

CTW CONSORTIUM



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE



Trinity College
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



The CTW Consortium, founded in the early 1980s, includes Connecticut College, Wesleyan University and Trinity College. Though initially established to facilitate materials access among the three colleges and to share an online catalog system, the Consortium has evolved over the years to support the member colleges in other important ways. Most recently, the Consortium members are cooperating on shared collection development activities, including a joint contract for the establishment of a “demand-driven acquisition” system that uses funds from each school to provide substantially more access to electronic scholarly materials.

The staff members from each of the colleges regularly participate in joint staff development activities. Although the Consortium has historically focused primarily on library services, there are now regular meetings among IT staff, and joint programming is being planned.

One important benefit of the Consortium has been the opportunity to augment each college’s local resources for important projects. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded a Shared Collection Development Grant (\$300,000) in 2007. The grant funded a librarian to guide, develop and advocate for shared collection opportunities among the colleges. The position was converted to a permanent position in 2012.

An earlier Mellon grant to the Consortium (2003, for \$660,000) helped the schools investigate shared approaches to information literacy and research skills. Currently, Connecticut College is taking the lead in developing a potential shared grant application for digital humanities and scholarship support. We anticipate submitting a planning grant application in early spring 2014.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CTW CONSORTIUM:

- The CTW Consortium creates opportunities for developing innovative approaches to library practices, for sharing the combined 2.2 million items in CTW collections, for cost savings on shared resources, and for shared professional growth and development.
- Connecticut College has initiated two successful Andrew W. Mellon grants for the Consortium. A third grant request is being developed to support digital research and scholarship in the humanities and other disciplines.
- Wesleyan University is the managing partner and handles the consortium’s business affairs, personnel issues and finances.

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