

BookTraces
PAN Update
ALA Annual 2019

Copied from the original email sent to the PAN list by Kara M McClurken June 19, 2019

The Book Traces project is just completing a survey of approximately 15 other academic library collections in Virginia founded before 1940, focusing on circulating books in History, Religion, and Literature call number ranges published before 1870. This surveying work has generally confirmed an overall "hit rate" of 10-15 percent, which corresponds to what we found in the UVA circulating collections.

We have just received a one-year Strategic Planning Grant from the Mellon Foundation to explore various methods for identifying books with historical marginalia, including looking at donation records, accession dates, and machine vision technologies for scanned pages. We are putting together a team of five partner libraries at this stage, including Brandeis and the University of Connecticut (both EAST members), to develop these strategies. We have also assembled an Advisory Board of teaching faculty in History and Literature departments to guide the scholarly goals of the project.

Book Traces is particularly eager to work with library shared print networks, as our work bears on questions of condition, deduplication, cataloguing, and best-copy retention and preservation.

Although I continue to be interested in the work, Kristen Jensen now is the Library lead for the project, along with Andy Stauffer Associate Professor in the English Dept at UVA. Please direct any questions you may have to them.