Answered Questions from “Shared Collection Management: Collaborative Decision-Making”

**Q: Do you have a Moving Wall?**

**SCS:** Not really. Remember we are dealing with monographs only. The publication date and date acquired are library defined parameters. We would assume that in a next phase of the project, the group might choose to change those dates.

**Barbara:** This current list can be used as a one off or it could be the first of a regular series of deselection/retention lists for libraries who choose this as an ongoing management strategy. In the latter case libraries have discussed the idea of an updated data refresh in about 3 years time which could possibly include additional titles up to 2006 or 2007. (No details have been decided at this time).

**Q: Who exported your ILS data and how did they do this (e.g., what format)?**

**SCS:** We worked with systems librarians at each library and can accept files in almost any format. Bib data consists of full MARC records. Depending on the system – item and circ data may be embedded in 9xx fields of the MARC record, or sent as tab delimited text files to our ftp server.

**Q: Did the libraries use different integrated library systems? If so, did this create special issues/problems?**

**SCS:** Yes. The group was comprised of 4 Millennium and 3 Voyager libraries. The data normalization work was especially important because of the differences imposed by the two systems.

**Q: So, for a title held only once across all 7 libraries, there is no agreement to retain it? Any checking in OCLC to see if there are 10, 25 or 50 other holders?**

**SCS:** There is no formal agreement within MI-SPi. For all unique titles, SCS did check WorldCat to establish state and national holdings – and matched them against Hathi Trust. If the title was held by more than 50 libraries in the US or was digitally archived by Hathi --- the library was free to act on it according to local sensibilities and needs.

**Barbara:** There is no formal obligation to retain those titles at present – that was outside the immediate scope of this project. However, SCS has produced that list for each of us and we can easily use the hypertext links to check holdings in WorldCat etc. I think most of us are doing that.

**Doug:** We were not able to come to an agreement on how to handle those items. What I think is so compelling about this project is that we actually have only come to an agreement on a subset of our collections, yet the yield and the number of items we were able to work with is still quite substantial.