The CTLes: an example of stewardship and service leading the way in collection mutualization

Created at the end of 1994, the Centre Technique du Livre de l'enseignement supérieur (CTLes) provides remote storage of printed collections (monographs, periodicals and theses) to libraries from Paris and its suburbs wishing to free up space for new collections and for reading rooms. Since 1996, it is more than 65 kilometers of documents that have been transferred from university libraries and other higher education libraries.

There are 3 ways to deposit collections in the stacks:
- Transfer: the documents are given to the CTLes
- Deposit: the libraries remain owners of the collections stored in its premises
- Temporary storage: collections from libraries where refurbishing work is causing temporary problems of conservation are stored for short periods

The purpose of this paper is to stress the actions taken by the CTLes in order to mutualize collections and resources which is a real challenge in times of reduced budget, of increased demand for efficient collection management, of shortage of real estate on campus and last but not least of shortage of storage space in existing libraries.

To begin with, the paper will discuss the criteria according to which local universities and academic libraries are transferring low use collections to the CTLes. Today, with a collection of more than 2 million items, the supply of documents and copies appears as a major issue. The French repository library is going beyond the mere sharing of storage space to the sharing of management and access.

This paper will focus on two experiences on developing resources: the shared preservation plan of medicine journals on one hand, and on the other hand the storage of a selection of print journals made available online by ELZEVIER the journal archiving enterprise and commercial provider of library resources.

Biography

Jean-Louis Baraggioli is director of the Centre technique du livre de l'enseignement supérieur, public body related to the French Higher Education Ministry. As director, Jean-Louis Baraggioli plans and directs the Center's activities, programs and services. From 2003 until 2005, he was deputy director of the Service commun de la documentation de l'Université de Paris 13 and, before 2003, curator, head of the cataloguing Department of the Université Paris 10 library.

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