still hold research value. "In today's environment, no library can do it all on their own. I am confident joining ASERL will be a fruitful partnership for us."

Winston Tabb, Sheridan Dean of Libraries and Museums at John Hopkins University, added, "Johns Hopkins is pleased to become a part of such a vital collaborative organization. Many of ASERL's programs will provide benefits to JHU, including resource sharing, the Civil War Era digital library program, and partnerships between ASERL and other library consortia."

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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Box 90182 / 226A Bostock / Durham, NC 27708

TELEPHONE 919.681.2531 FAX 919.681.0805

www.aserl.org