#### **Academic Librarian 4**



### **Transformative Collaboration**

John F. Helmer

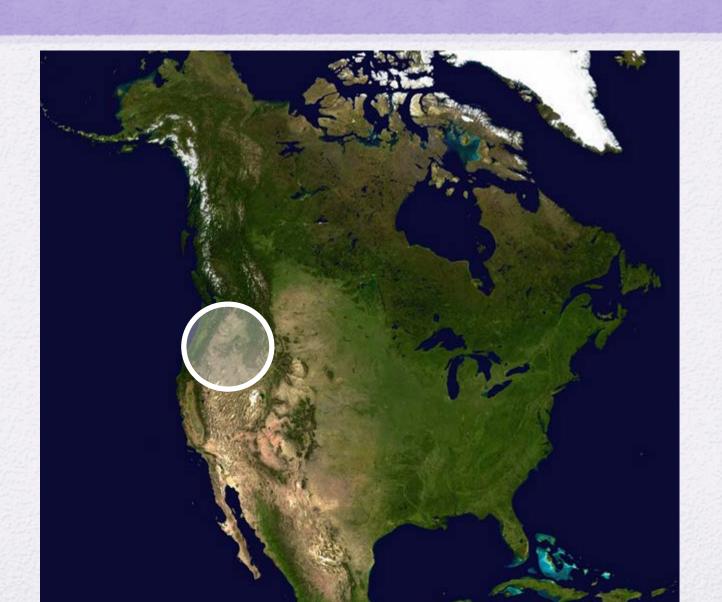
**Executive Director** 



### Outline

Consortia Sharing tools Sharing people Preparation for transformation Final thoughts

# Where I am from



## Where I am from





# Eugene, Oregon



# Consortia ... where we have been

#### Drivers of growth over the last 25 years

- Technology creating business opportunities
  - Internet: R&D toy → Production
  - Client/server: Specialized → Standard Web browser
  - Electronic Resources: CDROM → locally loaded → cloud
- Economic pressures
- Expectations

### How bold are today's consortia?

- Opt in/out
- Buying club
- Accommodate all needs
- "We are all different"
- No need to change
- Additive services ... on top of what we do now
- No need to question legacy operations
- Seldom challenging the status quo



"Deep Collaboration ... contributing substantial levels of personal or organizational commitment, including shared authority, joint responsibility, and robust resources allocation, to achieve a common or mutually-beneficial goal."

Valerie Horton
Going "All-in" for Deep Collaboration,
Collaborative Librarianship, Vol 5, No 2

### Going farther ...

- Clearly defined, shared vision
- Greater level of engagement, time commitments
- Higher levels of responsibility, risk, and commitment
- Significant imagination and perseverance
- Ability to adapt and change
- Reciprocity and congeniality
- Negotiation and compromise
- Shared power and decision-making

### Going farther ...

- Closely matched mission
- Commitments that are hard and expensive to break
  - Financial
  - Legal
  - Workflow
  - People
  - Emotion
  - Identity



- Seeing the future as something we will face together
- Marriage .... not just dating

# **Transformative Consortia** ... an example



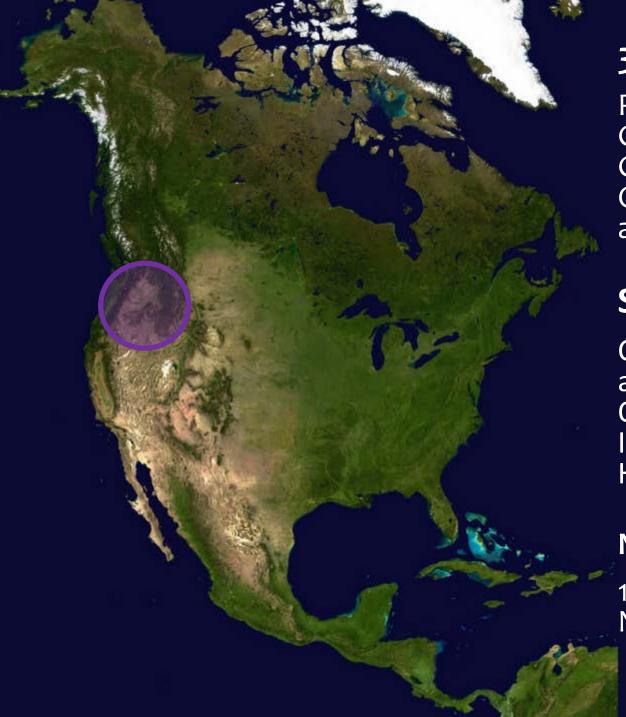
- Two transformative initiatives

   Shared Tools

  = shared Integrated
  Library Systems (SILS)

  Library Systems

  Library Systems
  - Shared People \_ collaborative



#### 38 Members

Private & Public Colleges, Universities, Community Colleges in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho

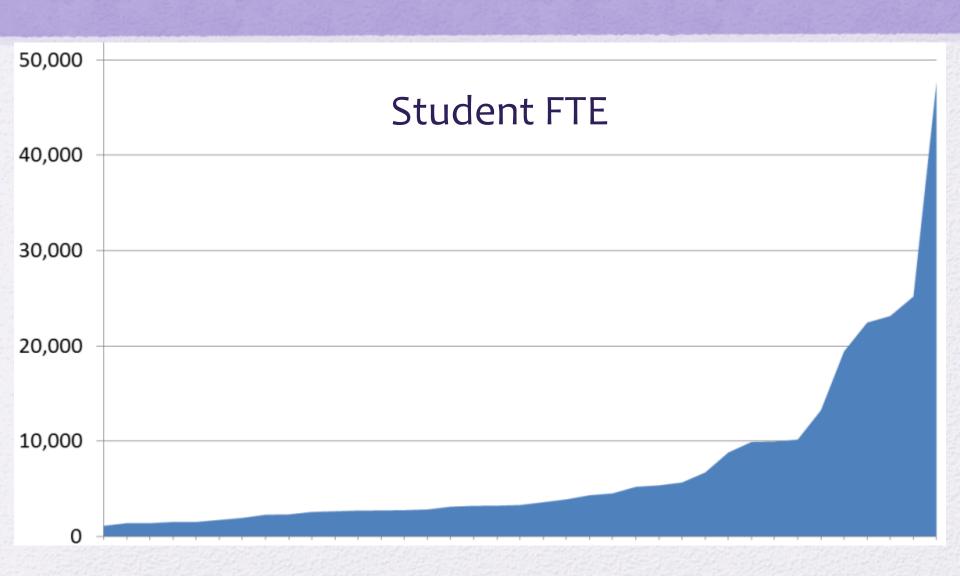
#### Serving 280

Colleges, universities, archives, museums in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii, and Utah

#### Non-profit corporation

10 staff No central funding

# Diversity!



## **Shared ILS**

# Why?

#### Not an end in itself

- ... because of the past
- ... because of the future

# Five big projects at once!

**Legacy** → Next generation

37 -> 1

**Shared Discovery** 

**Development Partnership** 

Collaborative workforce





### **Timeline**

2008-10 Investigating options and models

**2010** Total cost of operation study

**2011** Request for Information, writing RFP

**2012 Jan – July** RFP, demos, negotiation, cost models, council vote

**2012** Aug – Dec Contract with Ex Libris signed, cohorts finalized,

temporary project manager hired

**2013 January** Kick Off Meeting

**2013 June** Project Manager hired

**2013 July** Cohort 1 went live! 6 members ... including our largest

**2014 January** Cohort 2 went live! 11 members

**2014 July Cohort 3 went live!** 10 members

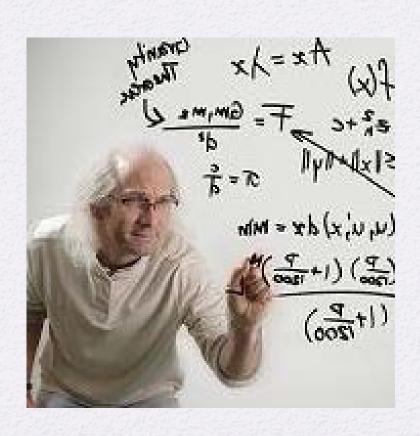
**2015 January Cohort 4 went live!** 10 members

New Resource Sharing system went live! All 37 members!

We did it!



### **Collaborative Workforce**

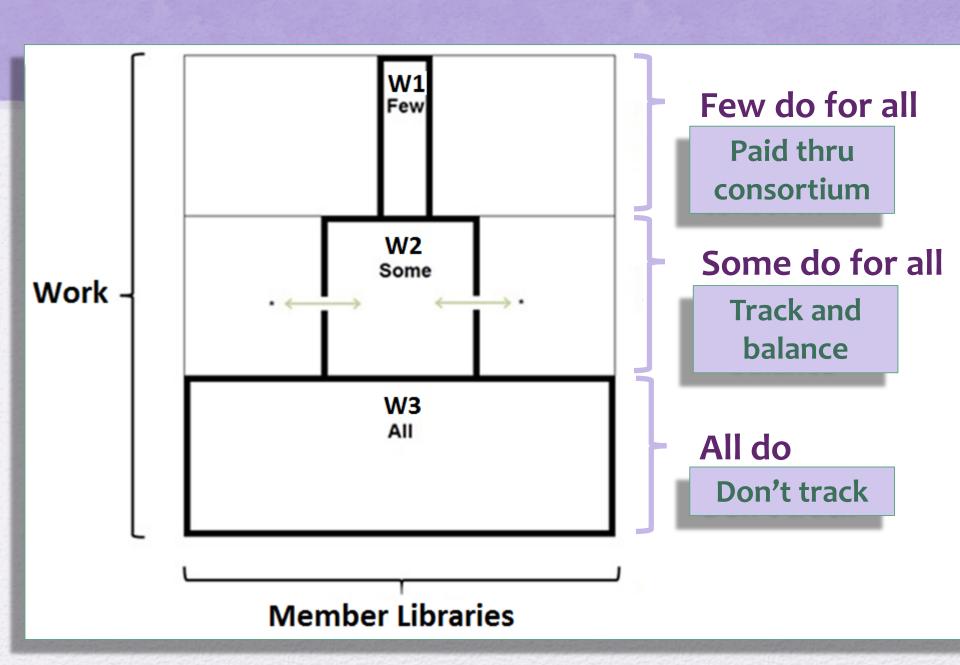


#### When is work ...

- Done by consortium staff?
- Done by library staff as part of membership expectations for contributed time?
- Done by library/consortium/vendor staff whose efforts are funded by the consortium?
- Designated as the sole responsibility of each member library?

How do we benchmark?

What is our business model?



# Preparation for Transformation

- Organizational Culture
- Partners: libraries and vendors
- Buy-in and Expectations
- Governance and decision making

# Organizational Culture ... Mission, vision, values

**Exploration** 

**Spirit of innovation** 

**Combined expertise** 

**Challenge traditional thinking** 

Strongly promote the success of students, faculty, staff, and researchers

Elevate our ability to deliver outstanding services

Willingness to change

**Open debate** 

Strong and lasting personal and institutional commitments

### CtoC

Collaborate = Do things together where we are substantially the same

Customize = Free up resources so members can fully realize their unique qualities



Search...

Q

SIGN IN 👤

**PROGRAMS** 

**TEAMS** 

SHARED ILS

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#### **Work Smart**

Work and partner at the appropriate scale: local, regional, national, international

- Maximize impact
  - Do things once
  - Do things the same
  - Do things together
- Invest in staff training, development, and expertise
- Leverage financial resources
  - Leverage financial resources

#### **Design for Engagement**

Collect wisely, share freely, and enhance the teaching, learning, and research environment

- Investigate, create, and implement discovery and resource sharing tools
- Expose and preserve unique collections
- Improve usability and reduce barriers to access
- · Collaborate for shared access and shared collections
- Create and promote new models of publication and data curation
- Explore new models of pedagogy to advance learning and scholarship

#### Partners

Member libraries

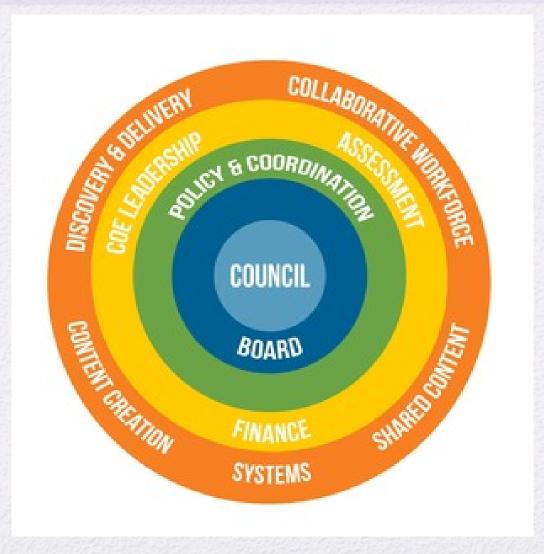


Vendor ... commitment to outcomes

# Buy-in and Expectations

- Openness
- Staff involvement
- Clarity of purpose
- Communication
- Administrative support for disruption

# Governance and decision making



# **Takeaways**

- Commitment ... don't go half-way
- Adopt common tools
- Do things once and together where it makes sense
- Wear fewer hats ... 6 instead of 8?
- Develop greater expertise
- Enhance members' ability to do what is truly local

### Transformation

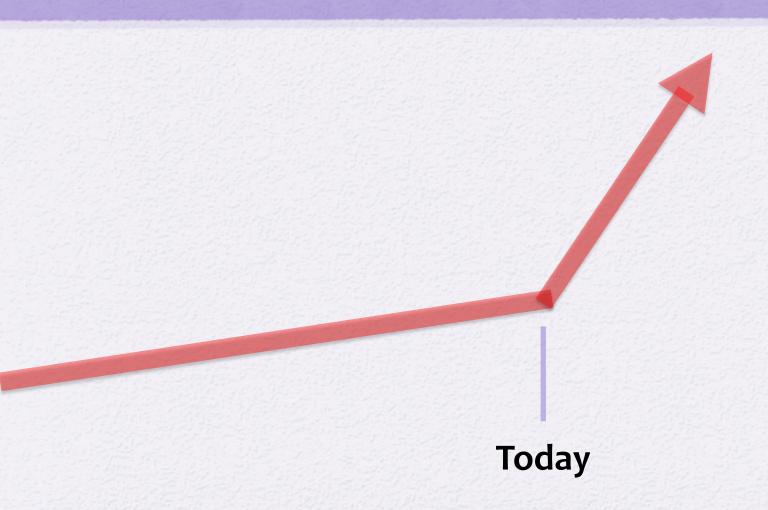
From 39 to

1 common set of tools

1 shared collection

1 workforce

## Transformation



# Bold Not Boring



# ? Q/A ?

