



Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC) June 2017 PAN Update Report

Collection Analysis Service

Participation in Maine Shared Collections continues to grow. As of June 16th, Maine Shared Collections Librarian Matthew Revitt and the contracted MSCC Systems Librarian Sara Amato have worked with 40 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 burdenⁱ. There's also the opportunity to transfer items to another MSCC member for retention.

Membership in the Maine Shared Collections Cooperative

Of the 40 libraries that the MSCC have worked with, 33 have so far formally joined the Cooperative, making 39 members across the state. With the University of Maine at Machias joining the Cooperative in May it means all seven of the University of Maine System are now MSCC members. The new members have collectively agreed to retain approximately 1,700 print monograph titlesⁱⁱ. 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. These new libraries will be expected to take on larger number of commitments if they choose to participate in the 2019 group collection analysis.

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 OPACⁱⁱⁱ.

MSCC are in contact with OCLC regarding the "retro-fitting" of the 1.4 million commitments MSCC have already registered using Shared Print Symbols to the new shared print holding type.

Reversing MSCC commitments on children's non-fiction titles

The MSCC Collections and Operations Committee continue to be consulted when MSCC members seek to reverse retention commitments on categories of titles they have been assigned to retain. As the only two public libraries participating in the original group analysis both Portland and Bangor public libraries were allocated retention commitments for relatively large numbers of children's non-fiction titles many of which have limited importance and usefulness over time. A list of publishers of these titles (most of which are part of series) were approved by the MSCC Collections and Operations Committee as not warranting a long-term commitment which means both Portland and Bangor public libraries can begin to withdraw these titles. Based on issues with commitments raised since the original MSCC retention agreement were agreed the Collections and Operations Committee have been adding to a list of publishers whose works have limited importance and usefulness over time (like textbooks, computer guides, health information, and travel guide) and as such will be excluded from retention allocations in our 2019 analysis.

Planning for Group Collection Analysis

The MSCC Collections and Operations Committee continue its planning for the next group MSCC collection analysis in 2019. The analysis will include holdings from both the original grant libraries and new libraries that have joined since. MSCC have been in discussions with OCLC Sustainable Collection Services regarding the possibility of contracting with them for the analysis.

Matthew Revitt, Maine Shared Collection Librarian

ⁱ "MSC Data Comparisons", <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/166pguY5D5GLSZH0XQzeYOOlujbRRVT7gS2jk7Dn4PB4/pubhtml?gid=1086627895&single=true>

ⁱⁱ "Members", <http://www.maineinfonet.org/mscc/about/partners/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Example of MaineCat retention commitment display, <https://mainecat.maine.edu/record=b1039697~S0>