

# Stronger Together at the Big Ten Library Publishing Collective Action



Ally Laird  
Open Publishing Team Lead  
Penn State University

Matt Vaughn  
Open Publishing Librarian  
Indiana University

Kate McCready  
Program Director for Open Publishing  
Big Ten Academic Alliance

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# Outline

## *Collective Action on Library Publishing at the Big Ten Academic Alliance*

- **Background on the Alliance & the Scholarly Publishing Peer Group**
  - What's the Big Ten Academic Alliance?
  - BTAA Library Publishing Landscape Report
- **The Pilot Project Framework**
  - Goals & scope
  - Motivations for participating
- **Pilot Project Outcomes**
  - Lessons learned thus far
  - What's happening now?
  - Next steps

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## WHAT IS THE BIG TEN ACADEMIC ALLIANCE?

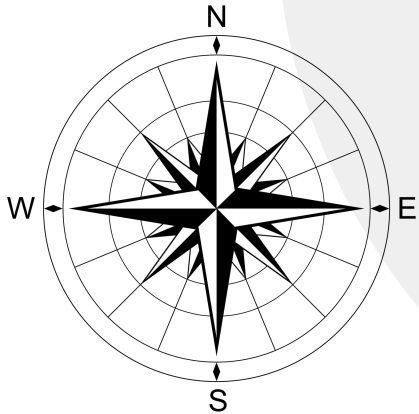


### Collective Action:

- Areas: technology, education, human resources, finance, & libraries
- Libraries: purchase content, cataloging, accessibility, collection mgmt, & more...
  - ◆ Big Ten libraries steward over one fifth of the print titles in the US.
  - ◆ More than half of the titles are held in a single BTAA location.
  - ◆ More than two-thirds are held in fewer than three BTAA locations.

# BTAA Center for Library Programs' Guiding Star

**“In order to advance a just, trustworthy, scalable,  
and sustainable open knowledge ecosystem,  
make open, more equitable scholarship the lead  
purpose of BTAA consortial investment.”**



- *Deans of the Big Ten Libraries, August 2022*

## BTAA LIBRARY PUBLISHING LANDSCAPE REPORT

- Starting three years ago... **The Big Ten Academic Alliance collaborates on scholarly publishing!**
  - Conducted a landscape assessment across the BTAA institutions:
    - Identified areas of difficult work.
    - Proposed where could we implement collective action.
- Three recommendations proposed to the Big Ten library deans



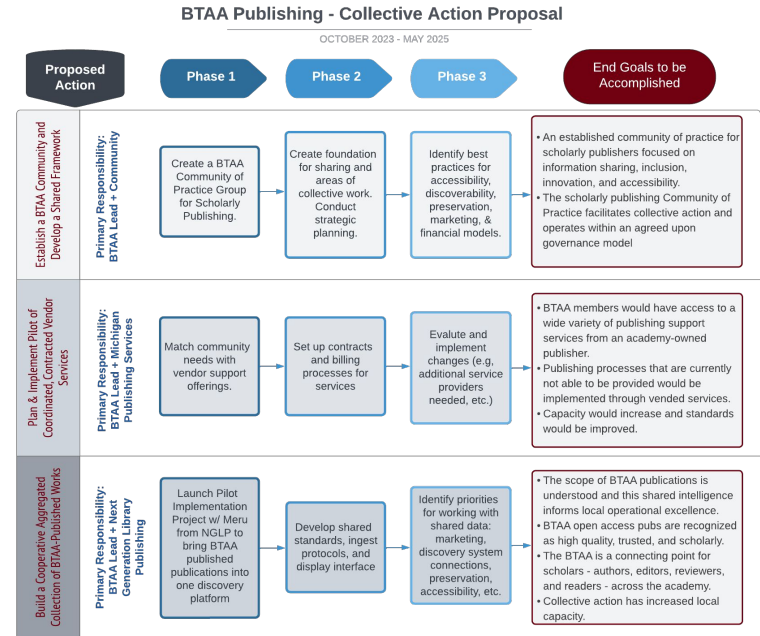
## RECOMMENDATIONS

### → Scholarly Publishing Peer Group formed

- ◆ Recommended “community of practice” - deans decided “peer group”

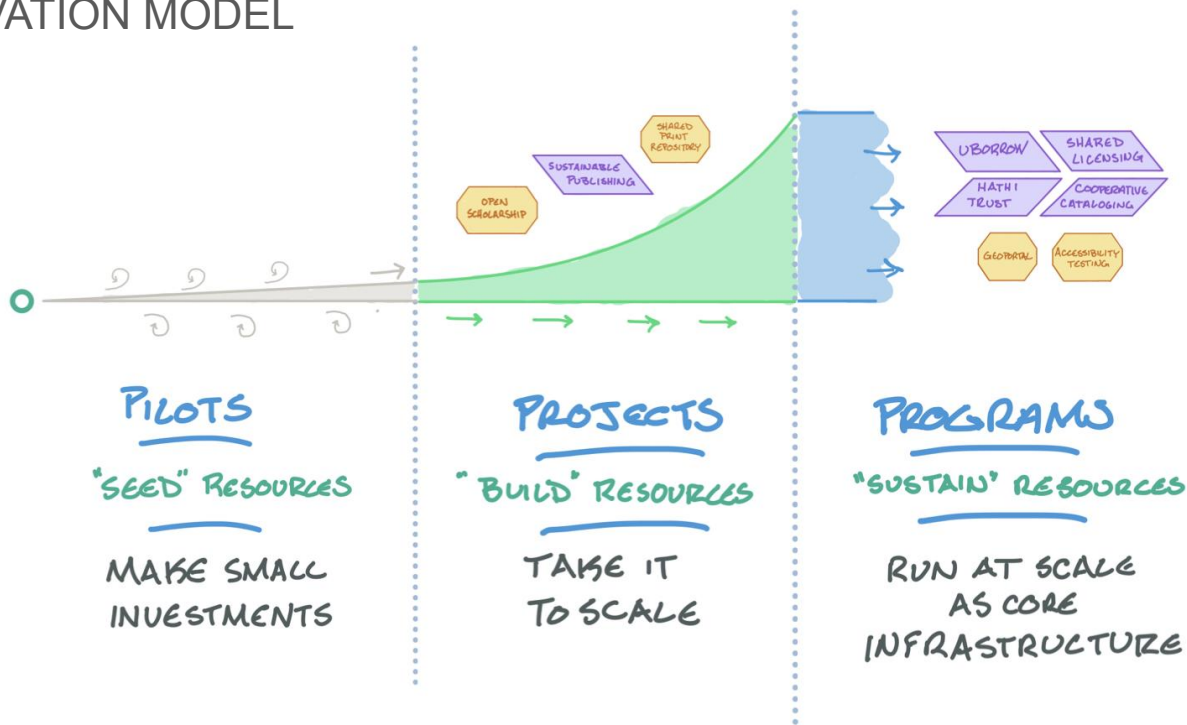
### → Two pilot projects underway

1. Vended Services Pilot
2. Meru Aggregated Discovery System Pilot



# Background

## OUR INNOVATION MODEL



## NEXT GENERATION PUBLISHING PROJECT - MERU PILOT PROJECT STRUCTURE

### → **MERU Team's Project Framework - Combination of:**

#### ◆ **IMLS Grant**

- Partner: University of Iowa (BTAA member)

#### ◆ **BTAA Pilot Project**

- Partners: Penn State University (BTAA member)  
Indiana University (BTAA member)

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# The Pilot Project Framework

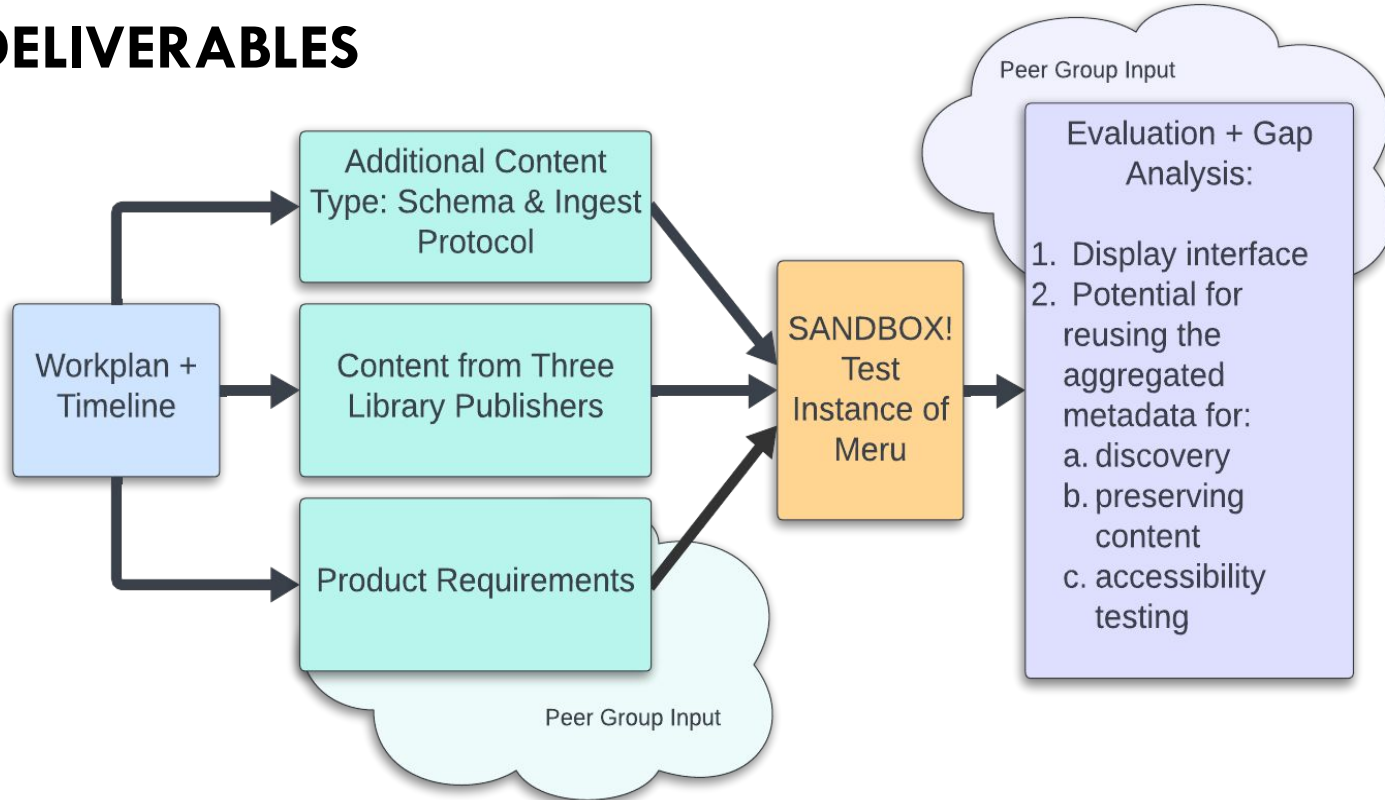
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## GOALS

To build an aggregated collection of BTAA-published works on the NGLP's Meru platform to evaluate the tool's capacity to:

- Ingest and display fully structured publication metadata and content for a variety of publication types
- Ingest and display an individual institution's title list of publications regardless of the platform they were created on
- Create metadata for all publications (or selected publications) for use in discovery systems and preservation systems
- Identify opportunities for the BTAA to work at scale

# MERU AGGREGATED DISPLAY PILOT - DELIVERABLES



# The Pilot Project Framework

## SCOPE

Working closely with Penn State and Indiana University, the NGLP team built and populated a pilot instance of Meru, a dynamic front-end display layer, with published content in a variety of formats (Journals, Dissertations, Books, Bibliographies). This process included:

- Transforming selected content to align with the Meru content schema and loading that content into the test instance of Meru
- Developing roadmap materials that help other library publishers adopt NGLP infrastructure

### Pilot Test Content

- 500 recently published ETDs, including supplemental files and metadata records.
- 2000 articles from a maximum of 40 standard journals, including supplemental files and metadata.
- Books (forthcoming)
- Bibliographies (investigating)
- Articles and book reviews in HTML/XML

# The Pilot Project Framework

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## SCOPE

Over the 18-month pilot period, the university representatives for the two partner campuses were responsible for:

- Providing access to and documentation for systems required for harvesting
- Participating in regular meetings with the project team
- Participating in quality assurance
- Completing a survey & interview at the conclusion of the pilot
- Participating in webinars about the project
- Provide feedback on project deliverables

The NGLP team and Cast Iron Coding were responsible for project management, software hosting, harvesting, and technical support for Meru

## MOTIVATIONS FOR PARTICIPATING

- Increased visibility of library publications
- Opportunity to identify new connections between diverse works across disciplines
- Potential to enhance the accessibility of publications
- Opportunity to share resources
- Enhance preservation of publications
- Potentially save money on hosting and vendor costs

### Quotes

**“The challenge is the enormity and complexity of the work involved and the lack of available resources to support this work at scale.”**

**“The difficulty is in the complexity and time required. If we were larger, handled the tasks more often, and had a person exclusively dedicated to some of these tasks, I’m sure they’d find ways to automate, streamline, and simplify the work.”**

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# Pilot Project Outcomes

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## LESSONS LEARNED THUS FAR.... INDIANA UNIVERSITY

- Meru could provide a useful repository for the OA ETDs
  - ◆ Current ETD platforms are under-resourced
  - ◆ Meru could facilitate a centralized ETD workflow
  - ◆ Unique opportunity to highlight and preserve ETDs
- Full-text HTML publication remains challenging
  - ◆ IU publishes several journals in JATS XML
  - ◆ JATS is accessible, searchable, machine-readable, etc.
  - ◆ We hope to shift away from PDF publication
  - ◆ Testing to see if Meru can support JATS



# Pilot Project Outcomes

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## LESSONS LEARNED THUS FAR.... PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

- Ingestion Process is Key
  - ◆ Ensuring Journal content is collected and displayed correctly
    - OAI-PMH updates on Penn State side
    - Testing ingestion process with Meru's developers
  - ◆ Investigating possibilities for other publication types
    - Books and Bibliographies
      - Using Drupal, not a common platform for publication among our peers



# Pilot Project Outcomes

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

### **Bugs and incorrectly ingested data being remedied**

- After the first round of ingestion and testing, known bugs and errors are being corrected and content re-ingested
- Continued development from Cast Iron Coding

### **Meru Platform Acceptance Testing**

- Tests assigned to everyone in the pilot group
- Testing to ensure required tasks are able to be completed, both in the Meru frontend and Admin interfaces

### **Community Engagement**

- Sharing results with BTAA SPPG

# Pilot Project Outcomes

## NEXT STEPS

- Acceptance Testing Outcomes review
- Pilot Project Report
- Recommendations for Meru use/continued development going forward
  - ◆ Extend and expand the Pilot
    - Include other BTAA library publisher content
    - Test and enhance the platform further
  - ◆ Reassess the Pilot and goals
    - What didn't work and what needs to change to meet our goals?

### **IMLS Considerations**

- Dual development support for Meru from IMLS via NGLP and BTAA.
- IMLS funding to NGLP recently cancelled and withdrawn.
- What does the future of Meru look like without IMLS funding?

*“When I started, our production service manager at the time, said ‘We're riding a razor thin edge. **If one thing goes wrong, it's all going to fall apart.**’*

*And they weren't wrong!*

*And, for the first two years - to me - this job felt like being pulled behind a runaway carriage. I think this year has been the year where the runaway carriage broke down in like three or four serious ways. And so now we're fixing the carriage, and then, hopefully, when it's running again, it's not gonna just pull us behind it.*

***Hopefully, we're gonna drive it.”***

# Thank you!

Ally Laird

- [alaird@psu.edu](mailto:alaird@psu.edu)

Matt Vaughn

- [vaughnmr@iu.edu](mailto:vaughnmr@iu.edu)

Kate McCready

- [kate.mccready@btaa.org](mailto:kate.mccready@btaa.org)

