

**INSERT YOUR LETTERHEAD HERE**

**Letter of Support for Collaborative Collections Lifecycle Project**

Mr. Crosby Kemper, Director  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 4000  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2135

**[Month day]**, 2021

Dear Mr. Kemper:

I am writing today in support of the IMLS National Leadership Grant for Libraries application for the *Collaborative Collections Lifecycle Project (CCLP)* submitted by the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), together with lead partners Lehigh University Libraries and the Partnership for Academic Library Collaboration & Innovation (PALCI).

Libraries have long-sought the ability to effectively and efficiently develop and maintain collaborative collections in order to maximize equitable access and extensive coverage for library users of all types. A collaborative collections approach promises to greatly improve libraries' ability to provide top-notch service, while also helping libraries to manage ever-present budget, staffing and space challenges amidst increasing uncertainty. By working together on collections with trusted partners in an interoperable, community-owned infrastructure, libraries could dramatically increase the availability of and access to a range of collections and resources, make better use of human resources and expertise, more sustainably preserve and maintain resources, and further enhance existing and as yet unforeseen collaborative initiatives. However, a number of barriers stand in the way of such collaboration, including missing community infrastructure, data interoperability and standards, governance, and middleware to support this collaborative activity.

The CCLP infrastructure created in this proposal promises to address these barriers and optimize daily, network-first collaboration between libraries on the institutional, consortial, and interconsortial levels. Its connectivity will improve equitable access to library acquisitions by giving small publishers and open access providers the same logistical footing as established for-profit publishers, and will encourage healthier scholarly communication lifecycle activities by partnering with university presses and not-for-profit providers.

Collections-focused collaborations just make sense in order to achieve the maximum effectiveness and efficiencies libraries need; yet collaborating deeply in this space is perhaps one of the biggest challenges libraries face today, at a time when it is needed more than ever. Barriers are present at every stage, from industry consolidation of technical systems and increasingly vertical vendor workflows that limit interoperability, to license agreements that prevent data sharing, and a lack of infrastructure and governance to support deep sharing of materials and expertise.

The CCLP project is especially important in building needed community, governance structures, collaboration infrastructure, standardized approaches and middleware in support of opening up opportunities for these important collaborations. As a project stakeholder, I would be pleased to see this project funded in order to:

1. significantly reduce costs and increase access to collections through increased sharing and greater coordination of collections expenditures
2. reduce barriers to collaboration
3. develop the models and governance structures needed to guide the implementation of such collaborations
4. and create a viable, efficient, affordable approach to sharing the administrative overhead, expertise, and collective expenditures on libraries' collections

In support of this project, my library/organization commits to the following:

**[Select from the list below if you wish to make specific commitments to the project.]**

- 1. Participate in the project's governance structures and its advisory committees by releasing time of \_\_\_\_INSERT STAFF MEMBER's NAME\_\_\_\_ to attend meetings and collaborate on behalf of my institution.**
- 2. Dedicate staff to participate in engaging in standards development efforts around collaboration elements (be specific in areas such as acquisition, technical services, circulation issues, data exchange, middleware development.**
- 3. Dedicate staff to participate in open source development planning/scoping or coding.**
- 4. Participate in interviews and focus groups aimed to identify areas of shared need and opportunities for collaboration toward potential future growth for collaborative collections as they relate to my community's needs.**
- 5. Attend CCLP community meetings and contribute to the conversation of library/consortial needs from collaborative collections solutions.**

**6. Advocate for institutional support of implementation of the concepts and collaborations developed by CCLP to support forward movement and deeper sharing opportunities.**

**[Include if possible] The anticipated contribution I am describing equates to roughly \$XX,XXX.**

The partnering organizations involved in this effort are known as highly effective collaborators, and I have confidence the results of this project will benefit the wider library community, will serve diverse populations, and will scale to meet the needs of many types of libraries. For these reasons, I believe this project should be a high priority for IMLS funding. Please contact me if you have any questions about my support of this project.

Signed,

Name

Title

Institution

Address

Email

Phone