The Washington Research Library Consortium has provided cost-effective access to information resources for decades by sharing our collections with one another. New challenges—such as e-books, a mutual interest in drawing down redundant print materials, preserving those materials that are rarely held by other libraries, and ensuring access to the broadest range of materials for researchers—oblige us to consider how we envision creating collections that ensure the success of learning and scholarship for the future. To that end, we are interested in developing answers to questions such as:

* What is our vision for our collective collections, both electronic and print, especially in relation to access and to preservation?
* What do we mean by the WRLC shared collection?
* What is the purpose of collaborating on collections? Are we trying to save money, save space, broaden the scope of our collections and/or create and preserve intellectual capital?
* How can we approach formalizing our institutional obligations to support our vision?
* What are our responsibilities on a national scale as print collections are drawn down?
* In what areas might collaboration be more effective on a larger scale? How might we expand partnerships beyond the WRLC libraries?

As we strive to answer these questions for ourselves, we are seeking to inform ourselves about what our respected colleagues from other consortia across the country are doing and planning. To this end, we wish to ask you about how your consortium collaborates on collections.

**Philosophy:**

1. Does your consortium share collections or are you a shared collection? Are you separate repositories that share resources with one another or is there a conceptual framework or functional connection underlying collecting, acquisition and access to materials within the consortial relationship?
2. For the member libraries, how do you address issues of intellectual control over collections decision-making while coordinating and collaborating on acquisition, preservation and de-selection of content?
3. How do you understand your role in relation to cultural heritage preservation, especially as print collections are being drawn down nationally? How do you operationalize your role?

**Funding:**

1. How do you fund shared collections initiatives? Does any of your money come from public/state sources, including from publically funded member institutions? If so, are there restrictions about how public monies may be used either by the consortium or by publically funded institutions? If so, how do you mitigate those restrictions?
2. Do member institutions have the ability to opt in/opt out of particular decisions? If so, how does that work and what are the ramifications for the collective?

**Governance**

1. How is your collections program governed? Do you have written agreements that outline the rights and responsibilities of the members? How is participation in the agreement enforced? What are your provisions for disengagement?
2. Does your consortium have a collection development policy or policies? May we see it/them? If so, what is the functional relationship between consortial collection development policies and institutional collection development policies?

**Collaborations**

1. Describe the ways in which you collaborate in your consortium on the acquisition, access, retention and preservation of physical materials (print books, microforms, etc.)? (For example, approval plans, dividing targeted selection between member institutions, shared PDA/DDA, coordinated de-selection and preservation decisions, etc.).
2. Describe the ways in which you collaborate in your consortium on the acquisition, access, retention and preservation for vendor provided digital content? (For example, shared licenses, shared e-book PDA/DDA, etc.).
3. Describe the ways in which you collaborate in your consortium on the creation and preservation of original digital content? Do you have collaborative digital projects or do your member institutions have individual projects based on their own collections?

**Challenges**

1. Based on your experience in your consortium, what two or three things would you advise us to consider in thinking about how to coordinate and collaborate more successfully on collections and resource-sharing?