



WEST Program Update

PAN Forum, January 2024

Western Regional Storage Trust <https://cdlib.org/west>

Community

WEST is made up of 58 member institutions, including 6 Archive Builders that take a leadership role in creating archives of high-risk print-only materials and dozens of Archive Holders that maintain archives of lower-risk materials. Additionally, nine past members continue to maintain archives on behalf of WEST. To support the WEST trust network, WEST works to create valuable resources as well as connections to other shared print initiatives to maximize benefits for members. Since the last update to PAN, WEST has engaged in the following activities to maximize impact for the WEST and shared print communities:

- [Welcomed](#) four new member institutions
 - Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries Consortial Membership
 - Colorado Mesa University
 - University of Colorado, Boulder
 - Graduate Theological Union
 - Southern Methodist University
- Compiled a [list of deselection and gap filling resources](#) that members can leverage to contribute deaccessioned materials to complete WEST archived copies, backfiles at other non-WEST retention libraries, or digital backfiles.
- Codified [ongoing responsibilities](#) of past WEST members that continue to serve as Archive Holders.
- Participated in a task force [drafting a new shared print terminology](#), a community-owned document that codifies existing shared print disclosure needs and establishes pathways for describing unmet shared print disclosure needs and incorporating them into community disclosure practices in a systematic way.

Future of WEST Strategic Planning

Starting in the fall of 2022, the WEST governance groups began engaging in a series of discussions and exercises aimed at defining the future of the WEST program. This work identified three areas for near-term change as well as three areas for longer-term investigation, which were discussed with members at length during an [extended WEST Member Meeting](#) in July 2023. Feedback from members was solicited via a membership-wide survey, which was incorporated into final decisions and implementation planning.

The near-term recommendations, impacting AGUA systems development capacity, WEST's membership and fee model, and WEST's collections analysis and archiving models, are currently being implemented, and will go into effect at the beginning of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Investigations into digitization and creating an enhanced WEST ILL partnership are still ongoing, as is WEST's engagement with work currently underway expanding the national preservation network.

AGUA Systems Development

WEST engages in systems development every other year to enhance and expand functionalities of AGUA, WEST's in-house collection analysis and decision support system. In September 2023, WEST concluded the sixth AGUA development phase (Phase 6), which saw the completion of a number projects to enhance reports and tools available to members, including

- New data points added to existing member reports to support local decision making
- Metadata validation reports added to AGUA for the first time, supporting centralized access by member library staff



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- New filtering capabilities in the On Demand Collection Comparison tool, allowing users to limit their output reports to only include data that meet user-determined criteria
- Updates to the interface facilitating Archive Builder gap filling efforts, including a new search capability and additional data about other members' holdings
- Staff-facing enhancements to support and streamline existing workflows

WEST Archiving

WEST began preparations for the next collections analysis to identify archiving priorities for Cycles 14 & 15. WEST received 57 files of print journal collections data from members, which will be compared against each other and a number of external data sources to identify journal families and determine electronic availability for each (the basis of WEST's risk profiles).

The Cycles 14 & 15 collections analysis will once again focus on identifying scarcely held titles to propose for archiving, as well as identifying higher-risk journals not held in any part by any Archive Builder (a long-standing blind spot in the WEST collections model). All members are invited to participate in the analysis as Archive Holders to provide the best insights into the WEST collections.

Farewell to Anna Striker!

Anna Striker, WEST's Operations and Collections Analyst, has accepted a new opportunity at California Digital Library to join the Systemwide Library Planning team supporting University of California Libraries systemwide initiatives. Anna joined WEST in 2019, and has successfully conducted two program-wide collections analyses, led two AGUA systems development phases, championed updates to key operational policies, and provided critical support to the ongoing Future of WEST strategic planning recommendations and areas of ongoing investigation, all while also providing excellent customer service and support to members. Recruitment for a successor will begin as soon as possible; in the meantime, Anna will continue to provide support for the WEST collections analysis on a part-time basis through February 23.