

## **CTW's Collaboration on Shared Collections**

### **Policies and Agreements**

**(Approved by CTW Directors, Oct. 4, 2012)**

#### **Background**

The CTW Consortium (Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University) has been involved in building shared complementary collections since 1987 when a joint online catalog made it possible to search and request each other's holdings. The goal of shared collections has been to maximize the breadth of unique titles available to all members of the CTW Consortium while minimizing unnecessary duplication of titles with narrowly specialized content, high purchase costs, and/or anticipated low use.

While collaboration on shared collections was initially largely informal, a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supported the CTW Consortium in articulating more formally the commitments and policies for its collaboration. In addition, a recent systematic assessment of all three collections confirmed the strength of the three CTW collections in aggregate and validated our ongoing efforts to collaborate on collection development and management.

Three general trends in academic libraries influence CTW's current collaboration:

- The shift from predominantly print-based collection development to a deliberate focus upon discovery of and access to online titles;
- The change from "just-in-case" collections to on-demand access; and
- The pressure on library spaces to accommodate new user services, necessitating the consolidation of legacy print collections.

The following policies have been developed to guide the collaboration of the CTW libraries on building and managing its shared collections:

1. CTW's Collaborative Collection Development (CCD) Print Project
2. Building Shared eBook Collections
3. Agreement on Retention of Final Copies