

Archiving and Sharing Print Serials: Challenges and Necessary Measures

A Report on the PAPR II Summit

Held at the University of California, Berkeley
June 25, 2015

The Center for Research Libraries
September 28, 2015

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The [Preserving America's Print Resources II summit \(PAPR II\)](#) on June 25, 2015, brought together representatives of the major print serials archiving and shared print programs and related preservation efforts and services in the United States and Canada. (A list of attendees is attached below.) The purpose of the gathering, supported by CRL and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, was threefold. It was, first, an occasion to assess the cooperative "safety net" created by North American libraries for print serial collections in the twelve years since the original PAPR conference, held in 2003. Second, it was to formulate a common vision for further development and growth of shared print serial collections in North America, with the aim of preventing the loss of critical print journals and government publications. Third, the summit was an agenda-building event for CRL, meant to inform CRL priorities for its continued support of print archiving and sharing.

As a basis for discussion at the summit, CRL produced a report "[Print Archiving and Shared Print in North America: A Preliminary Analysis and Status Report,](#)" and made it available to attendees in advance. Subsequent to the summit, CRL also held conversations with key funders, librarians, publishers, and others, to further focus and refine its understanding of the problems, and test the feasibility of the solutions, identified in summit discussions. The present report is the product of the summit and the follow-on discussions.

Several points of consensus emerged at the PAPR II gathering. There was the sobering realization that despite significant investment in time and resources, the cooperative print preservation efforts to date fall well short of "covering the waterfront." Copies of only a tiny fraction of the total number of serial titles held by libraries have been archived to any meaningful extent. Moreover, most of the titles archived are widely held, and therefore are at little risk of loss. At the same time, the prospects for significantly increasing library financial support for archiving were perceived to be dim. In his concluding remarks at the summit Roger Schonfeld of Ithaka S+R summed up the current state of affairs, observing that "while we may have developed a strong network for managing down print, whether that will yield long-term preservation goals is quite another matter."

Indeed it was clear from the PAPR II discussions that libraries today face some daunting challenges in their stewardship of print serial collections. Four key challenges are described below. It also became apparent, from the summit and from subsequent discussions that certain measures could be taken to meet those challenges. Those remedial measures, also described in this report, will form a blueprint for CRL's work in the coming years with member libraries, credible U.S. and Canadian print serials archiving programs, and other appropriate parties to address the key challenges identified.

Key Challenges:

The PAPR II summit identified some daunting challenges that the existing U.S. and Canadian print archiving and shared print efforts face going forward. Those challenges include:

1. *The immense scale of the serials corpus yet to be archived:* the data we have suggest that the print sharing and archiving efforts to date, though substantial, encompass only a small fraction (maybe even less than 2%) of the existing journal titles held by North American libraries.

2. *Scarce and dwindling resources available for preservation:* expanding the scope of the archiving activity will require new sources of support for the existing programs and a larger set of partners.
3. *Little coordination among the archiving efforts:* to preserve more of the important and endangered materials, the existing archiving programs must be more strategically aligned.
4. *Inadequacy of data to support library due diligence and decision-making:* lack of clarity about the terms and conditions under which archived titles are maintained undermines the ability of libraries to fully realize the benefits of these efforts and the ability of librarians to exercise due diligence in their decisions about retention, disposition, and development of their collections.

Remedial Measures:

Discussions at the summit and CRL's subsequent conversations with funders, librarians, publishers, and others suggest that efforts on three fronts might help meet the four key challenges:

1. ***Radically expand the scope of the print serials corpus archived by the existing major North American print sharing and archiving efforts***, to encompass important materials that are not widely held and that are not available in electronic format. Those materials include, for example, pre-1945, non-JSTOR titles; certain titles in the humanities and social sciences; titles produced outside the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.; and vernacular and commercially produced serials. This will require:
 - *Strengthening and better aligning the existing and emerging regional archiving and sharing efforts:* Summit attendees agreed on the need, and the potential, for better alignment of the existing efforts to meet these challenges.
 - *Forging strategic linkages with other emerging shared print initiatives:* Synergies with such efforts as the Empire Shared Collection and the planned HathiTrust, EAST, and Downsvieview 5 efforts, could help further enlarge and broaden the archived corpus.
 - *Improving the sustainability of the existing efforts:* By increasing the value they generate for stakeholder libraries, through services like ILL, document delivery, and digitization, these efforts could attract greater participation by academic and research libraries.
2. ***Enlist "libraries of record" and other new partners to augment the efforts of the print archive programs by formalizing and making more explicit their commitments to maintain their print serial holdings***. Not all of the important serial titles will be able to be adequately archived by cooperative programs. Nor will they need to be, as major individual research libraries continue to maintain and develop print holdings, and many journals are adequately preserved in digital format. Partners that might be enlisted in this effort include:
 - *Major U.S. and Canadian academic libraries:* Many libraries, particularly large ARLs, are likely to retain their print serial holdings for the long term. Those holdings include titles that are not likely to be preserved by cooperative archive programs. Some of those institutions have made, or plan to make, major "bricks and mortar" capital investments in collection facilities. Disclosure of detailed information

about their holdings and formalizing and specifying their commitments to maintain and service those holdings would provide actionable information for other libraries.

- *National libraries:* Similarly, information on the serial holdings and relevant commitments of the Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Library of Congress, National Agricultural Library, and National Library of Medicine with respect to the future of their print collections would be useful for libraries that consider those institutions “libraries of record.” Specifying the nature of those commitments would also provide actionable information for the research libraries community.
- *Independent research libraries:* Many older, and in some cases unique, serial holdings are maintained by independent research libraries, which often provide high-quality care and specialized curation. CRL’s partnership with the Linda Hall Library could be replicated with other independent research libraries such as the New York Public Library, Boston Public Library, Newberry Library, and others, to bring those libraries into the print archiving and sharing network.
- *Digital preservation repositories:* Enabling trusted digital repositories like CLOCKSS, Portico, and Scholars Portal to encompass more titles and publishers, particularly titles that are not widely held, could reduce the need for redundancy in the titles archived in print.
- *Publishers of databases of non-JSTOR digitized serials:* Commercial publishers like Gale and ProQuest have digitized important collections of serials (*Nineteenth Century Periodicals*, *American Periodicals Series*, etc.) that are not presently archived in print. Those databases could enable libraries to limit the use of the original materials or even withdraw them from use. However, the completeness of the database content cannot currently be determined because metadata disclosed is not sufficiently detailed. Exposure of such information could augment the actionable data about archived holdings currently in the PAPR database.

3. Increase the amount of “actionable” information and services available to support informed due diligence and decision-making by archiving and stakeholder libraries.

- *Increase the amount and quality of holdings data produced and disclosed by credible existing and emerging archive programs:* Disclosure of detailed and granular information on archived holdings, though resource-intensive, will enable more precise identification of the scope, strengths, and gaps in those holdings.
- *Increase the amount of structured information about archiving policies, practices and commitments disclosed by archive programs and “libraries of record.”* This could be accomplished by refining and publicizing “trust metrics” on archive programs and standardizing formats for systematic reporting and disclosure of policies, practices and commitments by archives and individual libraries. Funders of digitization projects might also be enlisted to endorse as a best practice disclosure of relevant information about storage conditions and maintenance of originals digitized.
- *Identify important serial holdings of major U.S. and Canadian academic libraries and “libraries of record” not preserved by the existing and emerging archive programs, and facilitate disclosure of information on the holding libraries’ commitments to maintaining and providing access to those holdings.*

- *Persuade the funders of digitization to require as a condition of funding, or to formally endorse as a best practice, the exposure of item-level holdings information and provenance information on serials digitized.*
- *Exploit, and integrate the further development of, existing technical infrastructure and tools for harvesting, analyzing, and registering holdings information.* Existing technical infrastructure and tools include the PAPR database; the University of Florida's Journal Retention and Needs Listing (JRNL) software tool; PAPR collection analysis; the PAPR Issue-level Holdings System (IHS); and the MARC21 field 583 (Preservation & Digitization Action Note).

Attendees at the PAPR II Summit

Ivy Anderson	California Digital Library
Gwen Bird	Simon Fraser University
Steve Bosch	University of Arizona
Lisa Browar	Linda Hall Library
John Burger	ASERL / Scholars Trust
Mimi Calter	Stanford University
Richard Clement	University of New Mexico / WEST
Cynthia Etkin	Government Printing Office
Laine Farley	California Digital Library
Mike Furlough	HathiTrust
Amy Greenberg	Ontario Council of University Libraries
Alison Griffin	COPPUL
Martha Hruska	UC San Diego / WEST
Mark Jacobs	WRLC / Scholars Trust
Robert Kieft	Occidental College
John Kiplinger	Ithaka JSTOR
Amy Kirchoff	Ithaka
Margaret Maes	Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA)
Constance Malpas	OCLC
Patricia Martin	California Digital Library
Kent McKeever	Columbia University / LIPA
Jean McKenzie	UC Berkeley
Jacob Nadal	ReCAP
Bonnie Brown Real	University of Texas, Austin
Victoria Reich	CLOCKSS
Kathleen Richman	Law Library Microform Consortium
Judith Russell	University of Florida / Scholars Trust
Mark Sandler	Committee on Institutional Cooperation
Roger Schonfeld	Ithaka S+R
Brian Schottlaender	UC San Diego / WEST
Emily Stambaugh	California Digital Library / WEST
Thomas Teper	University of Illinois / HathiTrust
Caitlin Tillman	University of Toronto / Downsview 5 Project
John Unsworth	Brandeis University / EAST
Catherine Wilt	PALCI
Amy Wood	CRL
Bernard Reilly	CRL
James Simon	CRL
Marie Waltz	CRL