# *The CONSER Model and Its Application to a GPO-led Cooperative Program*
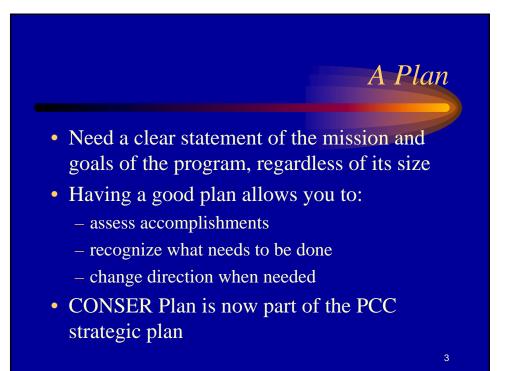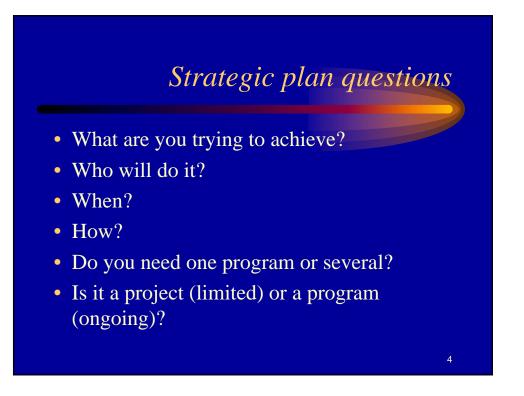
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# *CONSER Model*

- As defined by Linda Bartley:
    - A plan
    - Standards
    - A database
    - Membership
    - Governance
    - Leadership
    - Collegiality

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## A Plan

- Need a clear statement of the mission and goals of the program, regardless of its size
- Having a good plan allows you to:
  - assess accomplishments
  - recognize what needs to be done
  - change direction when needed
- CONSER Plan is now part of the PCC strategic plan

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## Strategic plan questions

- What are you trying to achieve?
- Who will do it?
- When?
- How?
- Do you need one program or several?
- Is it a project (limited) or a program (ongoing)?

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## *Standards*

- Agreed-upon standards are essential for record sharing
- For CONSER, standards are detailed to enable sharing and distribution of records
- Good documentation is a must
  - CONSER Editing Guide and CONSER Cataloging Manual
- CONSER also sets standards

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## *GPO and Standards*

- Member of CONSER and BIBCO
  - Records must have authoritative names, series and subjects and conform to CONSER descriptive practices
- GPO has opportunity to help set standards
  - Single record standard has been critical to the documents community

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## *Standards questions*

- How can GPO fullfill its need to have authoritative records if using records from others?
  - Would the standards be the same as national standards?
  - How much extra work would need to be done?
  - Should partners also join the national programs? Or NACO at least?
- How many standards for metadata are we talking about?

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## *Database*

- CONSER's main product is the database of high quality serial records that resides on OCLC and is distributed to RLIN and others via CDS
- CONSER records are distinguishable on OCLC and can be purchased as a distinct database

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## *Database questions*

- What is the product that you envision?
  - Records in OCLC or RLIN?
  - Records that can be purchased as a set?
  - Records available via other means (e.g., MARCIVE)?
  - Would/could such records also be part of CONSER/BIBCO?

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## *Governance*

- Need to involve people at different levels:
  - Policy level (heads of cataloging or tech. Services) who can make decisions, commit staff and resources, plan
  - Operations level (catalogers or supervisors) who do the work, apply the standards, require training, etc.
- Let others lead
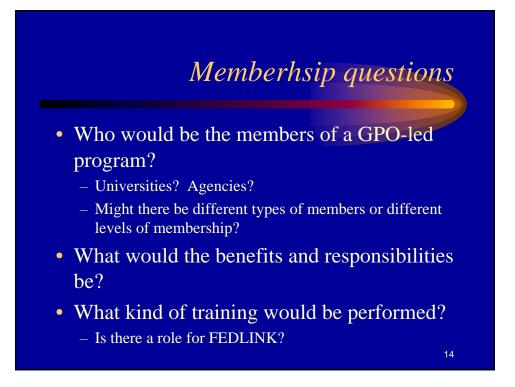- Coordinator and dedicated staff have been essential for CONSER

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## *Governance questions*

- What role would GPO perform?
  - How much staff time can GPO devote to this???
- Is there a role for the Depository Library Council?
- What role do the participants play?
  - How would you involve people at different levels?

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## *Membership*

- CONSER has different levels to accommodate:
  - Large universities and national libraries
  - Smaller academic, special, and public libraries
  - Businesses and organizations
- Membership involves requirements:
  - Quality and quantity
  - Training
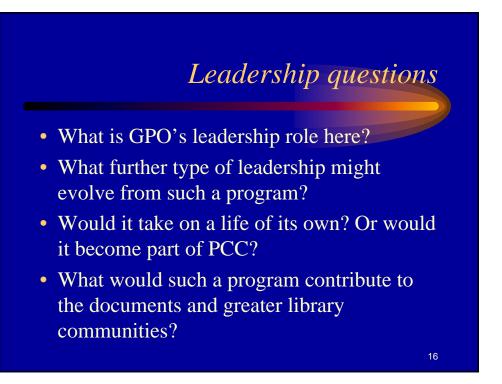  - Participation in various activities

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## *Membership (cont.)*

- It also has its benefits!
  - Ability to change records
  - Participation in national standards setting
  - Ability to contribute in many areas
- Training is an important issue
  - CONSER provides training for new members
  - Quantity requirements reflect investment in training and review

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## *Memberhsip questions*

- Who would be the members of a GPO-led program?
  - Universities? Agencies?
  - Might there be different types of members or different levels of membership?
- What would the benefits and responsibilities be?
- What kind of training would be performed?
  - Is there a role for FEDLINK?

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## *Leadership*

- An essential component of CONSER
- Recent examples of leadership:
  - Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program (SCCTP)
  - Publication Pattern initiative
- An important component, regardless of the size of a program

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## *Leadership questions*

- What is GPO's leadership role here?
- What further type of leadership might evolve from such a program?
- Would it take on a life of its own? Or would it become part of PCC?
- What would such a program contribute to the documents and greater library communities?

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## *Collegiality*

- The key to CONSER's success!
- Involves trust and respect
- LC and CONSER libraries are partners
- GPO's annual conferences would enable members to meet and work together on shared goals

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## *Summary*

- What is the purpose?
- Who would the members be?
- How would it be run?
- What are the products envisioned?
- What standards will be followed?
  - What is the relationship with PCC?
- How will it benefit the library community?
- What character or personality will it have?

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