
Making It Work: College and University Interlibrary Lending

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The last time NCLA took a long look at interlibrary loan in North Carolina was at a workshop sponsored by the College and University Section in March, 1976, in Chapel Hill. Since then, there have been major changes in the ILL picture. These changes include the adoption of a new liberalized National Code, the development and tremendous growth of automated verification, location and transmission of ILL requests, the implementation of a new copyright law, and the growth of assessment of fees for the loan of books, even by some publicly supported libraries. Interlibrary loan librarians and personnel have continued to conduct ILL while learning about, adapting to, and at times being confounded by all these changes.

One of the main points of having ILL Codes is to support the sharing of local resources within a community, and then within the larger community of region and state. Before one flings the interlibrary loan net beyond the borders of the community or state, it is important to make all reasonable efforts to exhaust what is available locally. Librarians need to develop contacts with other librarians in the community, creating those "Zones of Convenience" that support interlibrary service and cooperation as close to home as possible. For example, there already exist specific agreements among various libraries for the sharing of resources, such as the interlibrary loan code for UNC system libraries. These types of agreements are intended to facilitate interlibrary cooperation based on mutually agreeable conditions and are often more liberal than the state code.

When it is necessary to extend library service through ILL, North Carolina library patrons have tremendous library resources to draw upon. For assistance in locating monographs, there is the North Carolina Union Catalog, and North Carolina locations are also found in the National Union Catalog and the OCLC data base. For institutions

that are without direct access to these resources, the NC Information Network, centered at the State Library in the Interlibrary Services Branch, headed by Sue Farr, provides ILL and reference service. The staff is expert at helping identify and locate materials in North Carolina libraries. They can also suggest out-of-state locations when material is unavailable in-state. The new North Carolina Code (in Section IV, parts F and G) underscores the importance of the North Carolina Information Network. The staff there not only assist those libraries that need help in verifying and locating materials once local community resources are exhausted, but they also provide access to the North Carolina Union Catalog to be sure that all in-state locations are made known to any North Carolina library. This includes libraries that use OCLC and the National Union Catalog regularly.

In practice, it is possible that college and university libraries are neglecting in-state resources because of the ease and speed of finding many other locations through OCLC. For those libraries that go to OCLC as the initial place to verify and locate materials, many North Carolina locations are listed and used. But if OCLC and NUC yield no in-state locations, before going out-of-state for monographs published through 1976, the next step should be to check the North Carolina Union Catalog. The microfilm edition is owned by eighteen libraries throughout the state, from Greenville in the east to Cullowhee in the west, and it is still available for purchase from the UNC-CH Library. The State Library will check it if your library has no direct access. For materials after 1976, to be sure there are no in-state locations, one should contact the Information Services Branch of the State Library.

While the preceding has dealt with locating monographs, ILL in academic libraries and in varying degrees in other type of libraries involves locating periodical and serial titles from which to acquire a needed photocopy of an article. Serial publications can be very elusive to verify and locate. Ways to share resources in serials include finding North Carolina locations in the national

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lists, such as the *Union List of Serials*, *New Serial Titles*, and now in OCLC. However, finding that a North Carolina library or any library has cataloged a serial in OCLC does not mean the library will hold the particular volume or issue needed. This is because OCLC does not indicate holdings unless one searches in an OCLC Union List. Currently the State Library is supporting development of an online Union List of Periodicals in Libraries of Western North Carolina, but it will be some time before it is operational. Therefore it is more important than ever that we share various North Carolina union lists and lists of individual libraries. *North Carolina Libraries*, Spring, 1983, carries an excellent summary of existing union lists and individual library lists in an article by Susan Pulsipher.¹ She includes addresses when these lists are available to inquirers. By acquiring these lists, it is possible to insure greater access to in-state resources and also to assure accuracy of holdings when sending ILL requests for copies from serials, especially if the serials were located in OCLC.

With the mention of photocopies, a brief comment on the copyright law is in order. The new North Carolina Code states (in Part IV, E), "The borrowing library is responsible for compliance with the copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) and its accompanying guidelines and should inform its users of the applicable portions of the law. An indication of compliance must be provided with all copy requests." In January 1983, the Register of Copyrights delivered the first five-year report to Congress. The Register recommended for further study such non-statutory issues as new technologies, a surcharge on copy equipment, and a compensation system based on sampling techniques. He also urged the Congress to add to, amend, or clarify the law itself in certain areas related to the copying of out-of-print music for research purposes, an "umbrella statute" for remedy of copyright infringement, the form of copyright notice used by libraries, and copying of unpublished works. There are still divergent views as to whether or not the law properly balances the rights of creators and publishers with those of users and libraries. Suffice it to say that the American Library Association has taken issue with the Report,² and further changes are ahead in the area of copyright. In practice, libraries are to continue to follow those interlibrary loan guidelines established at the time the law went into effect in 1978. For additional information on the copyright, the American Library Association has published several valuable pamphlets and books, including *Librarian's*

Guide to the New Copyright Law, which is available for purchase from ALA.³

As to the other major area of change—the imposition of fees for the loan of books—there is much concern on the national level, as reported in a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.⁴ However, it is gratifying to report that in North Carolina such loan fees are limited to a few libraries. For example, the major medical libraries have been assessing loan fees at steadily increasing rates since 1977. However, as far as is known to the writer, except for these special libraries and one general library, charging for loans has not entered the interlibrary loan picture in North Carolina. If a library is considering such fees, it should consult with the librarians of nearby or similar libraries to inquire if other arrangements besides loan fees might be established for in-state loans.

Perhaps part of the reason that loan fees have not become widespread in North Carolina is that there is a long tradition of interlibrary cooperation in this state. It is a tradition that has been fostered by a flexible system of networking, centered in the State Library, and by a liberal interlibrary loan code. Encourage each other, in all types of libraries, because we share resources among all types, to continue to work for the responsible borrowing and lending of materials through interlibrary loan. Continue to initiate and fill requests under the guidelines of the Code. Supporting and following the North Carolina and National Codes, which are voluntary agreements, will go a long way in maintaining cordial relations among our libraries and the continuing provision of most loans in North Carolina without loan fees. As the introduction to the new codes states, interlibrary loan greatly expands the range of materials available to users; it is in the public interest and should be encouraged. Perhaps no one knows this better than North Carolina college and university librarians who daily share North Carolina resources for the benefit of their faculty, students, and staff.

References

1. Susan Pulsipher, "Serial Holdings Lists of North Carolina Libraries," *North Carolina Libraries* 41 (Spring 1983):9-14.
2. *Comments of the American Library Association on the Report of the Register of Copyrights to Congress: Library Reproduction of Copyrighted Works* (17 U.S.C. 108) (Washington, D.C.: American Library Association, Washington Office, 1983).
3. *Librarian's Guide to the New Copyright Law* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1977). Copies are available for \$2.00 each from the Order Department, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.
4. Jack Magarrell, "Fees for Interlibrary Loans Spread; Scholars Fear Work Will Suffer," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 27 (October 19, 1983):1, 16.