SPAN’s 2017-2019 Priorities

COPPUL’s Directors approved three priorities for the period 2017-2019 at their September 2017 meeting:

1. Complete the current government documents project
2. Complete the current monographs project
3. The rare Canadian serials project that formed the basis of the 2016 and 2017 applications for LAC funding

I am happy to report that we have made progress on all three priorities, as detailed below.

Phase 4A

Phase 4A (StatsCan publications) is wrapping up. Archive Holders were asked to confirm their commitments by 01 Feb. After that, any necessary changes will be made to the titles that Archive Holders will retain. Then non-Holders will be free to discard their holdings of those titles, if they so choose.
Phase 4B

Phase 4B will cover the remaining Phase 4 StatsCan titles and is intended to complete later this spring.

Withdrawals and Commitments Reporting

SPAN participants, whether or not they are Archive Holders, are asked to report on the number of physical items they either retain or withdraw as a consequence of SPAN. The intent of the form is to allow COPPUL to report back to members on the benefits that SPAN provides. There will be one form for each SPAN phase, starting with Phase 4.

Monographs Project

Jean Blackburn (Vancouver Island University) has been chairing the SPAN Monograph Project committee, whose work is largely done. The models have been tested and selection lists implemented. All participating institutions were asked to shelf-check 6,000 random items, to ensure that their physical holdings matched the data that was analyzed. We are developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will outline the participants’ commitments under the monographs project.

Phase 5: Rare Canadian Serials

This phase involves the identification and securing of 1,000 uncommon or rare Canadian serials, not already held in the special collections units of COPPUL SPAN libraries. We have developed the following tentative timeline to move this project ahead over the coming year:

- Mar - Jun 2018: Determine scope, collect data, assess risk level
- Jul - Aug 2018: Analyze holdings, assign Holders
- Sep - Oct 2018: Confirm Archive Holders’ commitments, identify gaps
- Nov - Dec 2018: Transfer of missing volumes, update local catalogues
- Jan - Feb 2019: Results administration, PAPR / OCLC reporting, survey participants, final report
I am very interested in hearing suggestions about how we might identify titles of interest for this phase. I will discuss this with members of the Management Committee and will likely organize an open discussion in March. I would very much like to hear from collections librarians at our members libraries, either during the call or via email.

CRL PAPR Database

I have verified SPAN’s serial commitments in the CRL PAPR database through the end of Phase 3 and submitted updates in late December. I will update PAPR through Phase 4 after the completion of that phase.

@Risk North

I attended and presented at the Canadian Association of Research Libraries’ day-long @Risk North symposium last November. My presentation slides are available on the SPAN site, as well as on the CARL site for the symposium.

EAST Symposium

SPAN has been invited to attend the Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (EAST) Shared Print Monograph Summit in Boston this April.

Respectfully submitted,

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