

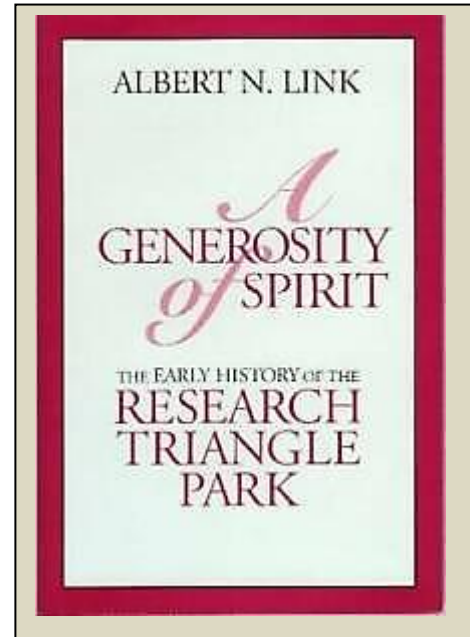
From the Planners' Bookshelf...

A Generosity of Spirit: The Early History of the Research Triangle Park.

Albert N. Link, Research Triangle Foundation; First Edition, 1995.

CharacterTowns.org usually has no trouble finding insightful summaries and reviews of important books; however, in the case of *A Generosity of Spirit*, an unusual source has been used – JSTOR. A great source of important works offered for sale. The first page of their on-line synopsis is presented on the following page.

The dearth of information about this book and about the origin story of The Research Triangle is a loss to everyone interested in how to start the creation of a great institution. The JSTOR excerpt below recounts the beginning of the story, better to buy the book and read the 149 pages from the actual instigators. A great story and inspiration for anyone trying to create something important from humble beginnings.



A Review Posted on

Amazon. "You've just got to know your history. Anyone who has ever dreamed big needs to understand that "accomplishing the impossible will take a while." This is an excellent story of collaboration

in the backwoods of sleepy North Carolina in the 1950s. It gives me great hope if a bunch of grandpas can come up with a forward-thinking strategy like RTP, then there is hope for all kinds of places off the beaten path."

Mission of the RTP...

Our core mission since the founding of RTP in 1959:

- Facilitate collaboration between the Triangle universities.
- Promote cooperation between universities and industry.
- Create an economic impact for residents of North Carolina.

The Following From...



From the Planners' Bookshelf...

The Growth of Research Triangle Park

Albert N. Link
John T. Scott

ABSTRACT. In light of the history of Research Triangle Park, we develop an analytical model to characterize the Park's growth. The model is based on the hypothesis that the Park's growth can be thought of as the adoption of an innovation, where the innovation is the new innovative environment created by the Park and its infrastructure.

I. Introduction

In the heart of North Carolina there exists one of the Nation's most important industrial resources . . . the Research Triangle (Link, 1995, p. 1).

Over the past fifty years the term "Research Triangle" has been used in a number of ways, but generally it has been used to refer to the geographic area defined by Duke University in Durham, North Carolina State University in Raleigh,¹ and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.^{2,3} Within Research Triangle is Research Triangle Park, a well-defined area of 6,900 acres, and within its incorporated boundaries are 137 organizations with over 41,600 employees, including 104 research companies with over 40,000 research employees. Certainly the largest research park in the United States both in terms of employees and acreage, and arguably the most

notable, the Park began with only a vision, survived financially turbulent times, and then it slowly grew toward its current eminent status.

The remainder of this paper is outlined as follows. In the following Section II, we briefly chronicle the history of Research Triangle Park.⁴ In Section III, we develop an analytical model to characterize the growth of the Park over time. We hypothesize that the growth of the Park can be thought of as the adoption of an innovation as new companies adopted over time the Park's innovative environment. Our model fits the data quite well. Then, in Section IV, we set forth one explanation for why the Park has grown as successfully as it has. There, we hypothesize the Park's successful growth may have been because of the continuity of entrepreneurial leadership that the Park enjoyed for more than 30 years. Section V of the paper offers some concluding observations.

II. A brief history of Research Triangle Park

After World War II, the North Carolina economy was very unstable. Historically, the state's economy had relied almost exclusively on three traditional industries: furniture, textiles, and tobacco. The furniture industry was leaving the state and expanding into the northeastern United States; the textile industry was beginning to face growing competition from Asian producers; and tobacco manufacturing employment was on the decline, in part because of automation and in part because of decreasing demand.

North Carolina's per capita income had long been one of the lowest in the Nation,⁵ and the decline in its traditional industries made it even more difficult for the state to employ its own college graduates. During the early 1950s, the academic community was becoming increasingly concerned about the out migration of its better

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