As we begin a new year it is an appropriate time to remind the Rockefeller research community of some of the very special collaborations and resources that Markus Library provides to bring you broader, faster, and more effective access to the world’s scientific literature. While we cannot be all things to all people, we can strive to focus in particular on those areas of primary interest to our community, and to offer the most complete selection of books, journals, and databases within our ability to do so.

The Tri-Institutions Consortium is a long established collaboration of Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), and the Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) at New York Presbyterian Hospital. The libraries of these three institutions have such a strong and sharing relationship that our libraries are ‘blended’ in our common online library system, called Tri-Cat. Within Tri-Cat you can see and search the complete holdings of all three libraries. Furthermore, all three libraries are physically open and accessible to you. Our agreement provides that faculty, staff, students and post docs of all three institutions may freely walk into and use all three libraries. This includes checking out books, and using the journal collections. While the publishers’ licensing agreements do NOT allow us to provide joint electronic access on all three campuses to the combined collections of e-journals, it DOES allow for members of all three institutions to physically visit all three libraries and have open use of the e-journals at each of them. In addition, if you do not have the time to step across the street yourself to visit MSK or WCMC, Markus Library will be happy to obtain materials you request. Response time is measured in hours, not days.

We are also proud to be a continuing partner in the National Library of Medicine’s regional network of information centers. New York University is the Mid Atlantic headquarters and we are one of the medical information resource centers under their umbrella. Partnership in this network provides our own community with rapid access to the medical literature in the libraries of all partners. The established protocol for sharing medical literature within this framework is called “Docline” and it is one of the primary
ways Markus Library brings you articles and reports quickly that are not within our own collections.

Another significant resource that you may not have known is the State Library of New York. The State Library has significant collections of books and journals in the life sciences. Under NY state law, physicians, attorneys, and state employees are extended full access to the collections, including remote access to the full text of their electronic journals collections. Any Rockefeller faculty member who is an M.D. can register for direct access to these resources. All other members of the RU community can submit requests through Markus Library, and we will obtain requested articles. Everyone can search the State Library journal holdings in health and biological sciences. If this link is not readily available to you, simply go to the New York State Library home page at: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/ click “electronic resources” and then click “e-journals.”

Of course much of our consumption of information is not specifically in the medical literature, but is in the broader universe of biological sciences resources. Markus Library is a member of another consortium that effectively extends our collections more broadly outside of biomedicine. The BISC consortium (Biological Information Sources Consortium) is a group of libraries whose collections complement each other in a variety of areas of biology. Members of this collaborative include Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Gardens, the Marine Biological Laboratory of Woods Hole, the Ernst Mayr Library of Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, and SIBL (the Science, Industry and Business Library of New York Public Library). These libraries all collaborate with us to share resources, and to provide you with broader access to the literature of biology beyond what any one of us could provide individually to our own communities.

Even more broadly oriented is our collaboration within the consortium known as METRO. METRO is a consortium of 300 libraries in the greater New York area. We collaborate to provide training for library staff members, to benchmark best practices, and to share technology knowledge and expertise. METRO also receives and distributes grant money to member libraries from the State of New York to obtain new equipment, and for digitization projects to enrich the research resources available to all. If you desire to visit any member library in the New York area, we can provide you access through METRO.

The rising volume of research output, and the rising costs of providing access to it, all in the context of rapidly changing technologies, challenge libraries to provide efficient, yet cost effective, information support to research. Libraries are working together to meet the challenge. Markus Library is actively collaborating and building useful relationships among other research libraries. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and always, your requests.

I hope 2008 will be one of the best in Rockefeller history for the University. Please let me know how Markus Library can help it be one of the best for your lab.
Carol Feltes
University Librarian