



Western Regional Storage Trust

WEST Program Update

PAN Forum, June 2020

<http://www.cdlib.org/services/west/>

New in 2020!

In 2019, WEST wrapped up an extensive [program assessment and strategic planning process](#). While some of the follow-up work has been delayed by the unexpected turns of 2020, WEST has still made a strong beginning to answering 2019 strategic recommendations.

Website update

One of the strategic recommendations from 2019 was to “Assess and update WEST’s website, curation of documentation, and communication strategies.” To that end, the project team and governance groups have been reviewing the website and wiki, and begun crafting new content and a new structure for sharing information with both the membership and the broader community. WEST has recently unveiled a newly-updated and restructured [About section on the WEST website](#), which includes new content on the value of WEST, visualizations of the archived collections, and an area where members can find documents and presentations related to both the program as well as specific operational matters. More to come throughout 2020!

WEST working groups

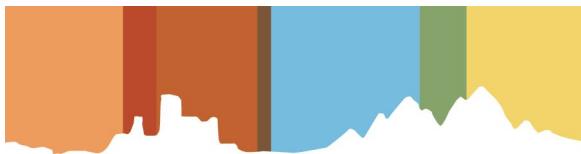
In accordance with the 2019 assessment and strategic planning outcomes, WEST has convened two new working groups in 2020: (1) a Disclosure and Validation Standards Working Group; and (2) a Resource Sharing Working Group. Both groups have begun their work by assessing the benefits and considerations of migrating away from the OCLC second shared print symbol. Later this year, the two groups will be reviewing, recommending revisions to, and updating WEST operational policies and guidelines in their purview. A third working group is on the cusp of convening: the Non-journal Formats Working Group, which will explore areas of strategic expansion for WEST, giving preference to collaborative connections with existing organizations. See working group rosters [here](#).

Surfacing new content & outreach to new archive builders

Another 2019 strategic recommendation was to investigate recruiting 2-4 new Archive Builders from the current WEST Archive Holders. The project team and OCC identified several potential candidates and subsequently reached out to four members to participate in the collection analysis as Builders (without committing to actually serving as Builders at this point). The results of this experiment showed that there are unique and distinctive collections held by non-Builders that have been historically overlooked by the WEST collection model.

CDL, CRL, HT Collaboration for Shared Print Infrastructure

The CDL, CRL, HT collaboration was first announced in January 2020 as an evolution of the shared print community’s pursuit of shared infrastructure. A significant driver has been the decision support service explorations of the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance, of which WEST is a founding member and active leader. In early June, CDL, CRL, and HT released a second written announcement to the PAN listserv and included a document framing the effort, which included a vision, mission, guiding principles, and assumptions. This new effort aligns well with the themes of WEST’s 2019 strategic planning outcomes, specifically that the program should continue to develop externally-facing efforts such as recruitment of new members and maximizing partnerships with the Rosemont Alliance and other key organizations. WEST will stay connected to this collaboration, both through Rosemont input and its regional accomplishments in shared print development.



Community

WEST is made up of 66 member institutions, including 5 Archive Builders that take a leadership role in creating archives of high-risk print-only materials and 33 Archive Holders that maintain archives of lower-risk materials. Additionally, five past members continue to maintain archives on behalf of WEST. After several years of productive archive building, Rice University has finished archiving most of the high-risk materials that they are able to contribute to WEST, and have decided to transition away from active archive building, while still maintaining their critical role managing and completing their archived collections through gap filling.

Archiving Progress

Cycle 9 disclosures are currently ongoing, but to date WEST has archived over 31,000 holdings of over 28,000 distinct titles. As of the end of Cycle 8, members reported holding over 832,000 individual volumes. Roughly half of the archives are Bronze materials - titles which have reliable electronic surrogates available through CLOCKSS, Portico, or JSTOR. The remaining 50% of the archives are split nearly evenly between the two higher-risk archive types: Silver (journals that have electronic abstracting and indexing as well as some full text availability) and Gold (print only titles that have little to no electronic access available). While much of Cycle 9 took place with normal operations, the last several months have seen major disruptions to campus and library operations. WEST anticipates that reporting levels for Cycle 9 archiving activities will be lower than originally expected because of the sudden halt in on-site activities, but also anticipates that any archiving not completed by the time campuses closed will ultimately be disclosed in Cycle 10.

OCLC and CRL Shared Print Enhancements for WorldCat and PAPR

Throughout the Mellon-funded development work to improve shared print infrastructure in OCLC's WorldCat and CRL's PAPR, WEST has provided input via advisory and collaborative groups. WEST's Analyst, Anna Striker, continues to work closely with OCLC, CRL, and Arizona State University to test the new serial registration service. WEST chose not to leverage the new registration service for the Spring 2020 disclosures, and instead is working over the next year to thoroughly outline and vet how this new service will fit into existing WEST workflows. This includes the aforementioned testing, developing recommendations related to the ongoing use of the shared print second symbol, and updates to WEST's related documentation (e.g. the Disclosure Policy).

AGUA Tool Development

WEST is currently preparing for the next AGUA development phase (Phase 5) to begin in fall 2020, which will see new features and enhancements added to the AGUA decision support tool. Past enhancements have included a new interface for members to submit files to WEST, the On Demand Collection Comparison report that can support collection projects throughout the year, and various projects to automate and enhance the analysis on the backend.

External Collaborations

WEST continues alongside FLARE, Scholars Trust, BTAA, and EAST as a committed partner in the efforts of the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance. WEST members also continue to contribute to other national advisory groups, including the OCLC-convened Shared Print Metadata Working Group and the Journal Retention and Needs Listing (JRNL) Tool Oversight Committee.