



Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC) June 2018 PAN Update Report

The Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC) shared print program was founded in 2011 by eight of the largest libraries in Maine plus the state's consortium, Maine InfoNet. With support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services MSCC successfully implemented a shared approach to the management of print collections in the state.

Group Collection Analysis

MSCC are in the final stages of contracting with OCLC Sustainable Collection Services to begin work in early 2019 on analyzing newer titles that were out of scope for the original 2013-2014 collection analysis. These are titles published or acquired between 2003/4 and 2012. Participating in the collection analysis will be the eight founding members, five additional University of Maine System libraries, and 15 libraries from the Minerva library consortium which includes small public libraries, community colleges, and private liberal arts colleges.

The range of collection sizes that will be analyzed are stark with our smallest library Witherle at approximately 6,000 titles to the University of Maine at 150,000 titles. It's rewarding to see the commitment all the libraries have shown in being willing to step up and make additional retention commitments. Particular thanks is due to the Maine State Library who is generously supporting the costs of public libraries participating.

Collection Analysis Service

As of June 2018, Maine Shared Collections Librarian Matthew Revitt and the contracted MSCC Systems Librarian Sara Amato have worked with 41 Maine libraries on analyzing their print monograph collections. MSCC provides libraries with spreadsheet reports that can be used to identify both retention and withdrawal candidates. The libraries are charged a one-off fee to cover the costs of Sara extracting holdings data from OCLC WorldCat, local ILS systems, and MaineCat and compiling the spreadsheets.

On average, 38% of the print monograph collections of the libraries the MSCC have worked with so far already have MSCC retention commitments at another library, which means substantial withdrawal opportunities.

Identifying Additional Retention Commitments

Generally, the titles identified as retention candidates during the collection analysis process are those where there are less than ten holdings in OCLC, is not an existing MSCC retention commitment, and content of scholarly value and/or Maine related. While at public libraries this mostly means local history and genealogical titles and fiction with a local setting, at academic institutions there have been relatively large numbers of rare titles in the subject strength of these institutions. On average, the number of titles identified as potential retention candidates account for less than 1% of the library's print monograph collection, so even at small libraries this is not seen as being too onerous of a burden. There's also the opportunity to transfer items to another MSCC member for retention.

Membership in the Maine Shared Collections Cooperative

Of the 41 libraries that the MSCC have worked with, 33 have so far formally joined the Cooperative, making 39 members across the state. The new members have collectively agreed to retain approximately 1,900 print monograph titles. Although the number of commitments are small, the analysis is highlighting titles both the local libraries and the state collection didn't realize were rare as they are. Also, it's significant in a state like Maine to work with these libraries who wouldn't otherwise be included in such analysis, since they are not in OCLC, and lack the resources to contract with a commercial collection analysis vendor.

Documenting Retention Commitments

All new retention commitments are added to the relevant local Innovative and Koha ILS systems. Most new members are also checking to ensure the items they agree to retain are not missing or damaged: a note is added in the MARC 583 field to indicate this checking has been carried out. New members are also physically labelling retained items to indicate they have a retention commitment and therefore shouldn't be pulled for withdrawal.

All MSCC retention commitments flow from local catalogs to the central union catalog, MaineCat, and are displayed in the catalog's OPAC.

MSCC continues to use Shared Print Symbols to disclose retention commitments in OCLC and will continue to do until a time when OCLC are able to "retro fit" the commitments to the new shared print holding type.

Transferring Retention Commitments

Following the example of the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust, MSCC has implemented a semi-annual schedule of retention commitment transfers to another MSCC library. To alleviate the burden on individual libraries to find retention copies from other institutions the process will be managed centrally by the Maine Shared Collections Librarian. While the numbers of commitments being transferred were relatively small, it did highlight the need for such a process and brought to light issues where retention policies were not being consistently applied across the membership.